



National Agricultural Statistics Service

Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service  
Hawaii Department of Agriculture

# Hawaii Taro Millings

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## Millings down 10 percent in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter

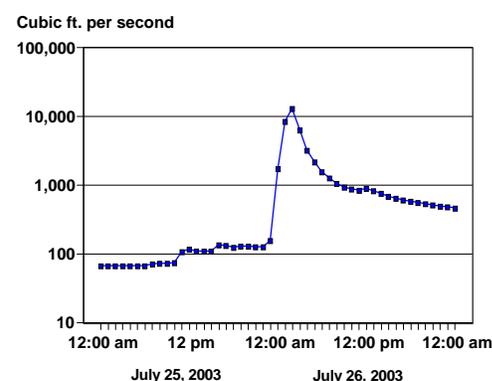
The Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service estimates poi millers utilized 1.04 million pounds of taro during the second quarter of 2003, down 10 percent from the first quarter and down 28 percent compared to the second quarter of last year.

Diseases such as leaf blight and taro pocket rot have contributed to this year's lower output. However, the biggest problem appears to be Apple snails which have become a major pest.

Chances for improvement in the third quarter got off to a rocky start when an unseasonable low-pressure system northwest of the State combined with the remnants of Tropical Storm Felicia and an unnamed tropical disturbance to produce heavy rainfall over the islands of Hawaii, Oahu, and Kauai during the last weekend of July. Taro fields adjacent to the Hanalei River on Kauai were inundated and the rapidly receding water caused moderate to heavy damage to fields. Crops that were mature were expected to fare well, but damage to water intake systems delayed harvesting (water is needed to ease the harvesting of taro). Plants up to 6 months of age

were expected to experience a set back in growth, and newly planted fields suffered a loss of huli (planting material).

**Hanalei River, Kauai  
Hourly streamflow, July 25-26, 2003**



Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

There was also heavy damage from erosion. Swift flood waters also caused a loss of equipment and supplies. Farmers' workloads were also increased by cleanup activities and the anticipated redistribution of the problematic apple snails. ■

**Monthly Taro for Poi Millings, State of Hawaii, 5-year average, 2002, and 2003.**

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
<i>1,000 Pounds</i>													
5-year average <sup>1</sup> .....	499	485	516	471	490	499	513	536	516	493	479	493	5,990
2002 .....	455	445	455	470	480	485	510	500	475	475	445	455	5,650
<b>2003</b> <sup>2</sup> .....	<b>400</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>350</b>							
<i>Percent</i>													
<u>Percent changes:</u>													
2003/5-year .....	80	76	74	76	67	70							
2003/2002 .....	88	83	84	77	69	72							

<sup>1</sup> Years: 1998-2002. <sup>2</sup> Revised.

# Monthly Taro for Poi Millings

State of Hawaii

2002, 2003, and 5-year Averages

