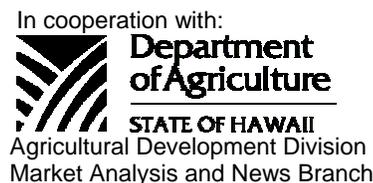




HAWAII PAPAYAS



National Agricultural Statistics Service
 USDA, Hawaii Field Office
 1428 S. King Street
 Honolulu, HI 96814-2512
 Telephone: (808) 973-9588
 FAX: (808) 973-2909
 Internet Web Site <http://www.nass.usda.gov/hi>

Frequency: Monthly

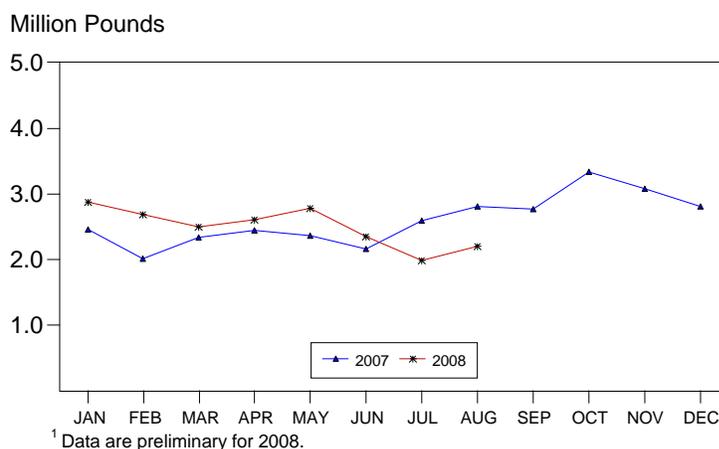
Release: October 20, 2008

AUGUST PAPAYAS UP 10 PERCENT

Hawaii fresh papaya utilization is estimated at 2.2 million pounds for August 2008, up 10 percent from July 2008, but 22 percent lower than August a year ago. Output for 2008 totaled 20.0 million pounds, 4 percent above the same time last year.

Much needed rain fell in early and mid-August, replenishing low soil moisture levels. However, generally dry conditions still prevailed with some areas of the State under water conservation measures. Gaps in the columns were becoming more evident in fields exposed to prolonged dry weather. Warm temperatures allowed fruit ripening to continue at a steady pace. Field maintenance and planting preparations were ongoing. The shortage of seed is still a concern for growers.

PAPAYA: Fresh Utilization, State of Hawaii, 2007-2008¹



Papaya growers are expected to receive an estimated 50.0 cents per pound for fresh fruit in August, 4 percent (2.0 cents) less than last month, but 31 percent (11.9 cents) more than August 2007.

FRESH PAPAYA UTILIZATION, STATE OF HAWAII, 2008 WITH COMPARISONS¹

Month	Sales				Year ago	Year-to-date	
	Local ²	Intrastate	Out-of-State	Total fresh		2007	2008
	<i>1,000 pounds</i>						
July	296	774	925	1,995	2,590	16,395	17,825
August	301	824	1,075	2,200	2,815	19,210	20,025

¹ Data are preliminary for 2008.

² On island of production.

PAPAYA: Acreage in crop, by county, 2008 with comparisons ¹

County	Total acreage in crop							
	March		June		September		December	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Hawaii.....	1,895	1,820	1,710	1,840	1,905		1,865	
Honolulu/Kauai/Maui ²	185	200	195	200	200		190	
State.....	2,080	2,020	1,905	2,040	2,105		2,055	
	Total bearing acres ³							
Hawaii.....	1,175	1,300	1,075	1,200	1,240		1,135	
Honolulu/Kauai/Maui ²	120	125	125	130	135		120	
State.....	1,295	1,425	1,200	1,330	1,375		1,255	

¹ Data are preliminary for 2008.

² Kauai and Maui combined with Honolulu to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

³ Bearing acres where papayas were harvested.

