

# HAWAII GINGER ROOT

## Annual Summary

RELEASED: August 12, 1998

## Output hits record high 18 million pounds

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The Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service (HASS) estimates Statewide production of ginger root at a record-high 18 million pounds for the 1997/98 season, up 49 percent from the previous season.

### Many factors resulted in record output

Favorable weather and a record harvest of 360 acres were major reasons for this past season's record output. The eastern half of the Big Island, where the majority of the State's ginger root crop is annually planted, experienced a beneficial mixture of sunshine and showers that promoted good crop development throughout the growing season. A dry winter then provided nearly ideal conditions for the harvesting of ginger root. Yields improved for many farmers, but disease remained a serious problem for those farmers that did not fumigate or practice good cultural methods.

Farm prices averaged 40 cents per pound during the 1997/98 season, down 40 percent from the previous season and the lowest farm return in 27 seasons. People in the industry cited the record output, an increase in growers trying to market their own production, and declining prices on the world market (due in part to the devaluation of foreign currency) as reasons for the drop in Hawaiian ginger root prices. The farm value of the 1997/98 harvest is estimated at \$7.2 million, down 11 percent from the previous season as lower farm prices more than offset the record high output.



**HAWAII AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**

*Fact finding for agriculture*

HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BOX 22159, HONOLULU, HI 96823-2159  
(808) 973-9588

**DONALD A. MARTIN**

State Agricultural Statistician

**RON NAKAMURA**

Research Statistician

**ELYSE TAKA**

Statistical Assistant

Contributing:

James Yamaki - Hawaii

Llewellyn Suzuki - Hawaii

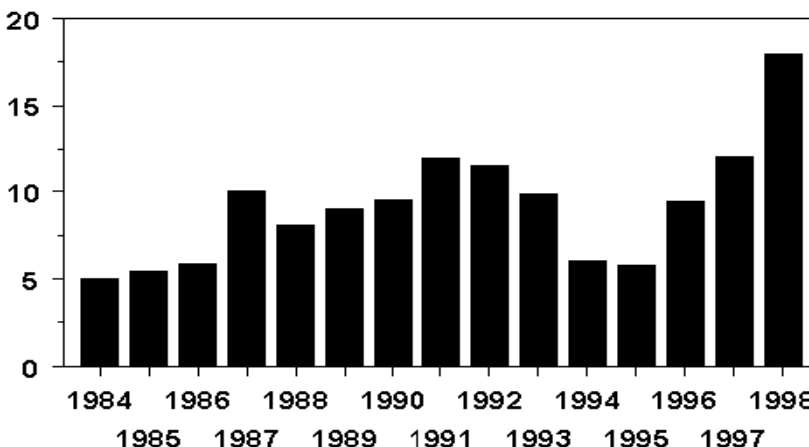
June Okamura - Oahu & Kauai

Wendell Au - Oahu

Naomi Landgraf - Maui & Molokai

### Fresh Ginger Root Production State of Hawaii, 1984-98

Mil. pounds



## Hawaii Fresh Ginger Root Statistics

Year <sup>1/</sup>	Acres harvested	Yield per harvested acre	Production	Average farm price	Farm value
		----- 1,000 pounds -----		Cents per pound	\$1,000
1949	18	38.3	690	16.2	112
1950	16	35.9	575	22.1	127
1951	14	27.9	390	43.3	169
1952	14	30.4	425	39.3	167
1953	13	43.5	565	28.8	163
1954	20	40.2	805	21.5	173
1955	20	39.2	785	19.5	150
1956	22	34.5	760	22.1	168
1957	17	33.5	570	25.3	144
1958	15	32.7	490	39.2	192
1959	25	29.2	730	24.4	178
1960	32	28.3	905	19.7	178
1961	27	25.2	680	23.8	162
1962	21	17.1	360	40.0	144
1963	17	22.6	385	30.6	118
1964	25	26.2	655	18.5	121
1965	15	35.0	525	23.4	123
1966	14	35.0	490	28.4	139
1967	19	37.9	720	28.3	204
1968	19	37.1	705	26.0	183
1969	21	40.0	840	28.9	243
1970	21	39.3	820	29.4	241
1971	23	40.2	925	27.5	254
1972	17	29.4	500	41.8	209
1973	13	39.6	515	68.7	354
1974	11	32.0	352	61.9	218
1975	22	36.0	793	60.7	481
1976	18	36.1	650	61.8	402
1977	39	28.5	1,110	65.4	726
1978	55	24.4	1,340	61.1	819
1979	75	24.8	1,860	61.2	1,138
1980	40	40.8	1,610	61.7	1,090
1981	64	44.7	2,860	76.2	2,179
1982	100	36.3	3,630	92.3	3,350
1983	160	32.1	5,140	54.6	2,806
1984	135	37.4	5,050	45.1	2,280
1985	125	43.4	5,425	82.3	4,465
1986	145	40.7	5,900	81.0	4,779
1987	215	46.7	10,050	45.0	4,523
1988	165	49.1	8,100	62.0	5,022
1989	180	50.0	9,000	71.5	6,435
1990	190	50.0	9,500	71.5	6,792
1991	250	48.0	12,000	63.0	7,560
1992	290	40.0	11,600	55.0	6,380
1993	360	27.5	9,900	53.0	5,247
1994	150	40.0	6,000	87.0	5,220
1995	135	43.0	5,800	87.0	5,046
1996	200	47.0	9,400	87.0	7,050
1997	275	44.0	12,100	75.0	8,107
<b>1998</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>7,200</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Harvesting normally begins in December and continues into the year shown.

