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# Hawaii Herbs

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## Production and farm value rebound to record high levels

Hawaii fresh herb production is estimated at a record high 4.4 million pounds for 2005, up 13 percent from 2004. Farm value of all fresh herb sales also set a new record high in 2005 at \$8.6 million, a 24-percent increase from 2004.

Unlike 2004 when one of the wettest winter seasons (October 2003/April 2004) on record hampered herb production, farmers were helped by relatively dry weather as most stations on the State's automated Hydronet System recorded below normal rainfall totals for 2005. Most of the State's herbs are grown on Oahu.

**Sweet (Italian) basil** production is estimated at 1.7 million pounds in 2005, down 6 percent from 2004. Farm prices rose to a record high average of \$2.45 per pound in 2005 and generated record revenues of \$4.2 million. **Asian basil** production is pegged at 1.3 million pounds for 2005, up 30 percent from 2004 and a new record high. Farm prices increased 16 percent to an average of \$1.10 pound in 2005. The increase in production and farm price for Asian basil resulted in a record high farm value of \$1.4 million in 2005.

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### Hawaii Fresh Herbs

Production, farm price, and farm value, by types, State of Hawaii, 2001 – 2005.

Year	Basil			Parsley	Chinese Parsley (Cilantro)	Other Herbs <sup>1</sup>	All Herbs
	Sweet (Italian)	Asian	Total				
<b>Production – 1,000 pounds</b>							
2001	1,500	650	2,150	330	100	620	3,200
2002	2,000	1,000	3,000	300	300	550	4,150
2003	2,000	1,200	3,200	310	250	440	4,200
2004	1,800	1,000	2,800	280	240	580	3,900
2005	1,700	1,300	3,000	250	200	950	4,400
<b>Farm price - \$ per pound</b>							
2001	2.00	0.80		2.00	2.10	2.45	
2002	1.95	0.85		1.70	1.50	2.30	
2003	2.00	0.80		2.20	2.10	2.45	
2004	2.05	0.95		2.00	2.20	2.15	
2005	2.45	1.10		1.85	2.60	2.15	
<b>Farm value - \$1,000</b>							
2001	3,000	520	3,520	660	210	1,519	5,909
2002	3,900	850	4,750	510	450	1,265	6,975
2003	4,000	960	4,960	682	525	1,078	7,245
2004	3,690	950	4,640	560	528	1,247	6,975
2005	4,165	1,430	5,595	463	520	2,043	8,621

<sup>1</sup> Includes rosemary, galangal (Thai ginger), lemon grass, mint, chives, and other herbs; some of which cannot be published separately to avoid disclosure. Also includes a small amount of basil and parsley for which an individual total could not be obtained.

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**Parsley** production declined for the third consecutive year at 250,000 pounds for 2005, down 11 percent from 2004. Parsley growers received an average farm price of \$1.85 per pound in 2005, down 8 percent from 2004. Farm value for parsley totaled \$463,000 in 2005, the lowest totaled in 5 years. **Chinese parsley (Cilantro)** production was also down in 2005 at 200,000 pounds, a 17-percent decrease from 2004. The average farm price during 2005 is estimated at \$2.60 per pound, up 18 percent from 2004 and the highest average farm return in 5 years. Total farm value for Chinese parsley is estimated at \$520,000 in 2005, down 2 percent from 2004.

Production of **all other herbs** totaled a record high 950,000 pounds in 2005, up 64 percent from 2004. Farm revenues totaled \$2.0 million for 2005, up 64 percent from 2004. Major herbs in this combined category were rosemary, galangal (Thai ginger), lemon grass, mint, chives, and various ethnic herbs.

**Medicinal crop** production is estimated at 2.3 million pounds in 2005, down 38 percent from 2004. Farm value is pegged at \$670,000 for 2005, down 46 percent from 2004. A reduction in noni (Indian mulberry) production was a major factor in 2005's reduced output and farm value.

### Hawaii Medicinal Crops<sup>1</sup>

Harvested acreage, production, and farm value  
State of Hawaii, 2003-2005

Year	Harvested acreage	Production (Fresh wt.)	Farm value
		<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
2003	270	2,200	770
2004	300	3,700	1,236
2005	150	2,300	670

<sup>1</sup> Main medicinal crops are noni (Indian mulberry) and Kava ('awa).