PAPAYA: Fresh farm price, by State, 2007-2008

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
	<i>Cents per pound</i>												
2007	39.8	41.9	45.0	46.1	46.6	49.4	45.8	38.1	37.1	37.8	38.3	39.7	41.7
2008 ¹	41.0	43.0	50.0	51.0	53.0	51.0	52.0	50.0					

¹ Preliminary.

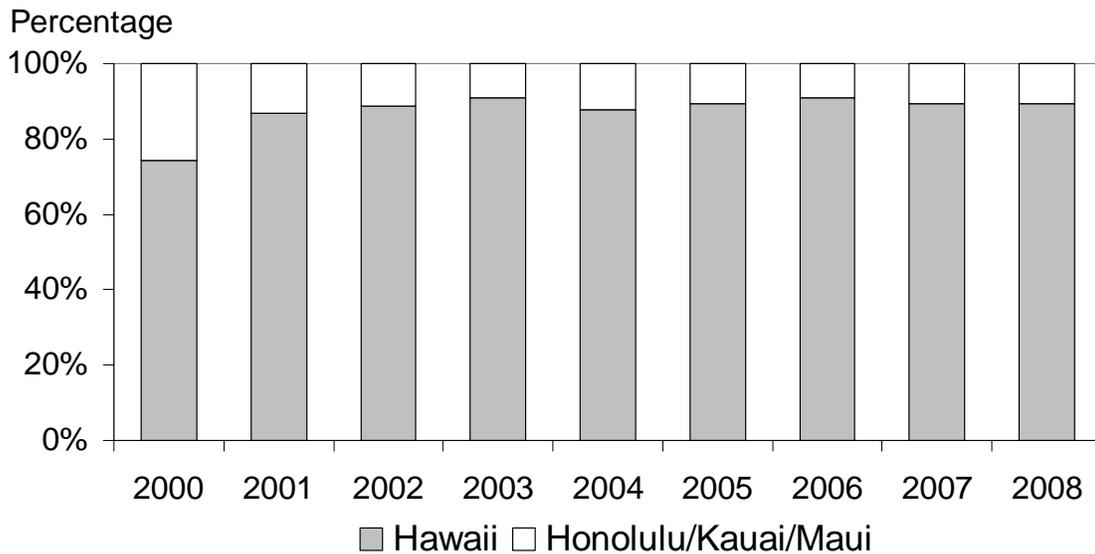
Papaya Acreage Survey 2008 Results

Prior to 2008, the Papaya Acreage Survey was conducted in August. Beginning 2008, the papaya acreage data was obtained from the Annual Fruit Survey conducted in January.

In 2008, there were 120 farms reported on Hawaii County compared with 125 in 2007. Hawaii County accounted for 89 percent of the States total papaya acreage. Honolulu/Kauai/Maui County reported 57 growers compared to 53 growers a year ago and comprised of the remaining 11 percent of the total acreage.

Some growers commented on the challenges of growing papayas with unfavorable weather conditions, controlling insects, limiting disease outbreaks, and curtailing wild pig damage. Others had marketing and economic issues with low prices and the increasing costs to maintain healthy papaya orchards. These concerns were influencing their decisions on whether to continue growing papayas. Some orchards reported doing well with no major incidences.

