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# Hawaii Crop Weather

A weekly review of Hawaii's weather and general agricultural situation

## Weather results in variable crop progress



### Weather review

Crop progress varied from poor to good during the week ending Sunday, October 31. An upper-level storm system lingered over the State during the first few days of the week generating frequent showers. Most of the rainfall was confined to the windward areas, but a few drifted over to the leeward areas. For the most part, the showers were light to moderate in intensity and caused no damage. However, cloudy skies and light winds prevented fields from drying, and the muddy conditions hampered farming activities. Humid conditions also made fieldwork uncomfortable. Some relief from the weather arrived at midweek with the return of the trade winds. For Oahu, however, it was a brief respite as unstable weather generated an intense rain storm over the weekend which

caused some damage to mostly urban areas of Honolulu. The major vegetable-growing regions of Kula, Maui and Waimea, Hawaii escaped most of the week's inclement weather, and crops there made fair to good progress.

#### Hawaii county

An upper-level low pressure system brought beneficial showers to most of the island during the week. The unstable airmass also dropped the first snow of the season onto the two major mountain peaks. Hilo and surrounding areas had mostly cloudy skies and frequent showers during the early part of the week followed by partly sunny skies and steady showers over the weekend. Hamakua and North Kohala, situated on the fringe of the storm system, received only light showers. Waimea had high clouds and light showers. Although cooler temperatures, cloudy periods, and light showers prevailed, irrigation was still required for normal crop progress. Dry coastal pastures from South Kohala to North Kona received beneficial showers on Monday. Upper North Kona sections received beneficial showers early in the week. Central and south Kona areas received good showers during the first half of the week and a mixture of sunny skies, cloudy periods, and light showers during the second half of the week. Orchards and pastures continued to make good

progress. The Ka'u district received good showers at the beginning and at the end of the week. Increased soil moisture should boost orchard and pasture growth. The Volcano area had mostly cloudy skies, showers, and brief sunny periods.

#### Maui county

The week started with overcast skies covering the entire island of Maui. Rainfall was relatively light in isolated areas. Some evening thunder and lightning were noted over the eastern section of Maui. Sections of Kahului and Wailuku did receive some passing rainfall. By the end of the week, the normal trade winds had returned and clear skies prevailed.

#### Honolulu county

In leeward and central areas, weather conditions were good for crop progress. Days were mainly sunny and dry with passing overcast skies and periodic rainfall. Variable winds prevailed in leeward and central crop-growing areas. Temperatures were relatively high with a little cooling in the night and early morning hours. Fruit and vine crops were in good condition. Leafy crops made fair to good progress. Spraying for insect infestation and disease prevention were on schedule, however, pressure from insect infestations and disease continued at moderate levels. In windward

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areas, frequent showers and periodic thunder storms early and late in the week resulted in muddy fields which limited field activities to harvesting. Some flooding occurred in low-lying areas, but no major crop damage was reported. Skies were sunny with frequent clouds and sporadic evening and early morning showers for most of the middle portion of the week.

## **Kauai county**

Weather conditions were poor to fair with mostly overcast skies and frequent moderate to heavy rains throughout the week. Temperatures were moderate becoming much cooler in the night and early morning hours. Winds were light and variable and becoming moderate by the weekend. Many field activities were curtailed or severely slowed due to the muddy field conditions. The Hanalei river overflowed its banks necessitating the closure of the bridge. Taro fields in adjacent low-lying areas experienced some effects of the inundation, however, the water receded fairly quickly. Orchard crops were in fair condition and made fair to good progress. Pressure from insect infestation remained light to moderate. Spraying for control of insect population and disease prevention were interrupted by the rain. Leafy crops were in fair condition.



## **Agricultural highlights**

### **Fruits**

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#### **Bananas**

Orchards on the Big Island received beneficial showers during the first half of the week and sunny periods during the second half of the week resulting in good overall growth. Spraying is expected to intensify to minimize disease damage. On Oahu, orchards in windward areas were in mostly fair condition. Bunchy

top disease continued to infect windward Oahu fields, forcing growers to rogue infected trees. Orchards in Waianae and central Oahu were in good condition. Fruit setting and ripening were aided by warm temperatures. Kauai's orchards were in good to fair condition with moderate to heavy rains slowing harvesting on most farms. Spraying for control of disease infestation was also interrupted by the rains.

