

Hawaii Vegetables

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Trade wind showers bring benefit to some areas

Weather conditions were characterized by moderate trade winds during most of June. The winds were strong enough for the National Weather Service to issue a wind advisory for central Maui, south Big Island, and the summits of the major mountains on June 9 to June 11. For agriculture, the windy weather bruised some crops and reduced the efficiency of some types of irrigation and spray programs. The trade winds did bring in some welcomed showers; particularly to the eastern sections of the Big Island which were experiencing drier than normal conditions in April and May. Mountain View's 15.13 inches was the highest monthly total on the Big Island, while Pahoehoe's 2.54 inches on June 22 was the highest daily total. These showers benefited crops dependent on natural rainfall and helped to replenish catchment systems. Overall, crops in the State were in fair to good condition at the end of the month although insect populations and weed growth has increased in some areas.

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acreage charts page 2**
Year-ago, month-ago, current,
and upcoming harvested
acreage.

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Production statistics and
comments on selected crops.

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Excerpt from a report by
the Economic Research Service.

Harvested acreage is expected to increase for most vegetable crops during July. **Dry onion** growers are anticipated to increase harvested acreage to 36 acres in July (+300%). Other crops expected to show an increased in harvested acreage during July are: **snap beans** (+56%), **Chinese cabbage** (+6%), **sweet corn** (+5%), **cucumbers** (+5%), and **head lettuce** (+25%). Declines in harvested acreage are expected for **head cabbage** (-4%), **mustard cabbages** (-13%), **green onions** (-25%), and **romaine** (-9%). **Semi-head (Manoa) lettuce** harvested acreage is expected to remain unchanged at 5 acres in July. ■