PAPAYA: Total Acreage, County Distribution, State of Hawaii, 2000 - 2008



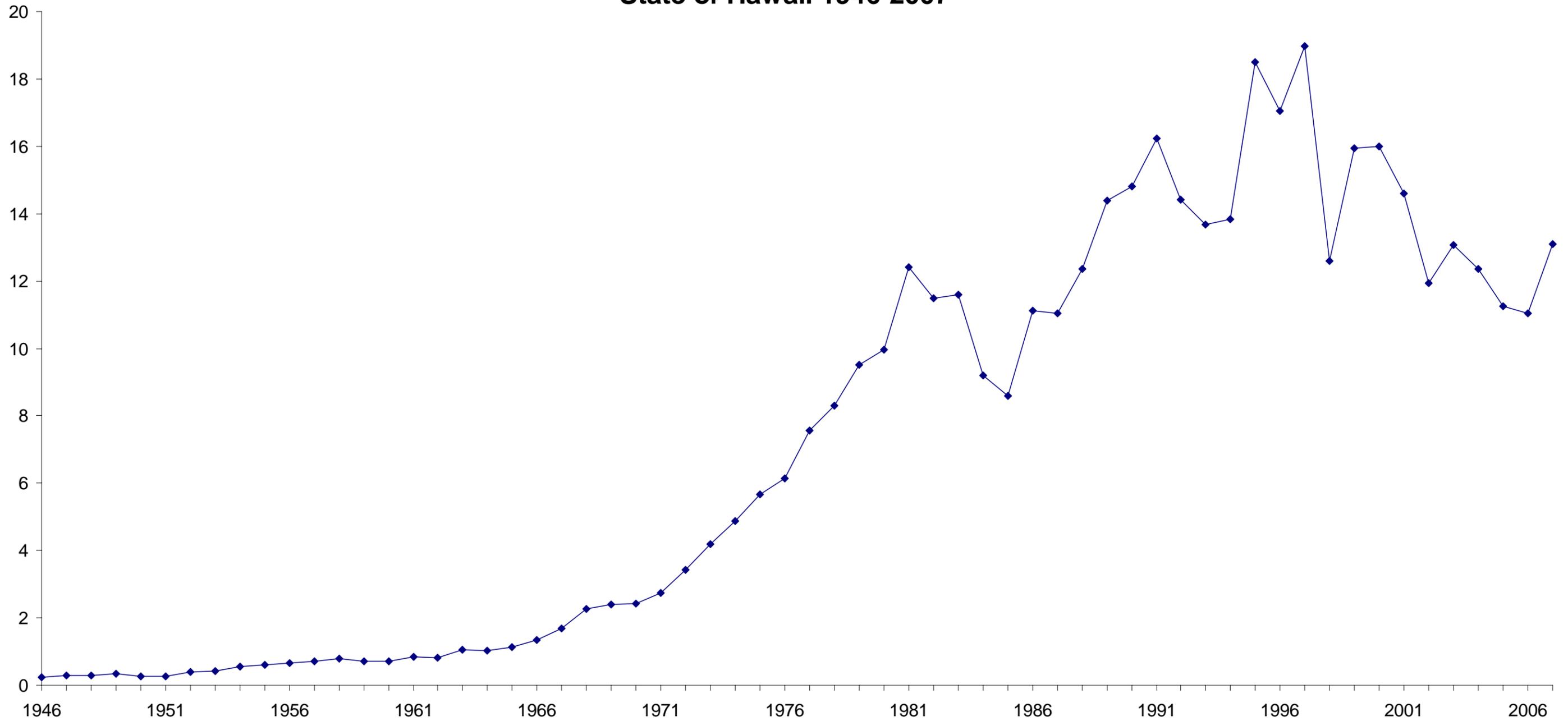
PAPAYA: Number of farms and acreage, by county, 2008 and 2007

County	Farms		Bearing		Non-bearing		Total	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Hawaii	125	120	1,240	1,275	665	545	1,905	1,820
Honolulu/Kauai/Maui ¹	53	57	150	155	80	65	230	220
State	178	177	1,390	1,430	745	610	2,135	2,040

¹ Kauai and Maui combined with Honolulu to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Million dollars

Papaya: Value of Utilized Production, State of Hawaii 1946-2007



1958, majority of the papaya production came from Hawaii County. Honolulu County produced more papayas during the previous years.

1971, virgin soil technique was introduced.

1982, Hurricane Iwa destroys Kauai orchards.

1984, utilization reached a record 80.5 million pounds while the farm price dropped to 11.4 cents per pound (fresh and processed combined).

1985, storm causes 6 to 12 percent tree losses.

1992, Papaya Ringspot Virus (PRV) found in Pahoa on Hawaii County. Hurricane Iniki hits Kauai county devastating orchards.

