



HAWAII BANANAS

ANNUAL SUMMARY

FREQUENCY: Annual

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1998 HAWAII BANANA OUTPUT HITS A RECORD HIGH, REDUCES IMPORTS

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In 1998, Hawaii banana production reached a record breaking **21.0** million pounds, 53 percent above the previous year according to the Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service (HASS). Increased Cavendish banana acreage on Hawaii and Oahu was the main reason for the boost. Weather for 1998 was generally dry, but irrigation helped ease the adverse effects. For seven consecutive years prior to 1998, banana imports accounted for just over half the market supply. The record output, especially during the second half of the year, resulted in a sharp decrease in banana imports necessary to satisfy Hawaii's market demand. A November 1998 final ruling by USDA allows green bananas to be exported to interstate destinations with restrictions, providing another avenue for growers to market future production. After undergoing a Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV) eradication program, residents of Kilauea, Kauai were able to replant bananas in December 1998. In January 1999, the eradication efforts moved to the Kona area of Hawaii island where the virus was identified in October 1995. Fortunately, most of Hawaii island's commercial banana production is located on the east side of the island.

ACREAGE

Total in-crop acreage February 1, 1999 reached a record high 1,600 acres, 10 acres above the previous year. Harvested acreage totaled 1,420 in 1998, up 470 acres from a year earlier. Growers planted 250 acres Statewide in 1998. About 220 acres are expected to be planted in 1999.

(Continued on page 4)



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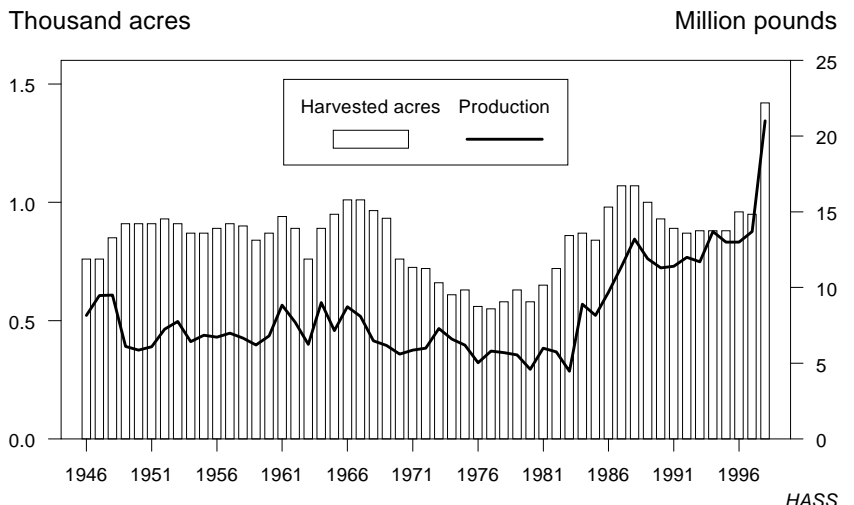
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BANANAS: Acres Harvested and Production, State of Hawaii, 1946-98



HASS

BANANA STATISTICS BY ISLAND

Table 1. BANANAS: Acreage by variety, State of Hawaii, 1997-98, with 1999 intentions¹

	Variety				New plantings 1998	Planting intentions 1999
	Brazilian ²		Cavendish ³			
	1997	1998	1997	1998		
<i>Acres</i>						
State	540	660	1,050	940	250	220

¹As of February following year, i.e., acreage data shown for 1998 is as of February 1, 1999. ²Includes Dwarf Brazilian and Apple bananas. ³Includes Chinese, Williams, Valery, and Grand Naim. Bluefields, Dwarf Bluefields, and other bananas are also included with Cavendish.

