



National Agricultural Statistics Service

Hawaii Agricultural Statistics
Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Hawaii Vegetables

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February 2005

Wet start to 2005

The New Year started off on a wet note when a strong storm system brought moderate to heavy rains to Kauai on January 1. Flash flooding inundated areas in and around the town of Waimea. The Hanalei River also overflowed its banks and forced the closure of the Hanalei Bridge for several hours. The storm system dumped 1 to 3 inches of rain on the other islands on its eastward trek through the State. On January 8, a rapidly moving cold front brought an additional 1 to 2 inches of rain to most areas. This system eventually stalled east of the Big Island and pelted the island's east-facing areas with 2 to 5 inches of rain. A period of favorable weather prevailed from January 12 through January 25 when conditions were relatively dry. The month, however, ended the way it began when another round of heavy showers caused flash flooding in south and east areas of Oahu on January 29. This was followed by a deep low pressure system that began generating heavy showers on Kauai on the January 31 and would last into the first few days of February. Overall, farming activities were hampered throughout January due to the heavy rains and muddy fields. Most crops made fair to poor progress due to the inclement weather.

Harvested acreage charts page 2

Year-ago, month-ago, current,
and upcoming harvested
acreage.

January review page 3

Production statistics and
comments on selected crops.

California's winter vegetable review ... page 4

Latest winter fresh market
vegetable acreage forecast.

Double-digit percent increases in harvested acreage are expected for **Chinese cabbage** (+32%), **head cabbage** (+43%), **head lettuce** (+17%), **dry onions** (+14%), and **romaine** (+45%) in February. Declines in harvested acreage are expected for three vegetables this month: **snap beans** (-58%), **sweet corn** (-24%), and **cucumbers** (-17%).■



