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Hawaii Herbs

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Farm value 6 percent lower

Hawaii fresh herb production for 2007 is estimated at 5.0 million pounds, 12 percent below the 5.7 million pound record high set in 2006. The farm value of all fresh herb sales in 2007 was \$8.5 million, 6 percent below 2006.

Weather was mostly dry for the year with 2008 rainfall totals for most locations at below normal levels. Although multiple disturbances produced some moderate to heavy shower at different times of the year, most months were relatively dry. The year ended wet for most all locations as a change in the weather provided the State with heavy rains for the second half of December.

Most of the State's herbs are grown on Oahu.

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Hawaii Fresh Herbs

Production, farm price, and farm value, by types, State of Hawaii, 2003 – 2007.

Year	Basil			Parsley	Chinese Parsley (Cilantro)	Other Herbs ¹	All Herbs
	Sweet (Italian)	Asian	Total				
Production – 1,000 pounds							
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
2006	2,000	1,600	3,600	250	200	1,650	5,700
2007	1,700	1,600	3,300	140	150	1,410	5,000
Farm price - \$ per pound							
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	
2006	1.90	0.95		1.85	2.40	1.70	
2007	1.60	1.25		2.10	2.60	2.20	
Farm value - \$1,000							
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
2006	3,800	1,520	5,320	462	480	2,805	9,067
2007	2,720	2,000	4,720	294	390	3,102	8,506

¹ Includes galangal (Thai ginger), rosemary, 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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Sweet (Italian) basil production is estimated at 1.7 million pounds in 2007, down 15 percent from 2006. Farm prices declined 30 cents from a year earlier to an average of \$1.60 per pound in 2007, generating revenues of \$2.7 million. **Asian basil** production is pegged at 1.6 million pounds for 2007, unchanged from 2006. Farm prices increased 30 cents to an average of \$1.25 cents a pound in 2007. The farm value for Asian basil is \$2.0 million in 2007.

Parsley production totaled 140,000 pounds for 2007, 44 percent below 2006. Parsley growers received an average farm price of \$2.10 per pound in 2007, 14 percent more than during 2007. Farm value for parsley totaled \$294,000 in 2007, the lowest total since 1998. **Chinese parsley (Cilantro)** production at 150,000 pounds was 25 percent less than during 2006. The average farm price during 2007 was \$2.60 per pound, up 8 percent from 2006. Total farm value for Chinese parsley is estimated at \$390,000 in 2007, down 19 percent from 2006 and the lowest since 2001.

Production of **all other herbs** totaled 1.4 million pounds in 2007, a decline of 15 percent from 2006. Farm revenues totaled \$3.1 million for 2007, up 11 percent from 2006. Major herbs in this combined category were galangal (Thai ginger), rosemary, lemon grass, mint, chives, and various ethnic herbs. ■