Table 2. BANANAS: Number of farms, acreage, yield, production, price, and value, by islands, 1994-98

Year	Farms	Acreage		Yield per acre (harvested)	Production	Farm price	Value of sales
		In crop ¹	Harvested ²				
	<i>Number</i>	<i>----- Acres -----</i>		<i>----- 1,000 pounds -----</i>		<i>Cents per pound</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>
State³							
1994	145	1,020	880	15.6	13,700	37.0	5,069
1995	170	1,120	880	14.8	13,000	40.0	5,200
1996	170	1,240	960	13.5	13,000	40.0	5,200
1997	170	1,590	950	14.4	13,700	38.0	5,206
1998	200	1,600	1,420	14.8	21,000	35.0	7,350
Hawaii							
1994	34	505	440	23.0	10,100	33.5	3,384
1995	41	600	445	19.6	8,700	35.0	3,045
1996	41	695	495	17.0	8,400	35.5	2,982
1997	48	840	550	17.8	9,800	34.0	3,352
1998	50	740	665	16.7	11,100	31.0	3,430
Kauai							
1994	24	55	45	9.8	440	42.0	185
1995	29	55	45	9.3	420	44.0	184
1996	29	55	45	11.3	510	42.5	218
1997	28	40	35	12.9	450	43.5	196
1998	40	60	50	10.0	500	42.5	212
Maui/Molokai/Lanai							
1994	15	55	45	12.4	560	52.0	291
1995	22	60	45	18.2	820	52.0	426
1996	22	55	40	22.3	890	50.0	445
1997	19	75	45	15.6	700	54.5	382
1998	35	85	50	16.0	800	55.0	440
Oahu							
1994	72	405	350	7.4	2,600	46.5	1,209
1995	78	405	345	8.9	3,060	50.5	1,545
1996	78	435	380	8.4	3,200	48.5	1,555
1997	75	635	320	8.6	2,750	46.5	1,276
1998	75	715	655	13.1	8,600	38.0	3,268

¹As of February following year, i.e., acreage data shown for 1998 is as of February 1, 1999. ²Acreage reflects quarterly average during the year.

³Island totals may not add to State totals due to rounding.

BANANA STATISTICS BY VARIETY

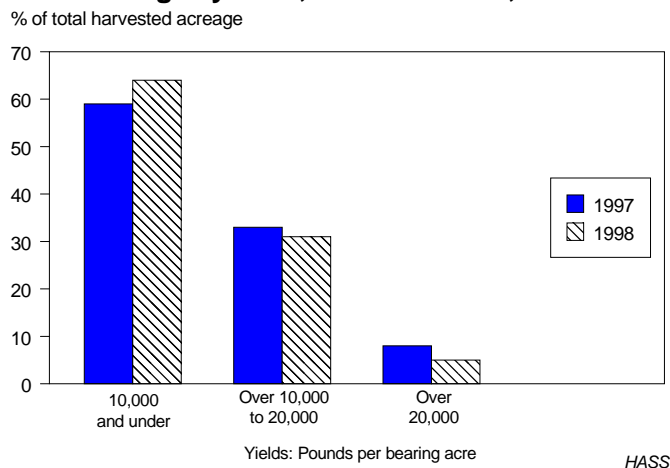
Table 3. BANANAS: Production, acreage, and price, State of Hawaii, 1994-98