Acreage

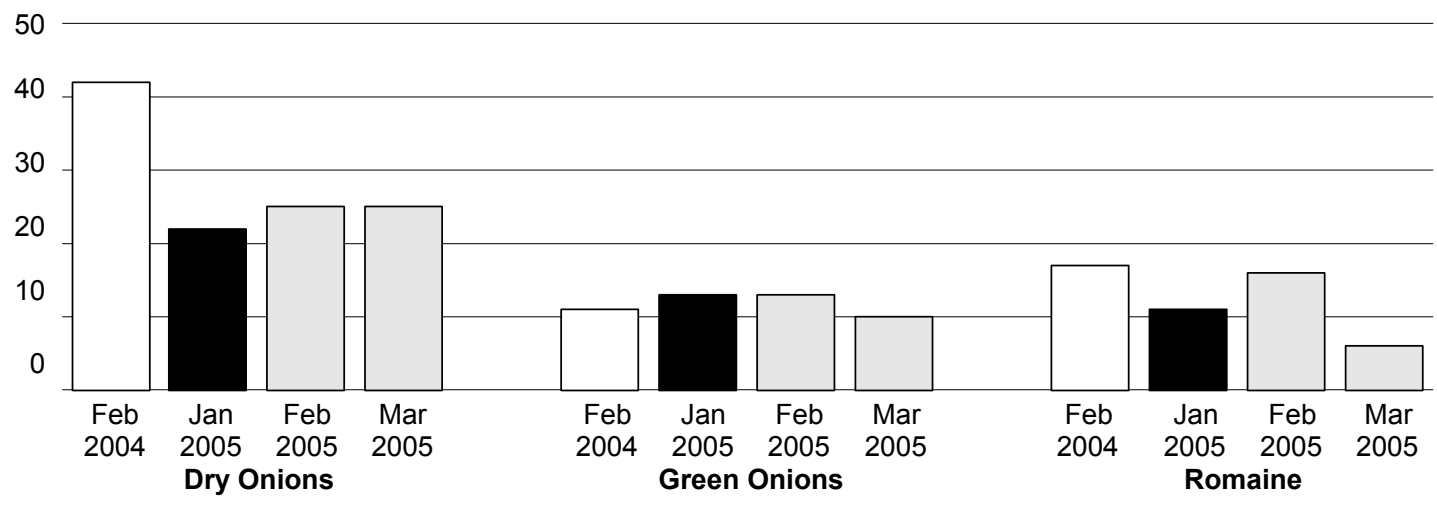
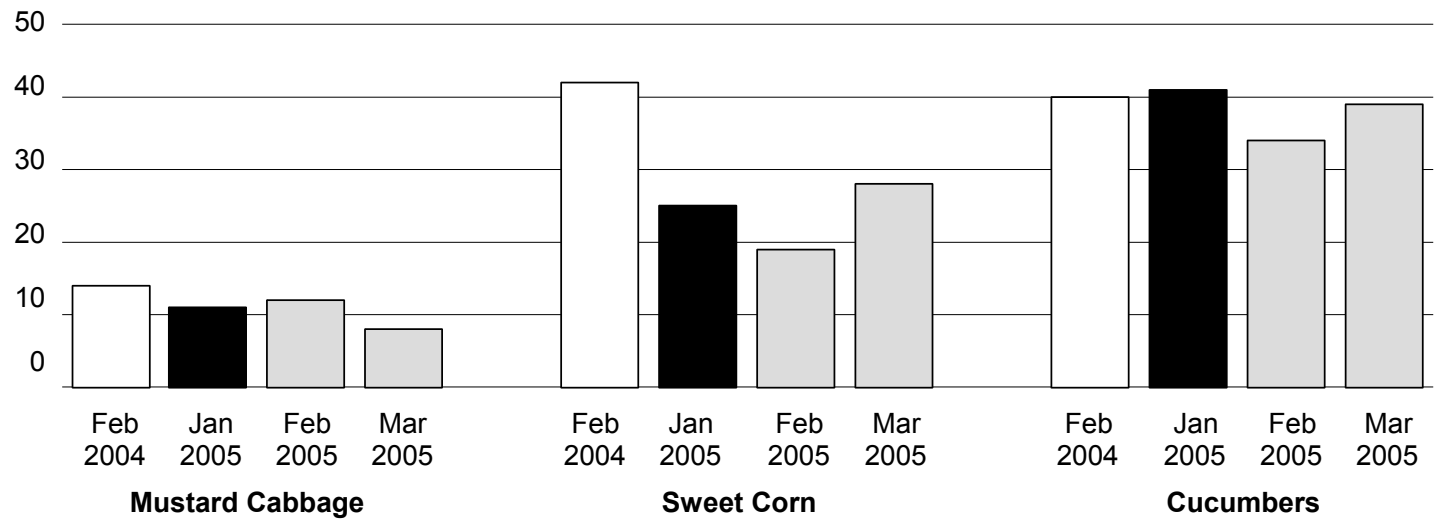
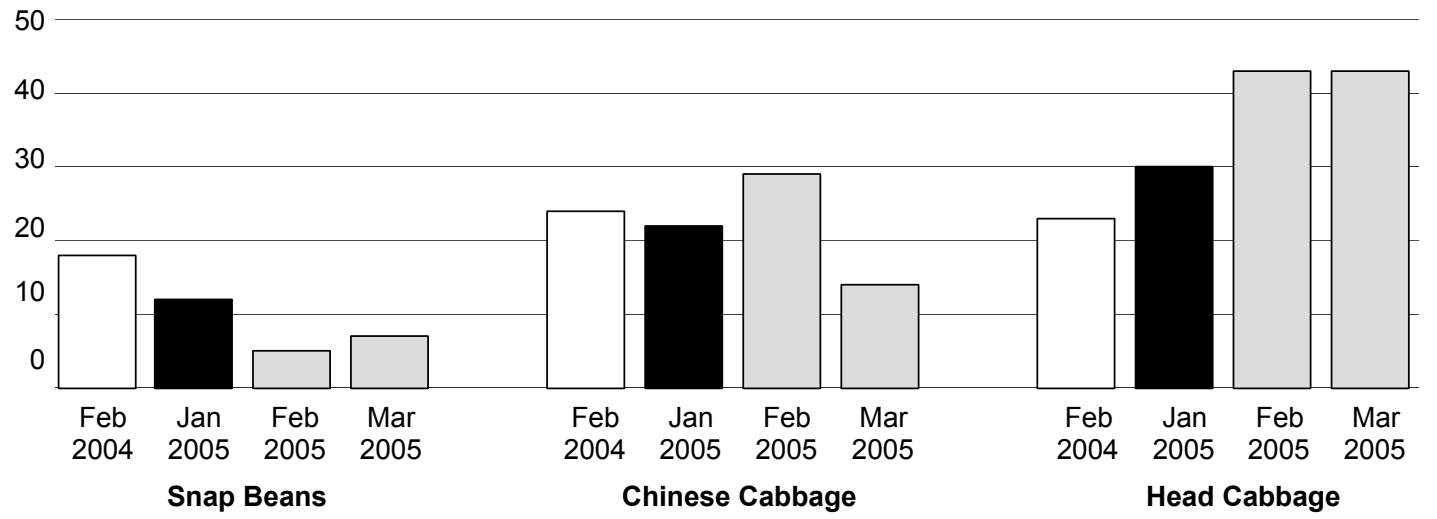
Acres planted, harvested, and for harvest for 11 selected
vegetables, State of Hawaii.

