

## **2002 SUGAR AND SPECIALTY CROP HIGHLIGHTS**

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### **SUGAR**

Sugar production for 2002 increased 10 percent from the previous year to 270,000 tons of 96° raw sugar. A 10 percent increase in acreage for harvest accounted for the higher production. Plantations were able to harvest 2.1 million tons of sugarcane from 21,300 acres for an average yield of 99.0 tons of sugarcane per acre. Sugar prices during 2002 increased 1 percent to \$355 per ton of 96° raw sugar, this resulted in a total value of \$95.9 million for raw sugar, a 11 percent increase from 2001.

### **COFFEE**

Coffee production was estimated at 7.5 million pounds (parchment basis) for the 2002-03 season, down 6 percent from last season's harvest of 8.0 million pounds. Coffee farmers posted farm revenues of \$23.3 million (parchment basis) during the 2002-03 season, up 19 percent from 2001-02. Farm revenues got a boost from a 27 percent increase in the farm price to an average of \$3.10 per pound (parchment basis) that more than offset the decline in production.

Hawaii County coffee growers harvested 4.1 million pounds (parchment basis) of coffee during the 2002-03 season, their largest crop since the 1970-71 season. An extended harvesting period and increasing production from younger plantings were the main contributors to 2002-03's higher output.

Combined production from Kauai, Maui, and Honolulu counties totaled 3.4 million pounds, down 31 percent from the 2001-02 season. A reduction in harvested acreage, the alternate bearing nature of the tree, and a shortage of labor at harvesting all contributed to the lower output.

### **MACADAMIA NUTS**

The 2002-2003 macadamia nut crop is estimated at 52.0 million pounds net, wet-in-shell, 4.0 million pounds below last season's crop. Although rains in late 2001 and early 2002 raised expectations for a larger crop, a return to drought-like conditions in Kona growing areas and increased insect infestations contributed to the lower output. Favorable rains in early 2002 benefitted orchards that had suffered through several dry years. Unusually high incidences of Southern Green Stink Bug damage were reported in Kona, Ka'u, and Kohala, with some individual orchards incurring severe losses. Lower returns also added to the problem by discouraging some growers from properly maintaining orchards and harvesting nuts. Overall yields averaged 2,920 pounds per acre (net, wet in-shell), down 230 pounds from the previous season.

Total acreage in crop for the 2002-03 crop year was unchanged from the previous year at 18,000 acres. Virtually all acreage was harvested (17,800 acres), also the same as the previous year. There were an estimated 1.3 million macadamia nut trees on the 18,000 acres.

The farm price for net, wet in-shell macadamia nuts averaged 57.0 cents per pound for the 2002-2003 season, down 2.0 cents from the previous season's average, and the lowest since the 1978-79 crop. The farm value for the 2002-2003 crop is estimated at \$29.6 million, down 10 percent from the previous season. Increased foreign macadamia nut production continued to be cited as a factor in the downward pressure on grower prices.