



USDA, NASS, Hawaii Field Office

In cooperation with:



Department of Agriculture

STATE OF HAWAII

Agricultural Development Division

Hawaii

Taro Millings

August 20, 2009

Taro for Poi Production 6 percent Below Year Ago

The USDA, NASS, Hawaii Field Office estimates taro for poi production at 915,000 pounds for the second quarter of 2009. This was 2 percent more than the first quarter of 2009, but 6 percent less than for the same quarter of a year ago.

Taro millers used 305,000 pounds of taro in April an increase of 3 percent from March 2009. The amount of taro used for poi millings then dipped 7 percent to 285,000 pounds in May. Taro for poi millings then increased 14 percent to 325,000 pounds in June.

Weather conditions, during the second quarter of 2009, were mixed. Conditions were wetter along windward sectors, but drier on the leeward side. Hawaii Island received some enhanced trade showers at the beginning of April,

while a surface trough over Oahu and Kauai produced an increase in showers towards mid-month for those islands. An increase in showers occurred for all islands during the second half of April. The month of May experienced mostly winter-like light variable winds, but unlike during the winter showers activities were mostly light. The State did have a few periods of heavier showers, but they occurred in some areas not normally expected to receive this increase in precipitation. More normal trade wind conditions returned during the month of June. As a result, mostly dry conditions prevailed throughout most of the State. The exception was the island of Hawaii which received an increase in trade wind shower activities throughout the month, especially during the second half. ■

Monthly Taro for Poi Millings, State of Hawaii, 5-year average, 2008, and 2009.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>												
5-year average ¹	351	332	349	319	326	330	374	400	381	400	371	407	4,340
2008 ²	330	290	320	335	320	320	425	445	380	380	375	380	4,300
2009	315	285	295	305	285	325							
<u>Percent changes:</u>	<i>Percent</i>												
2009/5-year	90	86	85	96	87	98							
2009/2008.....	95	98	92	91	89	102							

¹ Years: 2004-2008.

² Revised.

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Monthly Taro for Poi Millings State of Hawaii: 2008, 2009, and 5-year averages

