

National Agricultural Statistics Service

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# Hawaii Kava

An annual report of Hawaii kava acreage, sales, farm price, and value.

## Ancestral 'awa plant takes commercial hold

*Kava is more commonly known as 'awa in Hawaii and was brought to the islands by early Polynesians. The roots of this shrub plant were used to make a drink that played an important role in the life of the Hawaiian people. Interest and demand for 'awa has recently increased due to a resurgence in Hawaiiana and a general interest in the natural medicinal benefits and tranquilizing effects of the 'awa drink.*

The Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service (HASS) estimates that 80 acres were devoted to the cultivation of kava at the end of 2000. Sales of kava (fresh basis) totaled 85,000 pounds and generated \$119,000 in farm revenues during 2000.

### Hawaii island is major growing area

Kava grows wild on all islands, but the majority of the State's commercial plantings are concentrated in the windward areas of Hawaii island. The South Hilo, North Hilo, Hamakua, and Puna districts are favored for commercial production because of adequate natural rainfall and the presence of deep soil that are needed for the crop to grow well. Commercial plantings are also located on Maui, Molokai, Kauai, and Oahu.

### Future production expected to increase

Of the 88,000 plants in the ground at the end of 2000, 50 percent (43,600 plants) were more than 18 months old. This is important because kavalactone levels, the active ingredients that make kava valuable, peak when the plant is between 18 to 24 months old. Farmers, however, normally continue to grow the kava for another year or two to increase the harvested yield. Growers surveyed by HASS survey also revealed that they are planning to plant an additional 80-90 acres in the near future. ■

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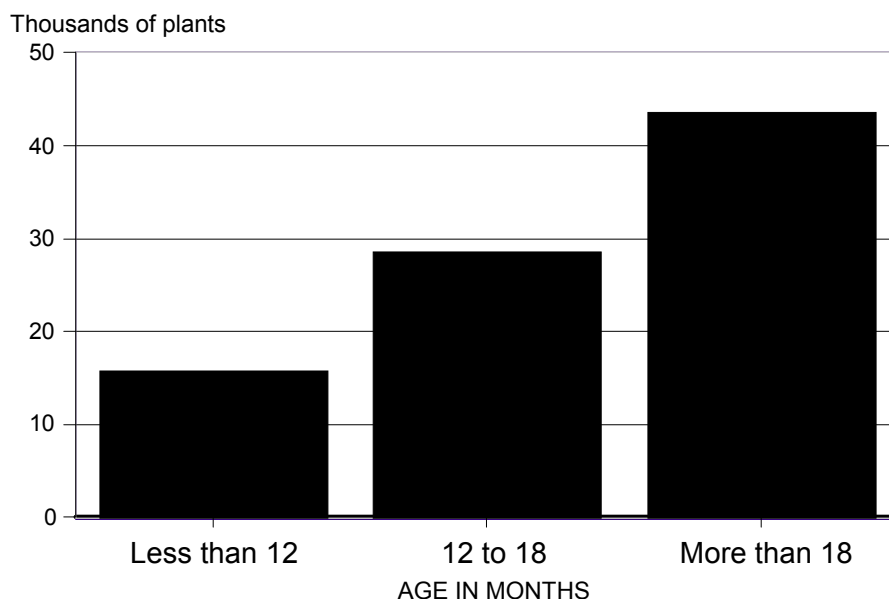
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## Hawaii Kava

Distribution of Plants by Age as of December 31, 2000  
State of Hawaii



# Kava Statistics

## 1. Hawaii Kava ('awa): Number of farms, acreage, sales, farm prices, and farm value, State of Hawaii.

Year	Number of farms	Acreage <sup>1</sup>		Total sales <sup>3</sup>	Average farm price <sup>4</sup>	Farm Value
		Total <sup>2</sup>	Harvested			
				<i>1,000 lbs.</i>	<i>Dollars per pound</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
2000	50	80	5	85	1.40	119

<sup>1</sup> Includes kava inter-planted with another crop. <sup>2</sup> As of December 31. <sup>3</sup> Fresh weight basis. Dried kava ('awa) sales were converted to a fresh weight basis by multiplying by five. Includes all types of sale, including organic. <sup>4</sup> Represents average farm price for fresh sales.

## 2. Hawaii Kava ('awa): Distribution of plants by age groups as of December 31, State of Hawaii.<sup>1</sup>

Year	Total	Less than 12 months old	12 to 18 months old	More than 18 months old	Average number of plants per acre <sup>2</sup>
					<i>Number of plants</i>
2000	88,000	15,800	28,600	43,600	1,100

<sup>1</sup> Includes only plants in the ground, excludes plants in nurseries. <sup>2</sup> Includes kava inter-planted with another crop.

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