

Monthly Hawaii Vegetables

In cooperation with:



April 23, 2009

Cool Winter-like Conditions For Much Of January

**Harvested
acreage charts..... page 2**
Year-ago, month-ago,
and upcoming harvested acreage.

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Production statistics and
comments on selected crops.

The beginning of January saw the last of the series of upper level lows, which had affected the State throughout the month of December. This low, which was located to the southwest of the State, produced some heavy rainfall over much of the State. The weather pattern then shifted for the remainder of the month as the State saw a series of cold fronts which quickly passed over the State at almost a weekly frequency. These cold fronts produced brief periods of heavy showers, but also much cooler temperatures which came in from the northwest. As a whole rainfall totals for the month was at below normal levels for January. All rain gages for the Big Island recorded below normal rainfall amounts. Precipitation was at near normal levels for many locations around Maui County. However, based on percentage wise of normal, many leeward areas received more moisture than the more traditional wetter locations in the county. On Oahu, rainfall amounts were well below normal for most areas. Conditions on Kauai were also drier than normal. Crops were rated in poor to good condition.

The expected vegetable acreage for harvest in February 2009, when compared with acreage harvested in January 2009, was higher for 1 crop, lower for 5 crops, and unchanged for 5 crops. An increase in acreage for harvest is only expected from **cucumbers (+10%)**. A decrease in the acreage for harvest is expected for from **snap beans (-50%)**, **head cabbage (-26%)**, **mustard cabbage (-10%)**, **sweet corn (-18%)**, and **head lettuce (-33%)**, while the expected acreage for harvest was unchanged for **Chinese cabbage**, **semi-head lettuce**, **dry onions**, **green onions**, and **romaine**.

