

## 2002 FRUIT HIGHLIGHTS

---

### ● AVOCADO

Hawaii's 2002 avocado crop totaled 700 thousand pounds, up 17 percent from 2001. Weather conditions were sunny and relatively dry in most of the major growing areas. As a result, large commercial farms that have irrigated fields experienced average to good yields. Many of the smaller farms with unirrigated plantings, however, reported experiencing relatively poor yields. Also contributing to the higher output was a 9 percent increase in harvested acreage to 250 acres. Farm prices averaged 56.0 cents per pound in 2002, down 2 percent from the 57.0 cents per pound average of 2001. The lower farm price was the result of an increase in market supply as local production and imports from the U.S. mainland both increased in 2002. Farm revenues totaled \$392 thousand in 2002, up 15 percent from the previous year and the highest total in 11 years.



### ● BANANAS

In 2002, Hawaii's banana output was pegged at 19.5 million pounds, down 30 percent from the previous year and declining for the second consecutive year. A large reduction of Cavendish banana acreage caused a sharp decline in both supply and revenue for the year. Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV) remains a concern for growers. Last September the disease was found again in Kailua-Kona on Hawaii County after undergoing an eradication effort. In January 2003, the virus was confirmed in Pukalani, the first incidence for Maui County. Growers on Kauai and Honolulu counties continued to monitor and rogue infected plantings to control the disease. Weather for 2002 was favorable with no major wind damage to orchards. Total acreage as of February 2003 was 1,440 acres, 220 acres less than February last year. Harvested acreage totaled 1,300, down 190 acres from a year earlier. Banana sales is valued at \$8.4 million in 2002, falling 21 percent from 2001.

### ● GUAVAS

Hawaii's processed guava utilization in 2002 totaled 9.7 million pounds compared to 15.3 million pounds processed in 2001. Output was lower with limited sales and reduced yields. Hawaii County growers reported growing other crops and abandoning guava orchards due to lower prices. Total acreage was down 70 acres to 640, and harvested was 60 acres below to 550 in 2002. Reduced guava sales lowered value 33 percent from the previous year to \$1.5 million.

### ● PAPAYAS

Fresh papaya utilization totaled 42.7 million pounds in 2002, 18 percent below last year and declining after three consecutive years of increase. Fresh fruit accounted for virtually all utilization with 93 percent of the total. Outshipments made up 50 percent of the total output. Processed papaya utilization increased 7 percent in 2002 to 3.2 million pounds. Processed papayas accounted for 7 percent of papaya utilization compared to 5 percent last year. The State's harvested 2002 papaya acreage was down 230 acres to 1,720 acres mainly due to smaller acreage on Hawaii County. Growers planted mainly Rainbow and Kapoho varieties.

### ● PINEAPPLES

Fruit harvested for fresh sales totaled 234 million pounds in 2002, up 6 percent from the 2001 total. Fresh sales accounted for 37 percent of the total pineapple production. Processed pineapple utilization totaled 406 million pounds in 2002, down 5 percent from 2001. About 63 percent of the State's pineapple crop was processed during the year.