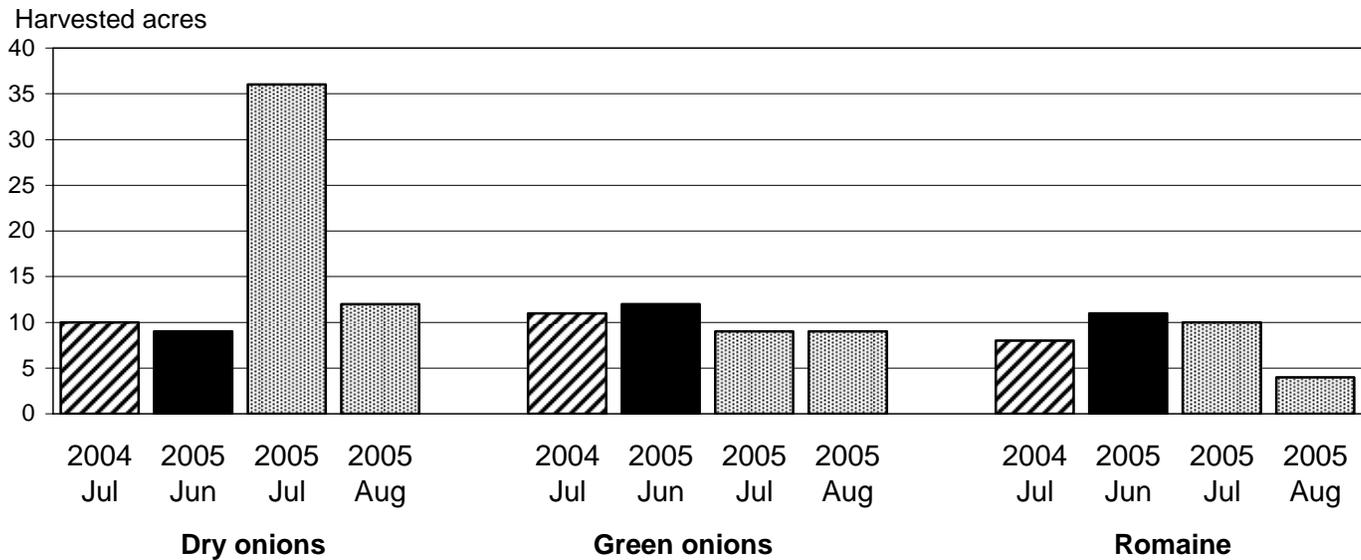
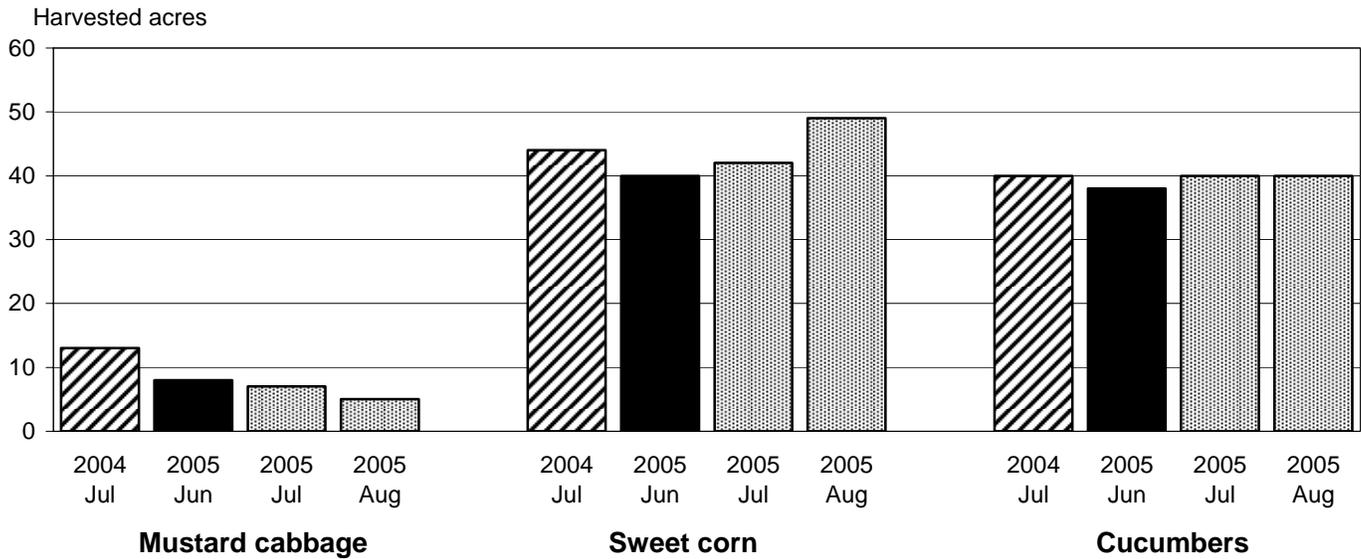
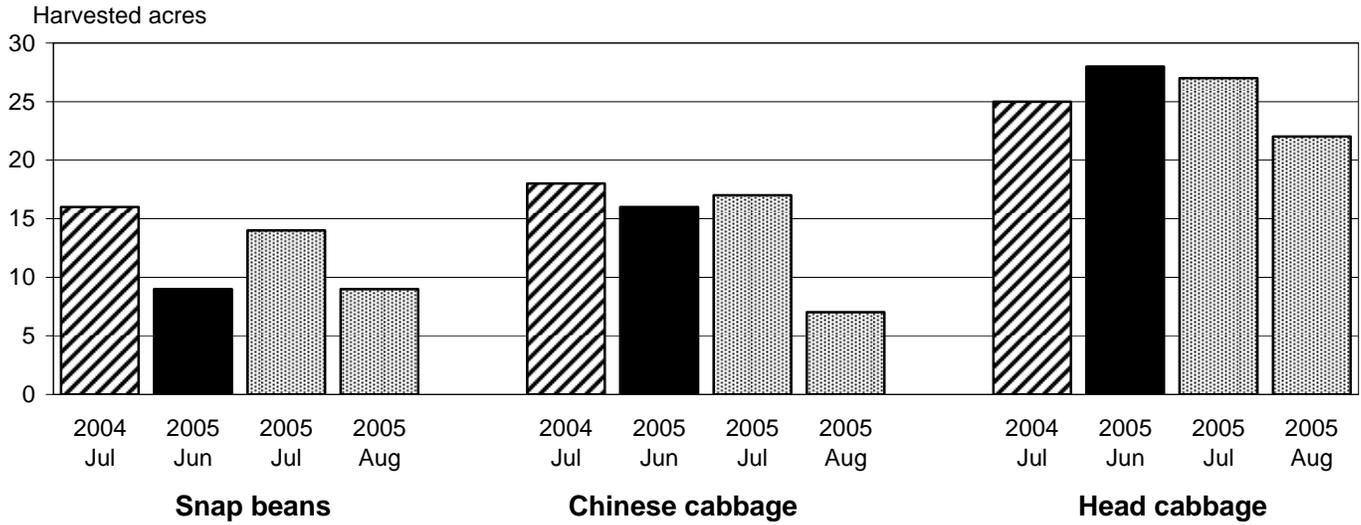


Acreage Acres planted, harvested, and for harvest for 11 selected vegetables, State of Hawaii.

Crop	Acres planted		Acres harvested		Acres for harvest	
	May 2005	Jun 2005	May 2005	Jun 2005	Jul 2005	Aug 2005
Beans, snap	14	10	9	9	14	9
Cabbage, Chinese	16	17	30	16	17	7
Cabbage, head	25	29	46	28	27	22
Cabbage, mustard	13	7	10	8	7	5
Corn, sweet	41	46	29	40	42	49
Cucumbers	38	39	39	38	40	40
Lettuce, head	5	5	5	4	5	2
Lettuce, semi-head	5	5	4	5	5	4
Onions, dry	15	34	9	9	36	12
Onions, green	10	9	13	12	9	9
Romaine	9	9	14	11	10	4

Harvested acreage charts

Acres harvested a year ago
 Acres harvested last month
 Acres intended for harvest



June Review

Sweet Corn Hits 2005 Monthly High

SNAP BEANS production totaled 61,000 pounds in June, down 9 percent from May. Fields in major producing areas were in good condition. Some whitefly infestations were noticed in Big Island plantings.