#### **Papaya**

Daily showers provided ample moisture for orchards in the lower Puna districts of Hawaii island. Although routine spraying continued, Black Spot disease remained in some orchards. Young Rainbow variety trees have full fruit columns. Young orchards in Opihikao and Kapoho continue to make steady progress. Large, fallowed fields in the lower Kapoho area were cleared in preparation for new plantings. Orchards on Kauai made fair to good progress under generally fair weather conditions.

### **Vegetables**

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#### **Chinese cabbage**

The crop in Waimea, Hawaii continued to make good growth. Light blight disease was noticed on the wrapper leaves in some fields. Bird damage continued to be a problem in isolated fields. Weed growth increased in most fields. New plantings made good progress.

#### **Head cabbage**

New plantings on Oahu were in fair to good condition with increasing production expected in the coming weeks. The crop in the Big Island's Waimea area was in good to fair condition. Disease and insect damage was generally light. Weeds were a problem in Puukapu fields. New plantings increased in Lalamilo. Maui's head cabbage crop continued to be in fair condition. Shorter days slowed

growth and development in most fields, especially those in the upper elevation areas. Insect pressure decreased, but was still a concern at lower elevation fields. Close monitoring and timely spraying helped keep damage by insects under control.

#### **Cucumbers**

Harvesting will be very active from fields in central Oahu. Overall crop conditions were good. Fields in windward areas were in mostly fair to good condition despite some rain damage to flowers and young fruits. Increased spraying for disease control will be necessary due to the recent showers. Crop quality varied according to seed varieties.

#### **Sweet corn**

Field in windward areas of Oahu were in mostly fair to good, but weed infestations were increasing. On Kauai, plantings were in good condition. Harvesting of sweet corn on the Big Island will come mainly from fields in Pepeekeo. Field conditions ranged from fair to good. Ample rainfall and sunny periods have benefitted young corn growth.

#### **Dry onion**

Maui's crop continued show improvement in the overall all condition. Yields varied as some reported good yields while other areas have continued to struggle with improving their production. Insect pressure and damage have been a concern for most of the fields, and in some areas it has affected overall production. With temperatures cooling in the growing area, it is hopeful that the insect pressure will decrease.

### **Other Crops**

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#### **Ginger root**

The maturing ginger crop in East Hawaii island continued to make steady progress. Soil moisture was ample. Insect and disease damage was light. The overall crop was in relatively good condition.

Precipitation for week ending October 31, 2004  
Daily, weekly, and year-to-date precipitation totals for selected Hawaii stations. <sup>1/</sup>

Station name and identification number	24-Hour totals at 8 a.m.							Weekly total	Total since Jan. 1
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sun	Sun		
<i>Inches</i>									
<b>Island of Hawaii</b>									
1. Kamuela (HI86)	0.00	0.09	0.02	M	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.12	63.18
2. Kealahou (HI84)	0.61	1.89	0.46	M	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.96	73.04
3. Laupahoehoe (HI80)	0.00	0.65	0.49	M	0.18	0.00	0.58	1.90	102.95
4. Mountain View (HI81)	0.49	1.53	0.73	M	0.26	0.10	1.85	4.96	135.44
5. Pahala (HI85)	0.05	2.50	0.72	M	0.00	0.00	2.13	5.40	46.32
6. Pahoia (HI83)	0.16	0.43	0.28	M	0.27	0.15	0.85	2.14	106.81
<b>Island of Maui</b>									
7. Hana (HI61)	0.31	1.18	0.00	M	0.11	0.08	1.78	3.46	103.00
8. Kula (HI65)	0.00	0.21	0.00	M	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.24	23.69
9. Lahainaluna (HI60)	0.00	0.19	0.00	M	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	21.95
10. Wailuku (HI60)	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	0.00	37.32
<b>Island of Oahu</b>									
11. Kahuku (HI09)	0.24	1.02	2.38	M	0.02	0.02	0.04	3.72	38.46
12. Mililani (HI14)	0.39	0.14	0.26	M	0.16	0.12	0.13	1.20	42.85
13. Waianae (HI17)	0.58	0.01	0.04	M	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.65	20.91
14. Waimanalo (HI13)	0.07	0.19	0.01	M	0.07	0.01	0.07	0.42	54.20
<b>Island of Kauai</b>									
15. Anahola (HI48)	1.02	0.73	0.48	M	0.06	0.29	0.43	3.01	37.95
16. Hanalei (HI45)	0.09	0.13	1.21	M	M	M	M	1.43	77.47
17. Omao (HI51)	1.84	M	M	M	0.54	0.16	0.84	3.38	64.96