# OUTLOOK

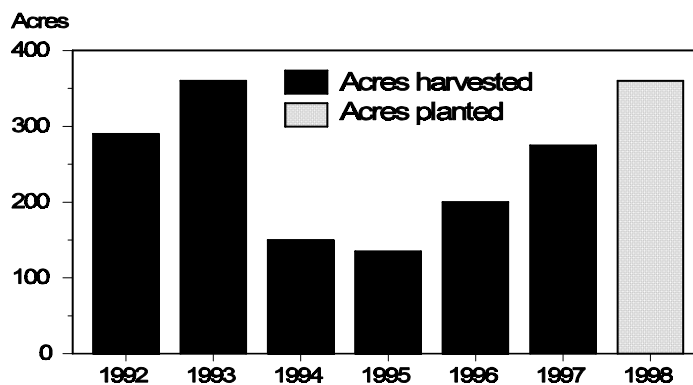
## Acres Planted for the 1998-99 Season

Ginger root growers are expected to plant 380 acres for harvest during the 1998-99 season, up 6 percent from the 360 acres harvested this past season. Farmers surveyed by HASS reported that plantings were 90 percent complete at the end of April.

Based on the most recent 3-year average yield of 47,300 pounds per acre, the 1998-99 crop is forecast at 18 million pounds, unchanged from the 1997-98 harvest.

Currently, ginger root plantings in the eastern half of the Big Island were in poor to good condition. Disease is the main problem for fields in poor condition.

**Expected Ginger Root for Harvest  
with Acres Harvested in Previous Seasons  
State of Hawaii**



## 1997 U.S. Ginger Root Imports

### Summary and Statistics

Ginger root imports of all types totaled 33.8 million pounds in 1997, down 2 percent from 1996.

Unground ginger root made up the majority of imports with 29.6 million pounds, down 2 percent from 1996.

Costa Rica (3.6 million pounds), Brazil (2.8 million pounds), India (1.8 million pounds), Nicaragua (1.2 million pounds), and Honduras (1.2 million pounds) were the top 5 suppliers of unground, or not ground, ginger root to the United States in 1997.

### Ginger Root: Approximate Average Monthly New York Spot Prices (dollars per pound).

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
<b>Indian-Cochin</b>													
1997	.91	.88	.84	.81	.87	.93	.96	.96	.94	.89	.89	.85	.90
1998	.83	.84	.88	.92	.91	.87							
<b>Chinese, Whole Peeled</b>													
1997	1.22	1.45	1.62	2.32	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	N/A	2.19
1998	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.23	1.02	.98							
<b>Chinese, Sliced</b>													
1997	.92	1.16	1.24	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40	N/A	1.29
1998	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	.80	.77							

N/A = Not available.

Source: Foreign Agricultural Services, USDA

## U.S. Imports of Ginger Root by Type, Country of Origin, and Year

Year	Type of Ginger Root				Total
	Ground	Not Ground	Preserved	Sweet	
<i>pounds</i>					
<b>1997 by Country</b>					
Costa Rica		7,947,182			7,947,182
Brazil		6,233,731			6,233,731
India	619,900	3,952,182		34,101	4,606,183
Thailand	6,618	1,764,809	488,105	1,262,255	3,521,787
Nicaragua		2,618,516			2,618,516
Honduras		2,578,943			2,578,943
Guatemala		1,533,394			1,533,394
Fiji		1,109,655	7,822	173,030	1,290,507
China	34,046	603,386	61,671	284,005	983,108
Australia	1,470		639,788		641,259
Nigeria		531,611		18,188	549,799
Ecuador	33,821	508,839			542,660
All others	157,759	267,098	69,842	274,138	768,837
1997 Total	853,615	29,649,346	1,267,228	2,045,717	33,815,905
1996	1,219,638	30,367,631	1,064,712	1,819,324	34,471,304
1995	524,876	33,768,107	1,025,792	1,345,992	36,664,767
1994	634,742	31,958,003	1,014,526	1,649,224	35,256,495
1993	255,266	17,869,586	537,691	897,612	19,560,155

Source: Foreign Trade Division, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service  
P.O. Box 22159  
Honolulu, HI 96823-2159

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