1997, farm price reached a record high 48.9 cents per pound (fresh and processed combined). Farm value reached a record \$19.0 million.

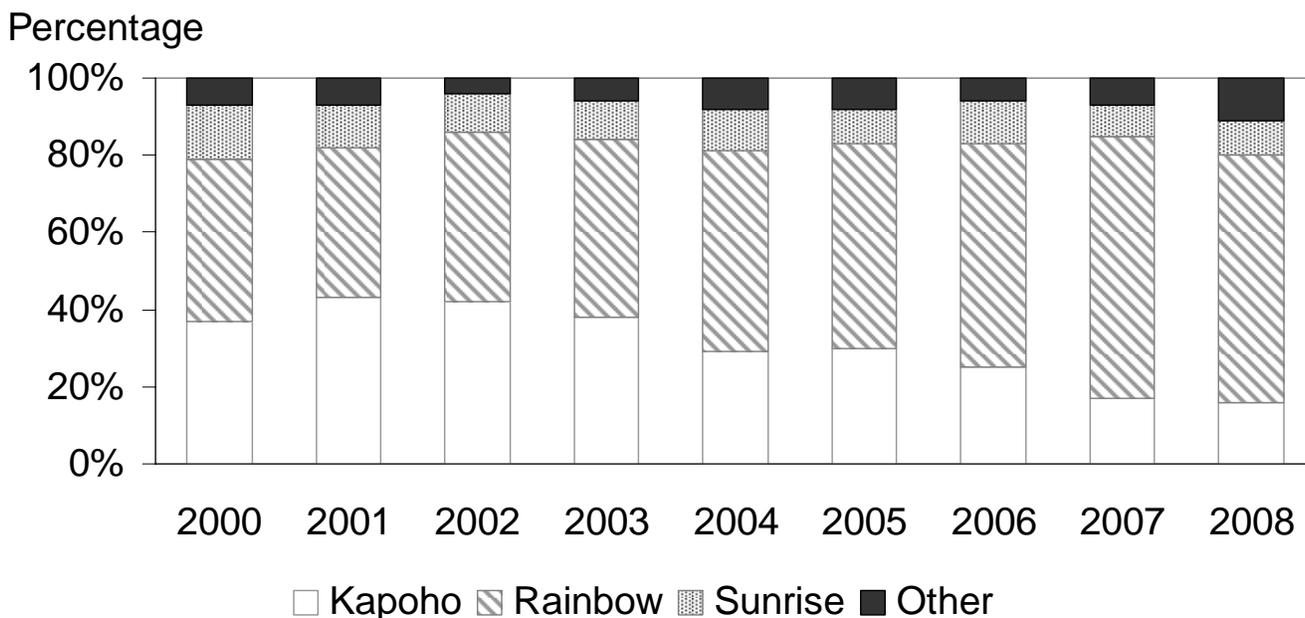
Summer 2002, Papaya Marketing Order ends.

May 1998, Papaya Ringspot Virus (PRV) resistant varieties released.

State 2008 Variety Summary

In 2000, Rainbow and Kapoho ranked as the top two varieties statewide with 42 and 37 percent, respectively. Over the years, a higher percentage of Rainbow has been planted. In 2008, Rainbow and Kapoho accounted for 64 and 16 percent, respectively. Sunrise variety represented 9 percent of the acreage grown followed by "Other" varieties making up 11 percent.

PAPAYA: Total Acreage, Varietal Distribution, State of Hawaii, 2000 - 2008



In 2008, Rainbow represented 67 percent of the bearing acreage statewide compared to 62 percent in 2007. Kapoho comprised of 14 percent of the bearing acreage compared to 22 percent a year ago. Sunrise and "Other" varieties contributed 19 percent to the bearing acreage compared with 16 percent last year.