Acreage

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

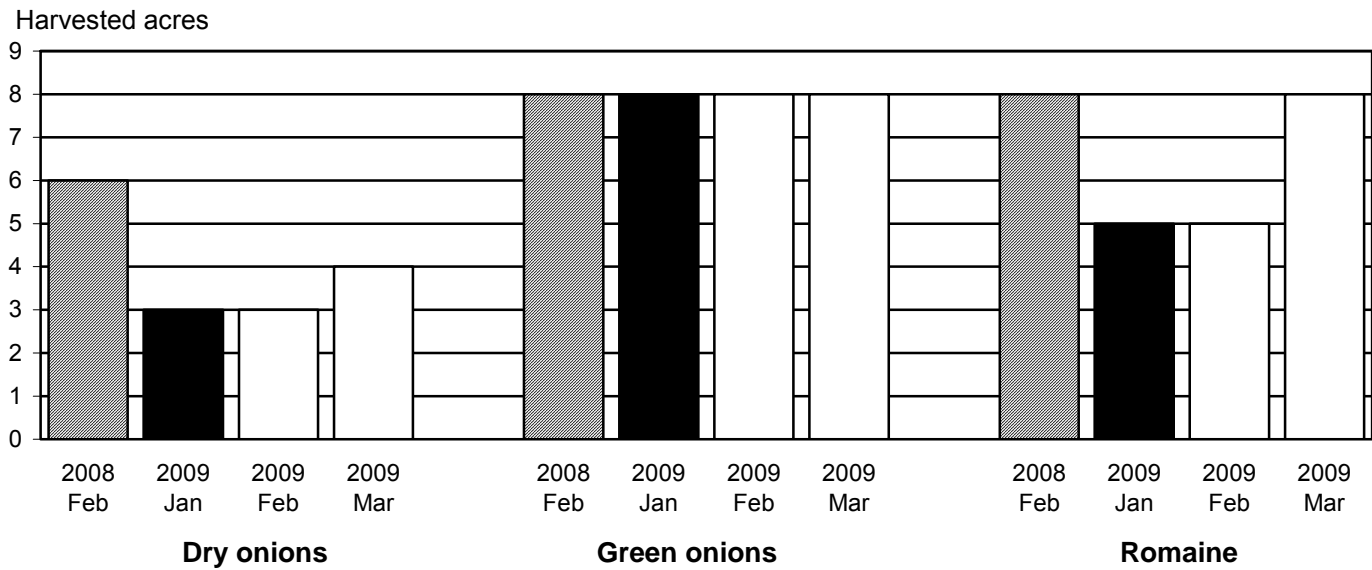
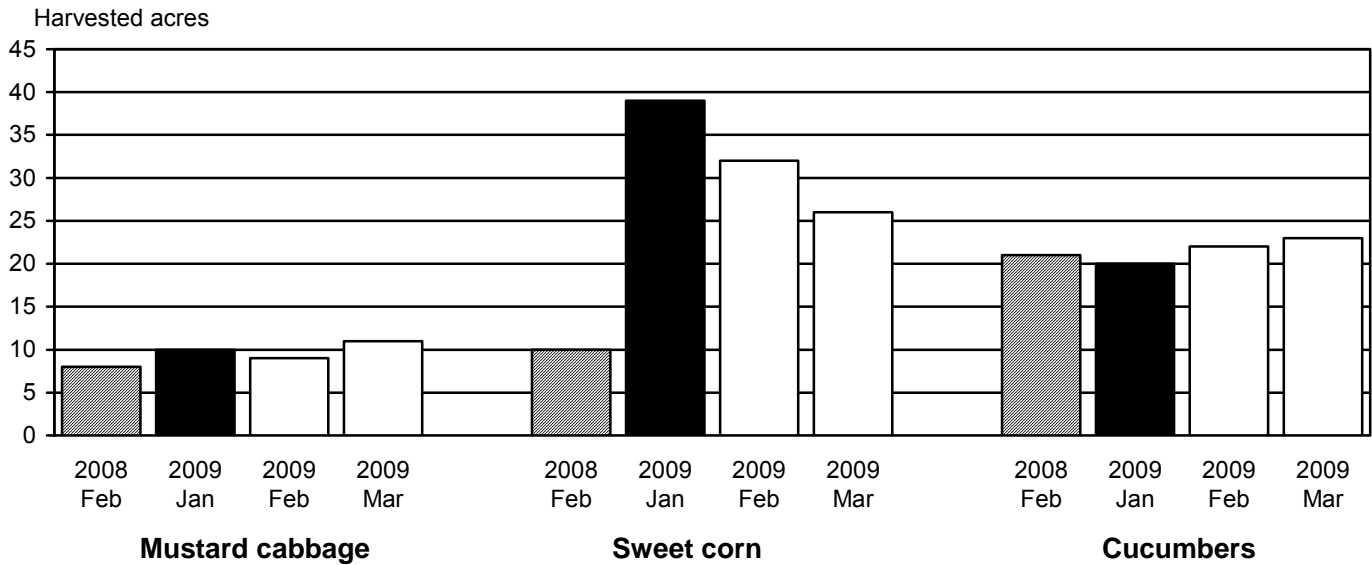
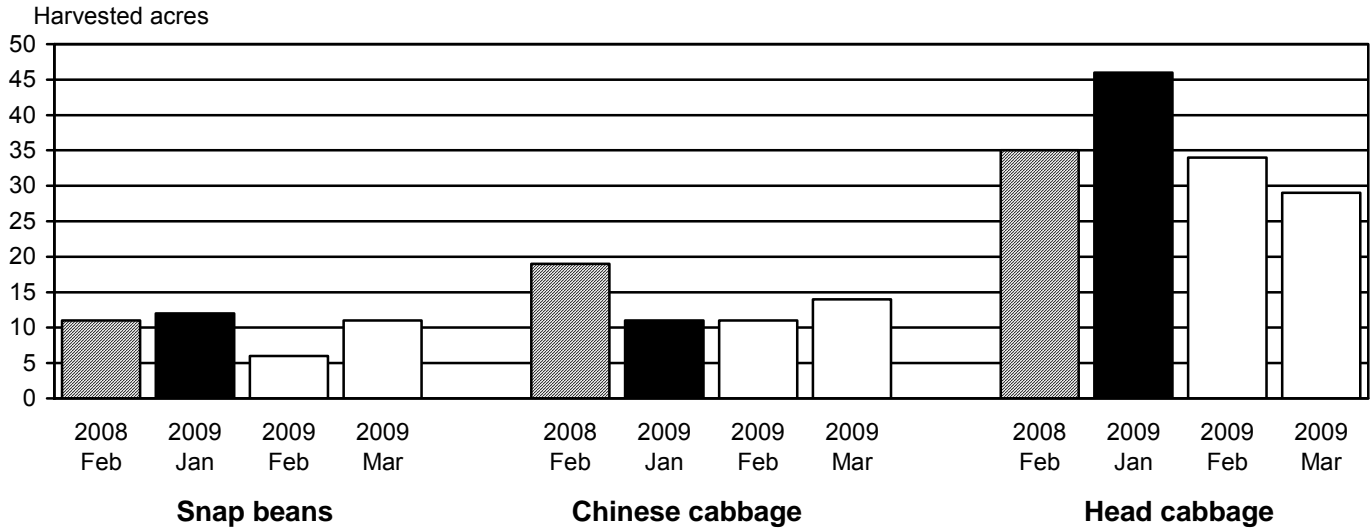
Crop	Acres planted		Acres harvested		Acres for harvest	
	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2009
Beans, snap	8	11	11	12	6	11
Cabbage, Chinese	13	13	13	11	11	14
Cabbage, head	35	35	39	46	34	29
Cabbage, mustard	10	11	9	10	9	11
Corn, sweet	31	31	41	39	32	26
Cucumbers	23	23	24	20	22	23
Lettuce, head	3	3	3	3	2	4
Lettuce, semi-head	4	4	4	4	4	4
Onions, dry	5	2	7	3	3	4
Onions, green	7	8	10	8	8	8
Romaine	6	7	7	5	5	8

Mark E. Hudson, Director
King Whetstone, Deputy Director

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Harvested acreage charts

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



January Review

Production For Most Crops Generally Lower

Chinese cabbage production totaled 365,000 pounds in January 2009, a decrease of 12 percent and 2 percent from December 2008 and January 2008, respectively. Fewer acres for harvest was the main factor for the drop in production as the increase in yield from the previous months was not enough to overcome the smaller amount of acres harvested. In general, drier conditions, shorter days and cooler temperatures both helped and hampered crop condition, which was rated fair to good.