Year	Production													Acreage	
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total or average	In crop	Harvested
----- 1,000 pounds -----													----- Acres -----		
All Bananas															
1994	1,097	1,086	1,059	1,006	977	969	1,175	1,469	1,246	1,301	1,177	1,138	13,700	1,020	880
1995	1,020	931	980	1,055	972	1,083	1,120	1,060	1,035	1,190	1,241	1,313	13,000	1,120	880
1996	1,175	840	825	825	816	862	1,200	1,544	1,281	1,442	1,264	926	13,000	1,240	960
1997	1,021	840	764	802	990	1,118	1,362	1,419	1,230	1,432	1,365	1,357	13,700	1,590	950
1998	1,196	1,096	1,261	1,359	1,516	1,943	2,163	2,117	2,112	2,095	2,063	2,079	21,000	1,600	1,420
Brazilian¹															
1994	231	224	250	274	279	248	248	281	260	240	252	213	3,000	490	415
1995	220	219	298	307	306	327	275	326	355	347	345	375	3,700	535	440
1996	333	272	254	270	322	300	354	438	427	487	424	319	4,200	560	495
1997	369	327	342	303	311	279	303	364	326	364	349	363	4,000	540	445
1998	344	345	388	367	308	281	322	367	385	390	397	506	4,400	660	510
Cavendish²															
1994	866	862	809	732	698	721	927	1,188	986	1,061	925	925	10,700	530	465
1995	800	712	682	748	666	756	845	734	680	843	896	938	9,300	585	440
1996	842	568	571	555	494	562	846	1,106	854	955	840	607	8,800	680	465
1997	652	513	422	499	679	839	1,059	1,055	904	1,068	1,016	994	9,700	1,050	505
1998	852	751	873	992	1,208	1,662	1,841	1,750	1,727	1,705	1,666	1,573	16,600	940	910
FARM PRICE FOR FRESH MARKET															
<i>Cents per pound</i>															
All Bananas³															
1994	37.0	38.0	38.5	39.5	39.0	38.0	36.5	35.5	36.0	35.5	36.5	36.5	37.0		
1995	38.0	38.0	40.0	40.0	41.5	40.5	40.0	41.5	42.0	40.0	39.5	39.5	40.0		
1996	39.5	41.0	41.0	41.0	42.5	41.5	39.5	39.0	40.0	39.0	39.0	39.5	40.0		
1997	44.0	44.5	45.0	43.0	38.0	36.0	34.5	35.5	36.0	35.5	34.5	34.5	38.0		
1998	36.0	38.5	37.5	38.0	37.5	35.5	34.5	33.5	33.0	32.5	33.5	34.5	35.0		
Brazilian¹															
1994	49.5	50.5	51.0	51.0	50.0	50.5	50.0	49.0	48.5	48.5	47.0	48.0	49.5		
1995	50.5	51.0	51.5	51.5	52.0	52.0	52.0	51.5	51.5	51.5	51.0	51.0	51.5		
1996	50.5	52.0	52.0	52.0	51.5	51.5	50.0	49.5	49.5	49.0	49.5	50.0	50.5		
1997	48.5	49.5	49.5	50.0	50.5	52.0	51.5	51.0	51.0	50.0	50.0	49.5	50.0		
1998	49.5	49.5	49.0	49.0	50.0	53.0	53.0	51.0	50.5	50.0	49.5	48.5	50.0		
Cavendish⁴															
1994	33.5	34.5	34.5	35.0	34.5	34.0	32.5	32.0	32.5	33.0	33.5	34.0	33.5		
1995	34.0	34.0	35.0	35.0	36.0	35.5	36.0	36.5	36.5	35.5	35.0	35.0	35.5		
1996	34.5	36.0	36.0	36.0	36.5	36.0	35.5	35.0	35.0	33.5	34.0	34.0	35.0		
1997	38.0	41.5	42.0	42.0	38.5	32.0	30.5	29.5	30.0	30.0	30.0	29.0	33.0		
1998	30.0	33.5	32.5	33.5	34.0	32.5	31.0	29.5	28.5	28.5	29.5	30.0	30.5		

¹ Includes Dwarf Brazilian and Apple bananas. ² Includes Chinese, Williams, Valery, and Grand Naim. Bluefields, Dwarf Bluefields, and other bananas are combined with Cavendish beginning 1993. Previous publications provide a breakdown for Bluefields. ³ Includes Bluefields, Dwarf Bluefields, and other bananas. ⁴ Includes Chinese, Williams, Valery, and Grand Naim.

BANANA ACREAGE DISTRIBUTED BY YIELD

BANANAS: Distribution of Harvested Brazilian Acreage by Yield, State of Hawaii, 1997-98



BANANAS: Distribution of Harvested Cavendish Acreage by Yield, State of Hawaii, 1997-98