PAPAYA: Varietal distribution, State of Hawaii, 2008 and 2007

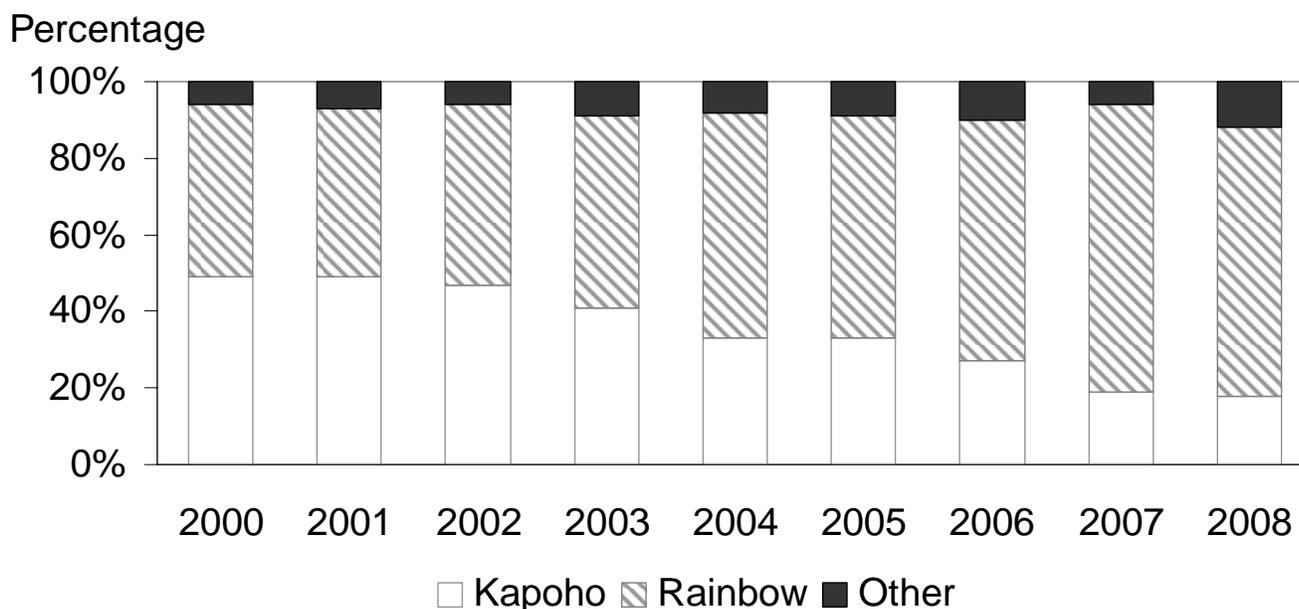
Variety	Bearing		Non-bearing		Total	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	<i>Percent</i>					
Kapoho	22	14	8	20	17	16
Rainbow	62	67	79	58	68	64
Sunrise	8	9	8	11	8	9
Other ¹	8	10	5	11	7	11
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

¹ Sunup combined with "Other" to avoid disclosure.

Hawaii County 2008 Variety Summary

In 2000, Hawaii County had 2,050 acres planted in papayas, Kapoho (49 percent), Rainbow (45 percent), and “Other” varieties (6 percent). Annual survey indications show there has been more interest in growing Rainbow. In 2008, Rainbow acreage distribution accounted for 70 percent, Kapoho 18 percent, and “Other” varieties 12 percent.

PAPAYA: Total Acreage, Varietal Distribution, Hawaii County, 2000 - 2008



PAPAYA: Hawaii County varietal distribution, 2008 and 2007

Variety	Bearing		Non-bearing		Total	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	<i>Percent</i>					
Kapoho	25	16	9	23	19	18
Rainbow	68	73	87	63	75	70
Other ¹	7	11	4	14	6	12
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

¹ Sunrise and Sunup are combined with “Other”.

PAPAYA: Hawaii County distribution within variety, 2008 and 2007

Variety	Bearing		Non-bearing		Total	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	<i>Percent</i>					
Kapoho	84	62	16	38	100	100
Rainbow	59	73	41	27	100	100
Other ¹	76	65	24	35	100	100
Total	65	70	35	30	100	100

¹ Sunrise and Sunup are combined with “Other”.