Head cabbage growers harvested an estimated 678,000 pounds during December, a decrease of 11 percent from the previous month, but an increase of 2 percent from a year earlier. Lower yields more than offset the increase in acreage for harvest to account for the dip in production from December 2008. However, the large increase in acreage for harvest overcame the lower yield to account for the higher production from January 2008. Cooler temperatures helped to improve head quality but also slowed the rate of growth. In general, crop condition was fair to good.

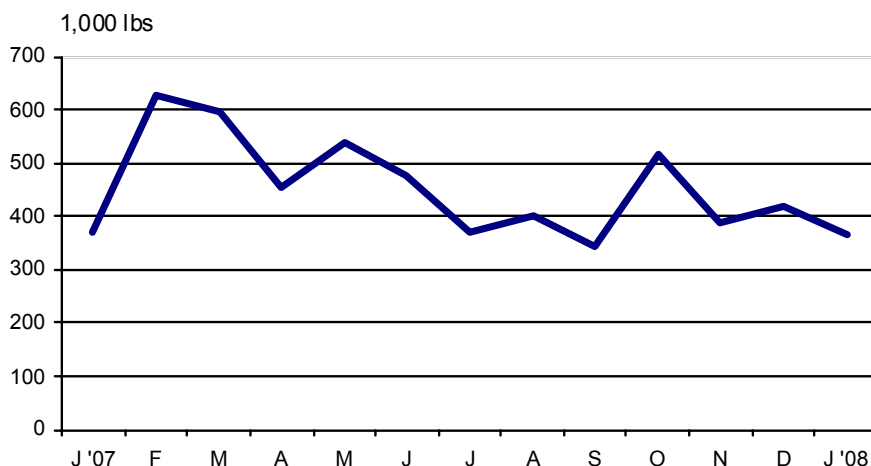
Sweet Corn production totaled an estimated 121,000 pounds for January 2009, 22 percent below a month earlier but 9 percent more than during the same month a year ago. Less acreage for harvest along with a lower yield resulted in the drop in production from December. A large increase in acreage for harvest offset the drop in yield to produce the higher production from a year ago.

Cucumber producers produced an estimated 305,000 pounds in January, a decrease of 9 percent and 24 percent from December 2008 and

January 2008, respectively. Fewer acres for harvest accounted for the decline in production. Much of the decrease in acreage is the result of removing older fields from production.

Romaine growers harvested 65,000 pounds during January, 5 percent and 12 percent more than December 2008 and January 2008, respectively. Higher yields overcame the reduction in acreage for harvest to account for the higher production. The crop was rated to be in fair condition. ■

**Hawaii Chinese Cabbage
Monthly Production, 2008 – 2009**



Acreage, average yield, sales, and average farm price, January 2009, State of Hawaii.

Crop	Total acres on Feb. 1	January 2009				January-to-date sales		
		Acres harvested	Average yield ^{1/}	Total sales	Average farm price	2007 ^{2/}	2008	Change
			----- 1,000 lbs. -----		Cents per lb.	----- 1,000 lbs. -----		Percent
Beans, snap	18	12	3.3	39	128.9	38	39	3
Cabbage, Chinese	19	11	33.2	365	39.7	371	365	-2
Cabbage, head	73	46	14.7	678	32.0	663	678	2
Cabbage, mustard	15	10	8.4	84	72.6	123	84	-32
Corn, sweet	76	39	3.1	121	52.0	111	121	9
Cucumbers	42	20	15.3	305	65.5	399	305	-24
Lettuce, head	4	3	10.3	31	42.9	38	31	-18
Lettuce, semi-head	7	4	5.3	21	97.7	24	21	-13
Onions, dry	62	3	8.3	25	102.4	20	25	25
Onions, green	16	8	7.5	60	141.4	117	60	-49
Romaine	10	5	13.0	65	67.7	58	65	12

^{1/} Total sales divided by acres harvested. ^{2/} Revised.

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Crop, Winter Season
Major States, 2007-2008 and Forecasted Area 2009
(Domestic Units)**

Season And Crop	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2009
	2007	2008	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Snap Beans	14,800	13,500	11,600
Broccoli ¹	28,000	26,000	24,000
Cabbage	11,380	11,330	12,300
Carrots	18,400	16,400	16,200
Cauliflower ¹	8,200	8,000	8,500
Celery ¹	7,600	7,300	7,200
Sweet Corn	8,600	9,200	8,400
Head Lettuce	58,900	50,700	45,500
Bell Pepper ¹	6,600	6,400	6,800
Spinach	800	1,100	1,100
Tomatoes	10,000	9,100	9,300
Total Winter Crop	173,280	159,030	150,900

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, Agricultural Statistics Board, USDA, *Vegetables*, January 8, 2009.