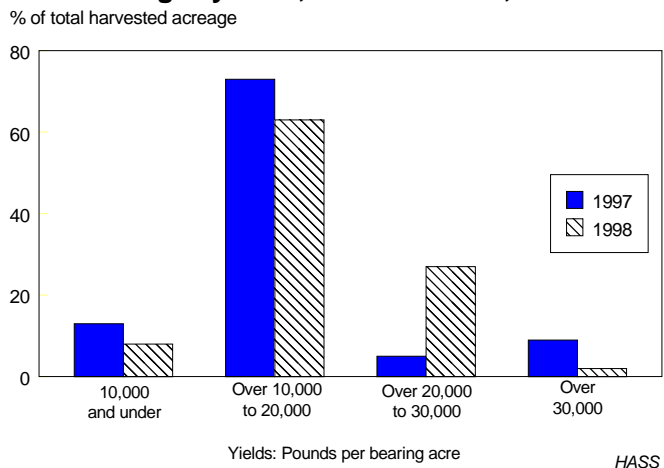


Table 4. BANANAS: Distribution of harvested acreage by yield, State of Hawaii, 1997-98

Stratum: Yield per harvested acre	Variety							
	Brazilian ¹				Cavendish ²			
	Harvested acres		Average yield		Harvested acres		Average yield	
	1997 ³	1998	1997 ³	1998	1997 ³	1998	1997 ³	1998
Pounds	----- Pounds -----						----- Pounds -----	
Over 30,000	4	4	4	4	45	18	38,300	35,100
20,001 - 30,000	⁵ 36	⁵ 24	25,500	31,900	25	241	27,600	24,900
10,001 - 20,000	147	157	13,300	14,400	371	574	18,600	16,600
10,000 and Under	262	329	4,100	4,100	64	77	5,700	5,700
Total	445	510	9,000	8,600	505	910	19,200	18,200

¹ Includes Apple and dwarf varieties.

² Includes Chinese, Williams, Valery, and Grand Naim. Bluefields, Dwarf Bluefields, and other bananas are included with Cavendish.

³ Revised.

⁴ Data not shown separately but combined and included in "20,001-30,000" pounds per acre.

⁵ Includes "Over 30,000" pounds per acre.

PRODUCTION AND YIELD

Overall Statewide yields averaged 14,800 pounds per acre, 400 pounds more than a year ago. Cavendish production totaled 16.6 million pounds in 1998, 71 percent more than 1997, accounting for 79 percent of the State total. The overall average yield for Cavendish was 18,200 pounds per acre, down 1,000 pounds from 1997. The bulk of the Cavendish acreage averaged under 20,000 pounds per acre with new plantings coming into harvest. Brazilian output was 10 percent more than 1997 to 4.4 million pounds. Brazilian bananas yielded 8,600 pounds per acre, down 400 pounds from the previous year. About 65 percent of the Brazilian acreage averaged 10,000 pounds or less per acre. Hawaii island lead the State with an output of 11.1 million pounds, 13 percent above a year ago. Oahu production experienced the greatest year-to-year increase with 8.6 million pounds, more than triple the amount produced in 1997. Maui County and Kauai accounted for the remaining 6 percent of the overall production.

FARM PRICES AND VALUE

The 1998 farm price for all varieties of local bananas averaged 35.0 cents per pound, down 3.0 cents from the previous year. The decline in price was due to heavier Cavendish supplies, averaging 30.5 cents per pound compared with 33.0 cents in 1997. The average farm price for Brazilian was 50.0 cents per pound, unchanged from the previous year. The Statewide farm value reached a record \$7.4 million.