Crop	Acres planted		Acres harvested		Acres for harvest	
	Dec 2004	Jan 2005	Dec 2004	Jan 2005	Feb 2005	Mar 2005
Beans, snap	7	7	10	12	5	7
Cabbage, Chinese	21	33	18	22	29	14
Cabbage, head	39	50	38	30	43	43
Cabbage, mustard	11	12	19	11	12	8
Corn, sweet	33	30	39	25	19	28
Cucumbers	43	35	47	41	34	39
Lettuce, head	4	6	6	6	7	2
Lettuce, semi-head	4	4	4	4	4	4
Onions, dry	21	8	20	22	25	25
Onions, green	12	12	13	13	13	10
Romaine	11	14	16	11	16	6

Harvested acreage charts

Acres harvested a year ago
 Acres harvested last month
 Acres intended for harvest

Acres



California Winter Vegetable Review

Broccoli: California acreage is forecast at 29.0 thousand acres, 5 percent above 2004 and 14 percent greater than 2003. Weather conditions have been favorable for early development of the broccoli crop this season. However, in late December, a series of storms brought cold and wet weather to the southern growing areas. Growers have allocated the most fertile fields to vegetables and expect good yields as conditions improve.

Carrots: The California crop is growing well with very few problems. High demand for baby carrots continues. The carrot crop is progressing well in the San Antonio-Winter Garden area.

Cauliflower: California acreage is forecast at 8.60 thousand acres, up 1 percent from 2004 and 15 percent greater than 2003. Weather conditions have been favorable for the winter desert crop early in the season. No disease or pest problems have developed.

Celery: The winter celery crop for harvest in California is forecast at 7.50 thousand acres, down 1 percent from last year, but unchanged from the year before. The quality of the celery crop is good at this time. However, there were delays early in the season when rain disrupted transplanting. Heavy rainfall in December disrupted harvest and there was some flood damage in the Oxnard area. The excess moisture

has leached nutrients from the soil and farmers will have to take measures to avoid pith problems in the coming weeks.

Lettuce, head: The California desert lettuce crop is experiencing quality problems due to cold, wet weather conditions. Misshapen heads and ground rot have been reported. Some areas have had freezing temperatures, which are expected to have a negative effect on quality. Supplies have been plentiful, but poor quality has lowered prices causing growers to curtail harvest in an attempt to strengthen the market.

California Winter Market Vegetable Acreage ^{1/}

Crop	Area Harvested		2005 Forecast	2005/2004
	2003	2004		
			<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Broccoli ^{2/}	25,500	27,500	29,000	105
Carrots	19,500	20,000	19,800	99
Cauliflower	7,500	8,500	8,600	101
Celery	7,500	7,600	7,500	99
Lettuce, head	16,000	16,000	18,000	113

^{1/} Usual harvesting period: January - March.

^{2/} Includes fresh market and processing.

SOURCE: *California Vegetable Review*, January 31, 2005, California Agricultural Statistics Service.

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