



National Agricultural Statistics Service

Hawaii Agricultural Statistics  
Hawaii Department of Agriculture

# Hawaii Taro Millings

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October 20, 2004

## Taro for poi production increases for third consecutive quarter

The Hawaii Agricultural Statistics estimates poi millers utilized 1.3 million pounds of taro during the third quarter of 2004, up 7 percent from the previous quarter and 11 percent more than the third quarter of 2003.

Taro for poi production normally increases during the summer months as farmers try to meet a seasonal increase in local demand generated mostly by graduation parties. This year was no exception as the third quarter began with 420,000 pounds in July, followed by a 7 percent increase to this year's highest monthly total of 450,000 pounds in August. Taro for poi millings stayed at 450,000 pounds in September. Production was higher for each of the three months in the third quarter compared to the previous year.

Mixed weather conditions during the third quarter were fair to good for

crop progress. July was generally sunny and dry as most areas received less-than-normal amounts of rain. Fieldwork was made uncomfortable by warm daytime temperatures and light trade winds which elevated the heat index. The remnants of Hurricane Darby then brought a brief period of intense showers from August 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup>. Windward areas of all islands received the brunt of the rain. Although flooding occurred in many areas, no significant damage was reported. The rest of August was dominated by moderate trade winds with an occasional break in the winds resulting in isolated heavy afternoon showers. Weather conditions in September were mostly beneficial for taro as moderate trade winds and its accompanying showers were the norm for the month. ■

**Monthly Taro for Poi Millings, State of Hawaii, 5-year average, 2003, and 2004.**

| 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> ..... | 486        | 471        | 495        | 451        | 473        | 476        | 498        | 517        | 497        | 502  | 480  | 503  | 5,850 |
| 2003 .....                        | 404        | 362        | 365        | 326        | 306        | 317        | 386        | 395        | 413        | 469  | 456  | 501  | 4,700 |
| <b>2004</b> .....                 | <b>390</b> | <b>370</b> | <b>420</b> | <b>410</b> | <b>390</b> | <b>430</b> | <b>420</b> | <b>450</b> | <b>450</b> |      |      |      |       |
| <i>Percent</i>                    |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |      |      |      |       |
| <u>Percent changes:</u>           |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |      |      |      |       |
| 2004/5-year .....                 | 80         | 78         | 85         | 91         | 82         | 90         | 84         | 87         | 91         |      |      |      |       |
| 2004/2003 .....                   | 97         | 102        | 115        | 126        | 127        | 136        | 109        | 114        | 109        |      |      |      |       |

<sup>1</sup> Years: 1999-2003.

**Monthly Taro for Poi Millings**  
**State of Hawaii**  
**2003, 2004, and 5-year Averages**