HISTORICAL DATA

Table 5. BANANAS: State of Hawaii, 1946-98

Year	Farms	Acreage		Yield per acre (harvested)	Production	Farm price ¹	Value of sales
		In crop	Harvested				
	<i>Number</i>	<i>----- Acres -----</i>		<i>----- 1,000 pounds -----</i>		<i>Cents per pound</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>
1946	NA	1,000	760	10.7	8,163	4.6	373
1947	NA	1,020	760	12.5	9,475	6.4	608
1948	NA	1,020	850	11.2	9,510	6.0	572
1949	NA	1,010	910	6.7	6,115	7.6	464
1950	NA	1,020	910	6.5	5,870	7.2	424
1951	NA	990	910	6.7	6,085	7.4	451
1952	NA	1,010	930	7.8	7,250	6.7	489
1953	NA	980	910	8.5	7,760	6.5	503
1954	NA	930	870	7.4	6,430	6.8	436
1955	NA	950	870	7.9	6,850	6.5	444
1956	NA	1,000	890	7.6	6,725	6.8	454
1957	NA	1,050	910	7.7	6,985	5.7	398
1958	NA	1,050	900	7.4	6,665	6.8	435
1959	NA	1,010	840	7.4	6,210	7.1	438
1960	NA	1,130	970	7.8	6,810	6.4	435
1961	NA	1,160	940	9.4	8,835	6.7	592
1962	NA	1,110	890	8.7	7,710	6.6	509
1963	NA	1,040	760	8.2	6,245	7.8	484
1964	246	1,090	890	10.1	9,010	7.7	690
1965	243	1,160	950	7.5	7,160	7.7	545
1966	229	1,150	1,010	8.6	8,730	7.7	668
1967	216	1,155	1,010	8.0	8,095	7.0	567
1968	207	1,115	965	6.7	6,485	7.7	499
1969	170	1,038	933	6.6	6,170	9.4	580
1970	182	820	760	7.4	5,600	10.6	594
1971	172	810	725	8.1	5,865	11.6	680
1972	172	795	720	8.3	6,000	12.0	720
1973	171	730	660	11.1	7,295	10.6	773
1974	173	670	610	10.8	6,600	13.1	865
1975	154	690	630	9.8	6,200	13.8	856
1976	152	615	560	9.0	5,030	15.5	780
1977	153	610	550	10.5	5,800	15.6	905
1978	147	660	580	9.8	5,700	18.5	1,055
1979	148	690	630	8.8	5,550	20.5	1,138
1980	159	730	580	7.9	4,600	23.9	1,099
1981	152	760	650	9.2	6,000	25.7	1,542
1982	179	940	720	8.0	5,750	28.6	1,645
1983	183	1,100	860	5.2	4,470	31.2	1,395
1984	180	990	870	10.2	8,900	30.0	2,670
1985	178	1,060	840	9.7	8,160	30.3	2,472
1986	185	1,140	980	9.9	9,700	30.0	2,910
1987	175	1,220	1,070	10.7	11,400	29.7	3,386
1988	160	1,220	1,070	12.3	13,200	33.0	4,356
1989	150	1,150	1,000	11.9	11,900	36.5	4,344
1990	150	1,000	930	12.2	11,300	38.0	4,294
1991	145	970	890	12.8	11,400	41.0	4,674
1992	135	960	870	13.8	12,000	41.0	4,920
1993	130	980	830	14.1	11,700	38.0	4,446
1994	145	1,020	880	15.6	13,700	37.0	5,069
1995	170	1,120	880	14.8	13,000	40.0	5,200
1996	170	1,240	960	13.5	13,000	40.0	5,200
1997	170	1,590	950	14.4	13,700	38.0	5,206
1998	200	1,600	1,420	14.8	21,000	35.0	7,350

¹ Price rounded to nearest 0.5 cent beginning 1994.

HAWAII FRESH BANANA MARKET SUPPLY

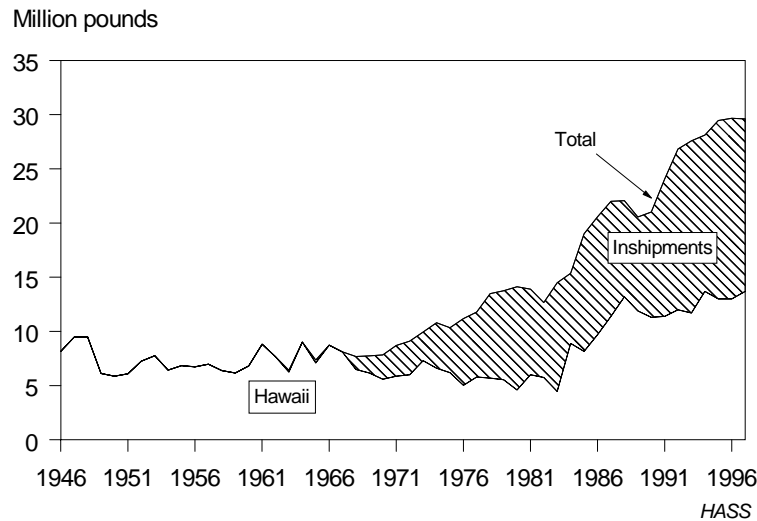
Table 6. BANANAS: Fresh Cavendish banana inshipments into Hawaii, 1994-98