HEAD CABBAGE production is estimated at 1.1 million pounds in June, up 6 percent from May. Crop conditions were generally fair. Irrigation was heavy in most areas to maintain adequate growth. Trade showers helped to replenish irrigation reservoirs.

SWEET CORN production is estimated at 244,000 pounds for June, up 85 percent from the May and the highest monthly total this year. Plantings in the drier leeward areas made fair to good progress during the month, while plantings in windward areas made improved progress after a slow spring start.

CUCUMBER production is estimated at 569,000 pounds for June, down 6 percent from May. Weather conditions were generally good for fields in the major producing areas.

DRY ONION production totaled

330,000 pounds in June, up 78 percent from May and the second highest monthly total this year. The increase in production was largely due to additional acreage being harvested on Oahu. Most plantings in the State were in fair condition at the end of June.

TOMATO production is pegged at 1.1 million pounds for June, down 27 percent from May. Field tomato

plantings were in fair to good condition under regular irrigation and spraying. Greenhouse tomatoes at the higher elevations were in generally good condition having benefited from longer daylight hours and warmer temperatures. At the lower elevations, greenhouse tomatoes made delayed progress due to the warmer conditions. ■

**Hawaii Tomatoes
Monthly Production, 2004 – 2005**



Acreage, average yield, sales, and average farm price, June 2005, State of Hawaii.

Crop	Total acres on Jul 1 st	June 2005				January-to-date sales		
		Acres harvested	Average yield ^{1/}	Total sales	Average farm price	2004 ^{2/}	2005	Change
				----- 1,000 lbs. -----	Cents per lb.	----- 1,000 lbs -----		Percent
Beans, snap	23	9	6.8	61	115.4	382	292	- 24
Cabbage, Chinese	24	16	24.1	385	26.6	2,560	3,134	22
Cabbage, head	51	28	38.1	1,066	25.9	4,247	5,619	32
Cabbage, mustard	11	8	13.4	107	56.8	723	717	- 1
Corn, sweet	98	40	6.1	244	53.7	727	672	- 8
Cucumbers	72	38	15.0	569	40.7	2,365	2,400	1
Lettuce, head	6	4	15.0	60	59.3	383	355	- 7
Lettuce, semi-head	9	5	4.8	24	86.7	149	172	15
Onions, dry	96	9	36.7	330	100.1	672	1,085	61
Onions, green	23	12	9.0	108	97.4	522	559	2
Peppers, green	^{3/}	21	8.0	169	69.8	1,509	1,520	1
Romaine	14	11	11.4	125	61.0	712	871	22
Tomatoes	^{3/}	65	16.6	1,077	75.9	7,384	6,745	- 9

^{1/} Total sales divided by acres harvested. ^{2/} Revised. ^{3/} Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

North American Greenhouse Tomatoes

Total North American greenhouse tomato production for 2003 is estimated at 528,078 metric tons, from negligible amounts in the early 1990s.

Canada is the leader

Canada is the largest producer with an estimated 42 percent of production, followed by the United States with 30 percent, and Mexico with 28 percent. Among the three countries, Canada was the industry's pioneer and is a market force during its March to December season. The strengths of its industry are high yields and consistent product quality. Canada's volume of summer tomatoes is so great that it is hard for growers in the United States and Mexico to compete profitably in that season. The main weakness of the Canadian greenhouse industry is that it does not produce tomatoes in the winter.

U.S. strengths are high yields, product consistency, and year-round supply

In the United States, the large greenhouse operations are located in the Southwest and West, where climate conditions enable them to produce

tomatoes profitably in the winter, when prices are higher. The strengths of the U.S. industry are high yields, product consistency, and year-round supply. The U.S. industry is vulnerable to increasing competition from Mexico during the winter months, which could erode profits that carry it through the summer when prices are lower. To meet domestic demand, the United States imports over half of its supply of greenhouse tomatoes from Canada and Mexico.

Mexico is newest grower

Mexico is the latest entrant to the North American greenhouse tomato industry, but it already has more greenhouse tomato area than either the United States or Canada. However, average yields in Mexico are comparatively low. Mexican growers are using a wide range of technologies, not just high technology greenhouses with hydroponics. Mexico's main strength is climate conditions enabling winter production and the potential to be a year-round supplier. Mexico's industry is challenged by the high cost of capital, high heating costs, inexperienced management, lack of infrastructure and

dedicated input suppliers, and inconsistent product quality.

Greenhouse production more than doubled in 5 years

Between the early 1990s and 2003, North American greenhouse tomato area is estimated to have grown by almost 600 percent to 1,726 hectares. Production has also grown; from 1998 to 2003, North American greenhouse production grew 103 percent. Growth continues but is stabilizing in Canada and the United States, while continuing strong in Mexico. In 2003, in the United States and Mexico, the greenhouse shares of total fresh tomato production were 9 and 8 percent, respectively, but are likely higher now. In Canada, greenhouse tomatoes now completely dominate fresh tomato production, with an 89-percent share.

Excerpt from: *Greenhouse Tomatoes Change the Dynamics of the North American Fresh Tomato Industry/ERR-2/Economic Research Service, USDA.*