Refer to notes at bottom of page.

**Monthly Trend for Selected Stations**

Comparison of 2004 cumulative monthly and annual totals with average monthly totals for selected stations. <sup>1/</sup>

Station name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual	
<i>Inches</i>														
1. Kamuela	2004	6.4	4.7	27.8 <sub>p</sub>	13.5	4.2	1.0	0.4 <sub>p</sub>	2.2	0.4	2.1 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	63.1 <sub>p</sub>
	Average	6.6	6.0	7.9	6.9	4.0	2.2	3.7	4.1	2.2	3.3	5.8	7.3	60.0
2. Kealahou	2004	4.4	5.9	1.6 <sub>p</sub>	15.0	7.1	5.4	6.1 <sub>p</sub>	11.4	8.1	7.5 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	73.0 <sub>p</sub>
	Average	4.7	3.4	5.6	6.2	7.7	8.2	8.7	8.3	8.2	6.2	4.4	3.4	75.0
6. Pahoia	2004	16.0	10.4	30.6 <sub>p</sub>	15.6	4.8	6.6	3.1 <sub>p</sub>	6.6	3.2	9.4 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	**.* <sub>p</sub>
	Average	13.9	10.9	10.5	13.9	10.5	7.1	9.8	10.6	9.2	11.5	13.3	14.6	140.0
7. Hana	2004	20.6	22.7	26.9 <sub>p</sub>	8.5	15.5	0.0	0.0 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	8.6 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	**.* <sub>p</sub>
	Average	8.5	5.7	9.1	7.5	5.9	4.1	5.9	5.8	6.1	7.3	8.0	6.1	80.0
8. Kula	2004	7.3	2.0	7.0 <sub>p</sub>	1.4	4.1	0.7	0.0 <sub>p</sub>	0.4 <sub>p</sub>	0.1 <sub>p</sub>	0.3 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	23.6 <sub>p</sub>
	Average	3.5	3.0	2.5	1.6	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.5	2.3	3.3	22.3
11. Kahuku	2004	6.5	5.7	3.4 <sub>p</sub>	1.5	8.5	1.6	0.3 <sub>p</sub>	3.4	2.1	4.9 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	38.4 <sub>p</sub>
	Average	6.6	6.0	7.9	6.9	4.0	2.2	3.7	4.1	2.2	3.3	5.8	7.3	45.0
13. Waianae	2004	2.9 <sub>p</sub>	7.1	3.2 <sub>p</sub>	0.4	2.6	0.4	0.0 <sub>p</sub>	1.7	1.5	0.7 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	20.9 <sub>p</sub>
	Average	3.8	2.3	2.5	1.6	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.7	1.8	2.0	3.3	20.0
17. Omao	2004	6.2	8.5	11.1 <sub>p</sub>	6.5	5.2 <sub>p</sub>	2.7	0.5 <sub>p</sub>	7.7	8.1	8.1 <sub>p</sub>	0.0	0.0	64.9 <sub>p</sub>
	Average	6.9	4.5	5.5	5.2	4.2	3.4	4.7	4.6	3.7	4.7	5.9	6.7	60.0

<sup>1/</sup> Rainfall stations were selected from the National Weather Service's Hydronet system of automated rain gauges. All data has not been quality controlled to date, and therefore is not certified by the National Weather Service.

M = Missing. p = Partial or incomplete. e = Estimated.