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
<i>1,000 pounds</i>													
1994	1,112	1,125	1,405	1,342	1,638	1,182	1,186	1,261	927	1,106	1,153	1,003	14,440
1995 ¹	1,167	1,150	1,576	1,480	1,588	1,445	1,284	1,329	1,282	1,715	1,242	1,055	² 16,460
1996 ¹	1,306	1,304	1,386	1,586	1,702	1,539	1,497	1,180	1,064	1,494	1,041	1,422	² 16,668
1997 ¹	1,546	1,331	1,770	1,657	1,522	1,357	1,208	1,020	1,269	1,012	1,043	1,043	² 15,919
1998¹	1,282	1,274	NA	NA	NA	NA	604	494	505	NA	584	484	NA

¹ Monthly data for 1995-98 are inshipments to Honolulu only. Monthly data are not available for inshipment to other islands which accounted for about 1% in 1994. ² Annual total for 1995-97 were estimated to include direct shipments to the neighbor islands. NA = Not available at time of printing.

Source: Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Market Analysis and News Branch.

MARKET SUPPLY: Fresh Market Bananas, State of Hawaii, 1946-97



**Table 7. BANANA: Market supply,
1994-98**

Year	Hawaii	Inshipments
<i>Percentage</i>		
1994	49	51
1995	44	56
1996	44	56
1997	46	54
1998	NA	NA

NA = Not available at time of publication.

U.S. FRESH BANANA IMPORTS

Table 8. BANANAS: U.S. fresh banana imports, quantity and value, 1995-98

Year	Quantity	Custom value
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>
1995	3,664,195	1,062,539
1996	3,771,805	1,097,152
1997	3,775,355	1,121,436
1998	3,913,314	1,093,052

The conversion for 1 metric ton = 2,204.6 pounds
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce.

Table 9. BANANAS: U.S. fresh banana imports, quantity and value, by country, 1998
Harmonized number: 0803002020

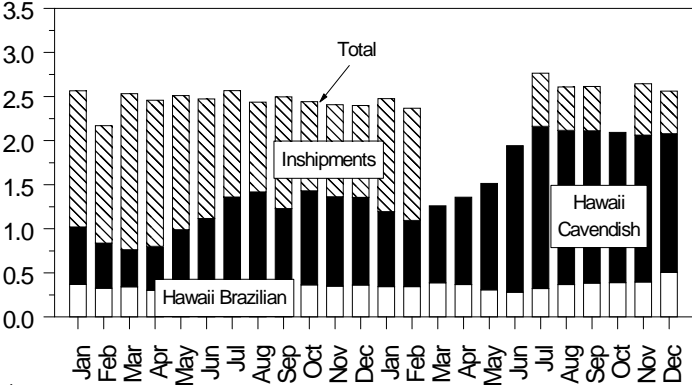
Country	Quantity	Custom value
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>
Mexico	220,582	56,436
Guatemala	654,617	173,160
Honduras	377,009	102,893
Costa Rica	1,090,965	304,129
Panama	5,390	1,579
Dominican Republic	6,387	3,036
Colombia	415,116	126,573
Venezuela	4,519	2,339
Ecuador	1,080,124	309,298
Nicaragua	58,355	13,541
Hong Kong	203	50
St. Lucia	47	18
Total	3,913,314	1,093,052

The conversion for 1 metric ton = 2,204.6 pounds.
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce.

In 1998, the U.S. imported 3.9 million metric tons of fresh bananas from foreign sources, up 4 percent from the previous year. Over half of the total imports came from Costa Rica, and Ecuador. The value posted \$1.1 billion, 3 percent less than the 1997 value.

**MARKET SUPPLY: Fresh Market Bananas, by Month,
State of Hawaii, 1997-98¹**

Million pounds



¹1997-98 inshipments are for Honolulu only.

Inshipment data missing for Mar-Jun & Oct 1998