



National Agricultural Statistics Service

Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service
Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Hawaii Vegetables

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Acreage for Harvest Expected to Increase for Most Vegetables

Harvested acreage for **Chinese cabbage, head cabbage, mustard cabbage, sweet corn, dry onions, and green onions** is expected to increase in March.

Chinese cabbage: Acres for harvest is expected to increase 19 percent in March to 31 acres. A decrease to 19 acres is expected in April. Crop conditions were generally good to fair. Periods of heavy rains hampered crop development, but recent weather conditions have been favorable for recovery.

Head cabbage: Farmers are anticipated to harvest 54 acres this month, a 17-percent increase from February. A 20-percent decrease is expected for April with 43 acres forecast for harvest. Most fields were in good to fair conditions with some having problems with insects. Warming weather is expected to speed crop maturity.

Sweet corn: Harvested acreage is expected to increase 43 percent to 40 acres in March. A 15-percent decline is forecast for April at 34 acres. Most fields were in fair to good condition, with a few in poor condition. Cloudy skies, cool temperatures, and occasionally heavy showers slowed crop development in February.

Dry onions: A 24-percent increase in acres for harvest is expected in March to 46 acres. A sharp decline to 11 acres for harvest is forecast for April. Heavy rains adversely affected mature fields in February, but the drier, more recent, weather have allowed younger fields to make good progress.

Harvested acreage charts page 2
Acreage charts and crop condition comments.

February review page 3
Statistics and comments on selected crops.

Update: U.S. winter fresh-market vegetables page 4
Latest report from USDA's Economic Research Service.

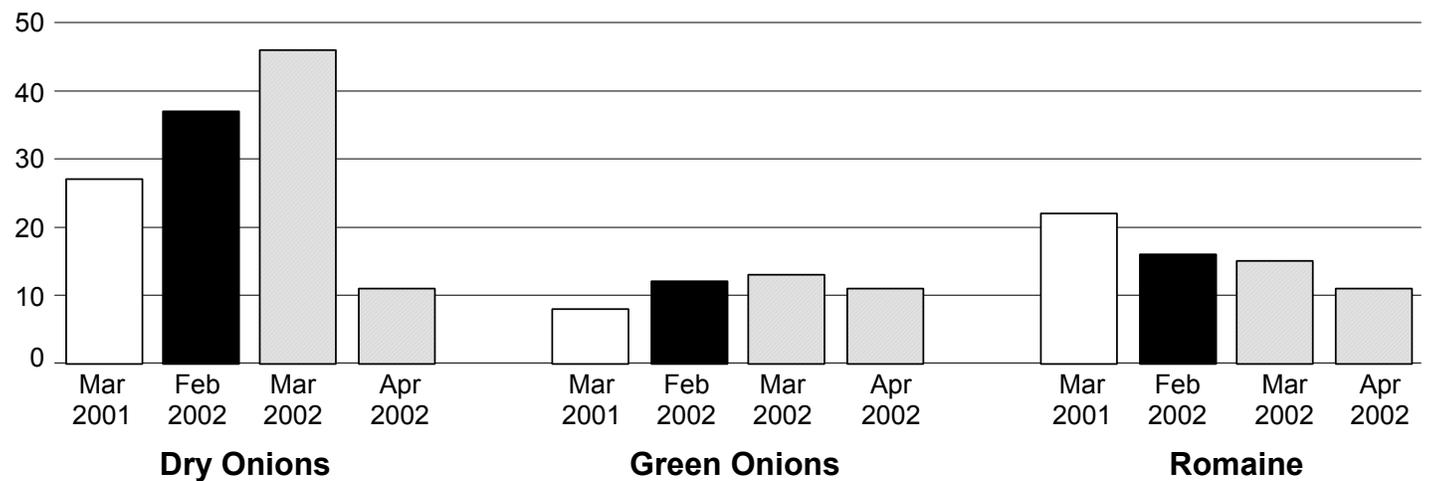
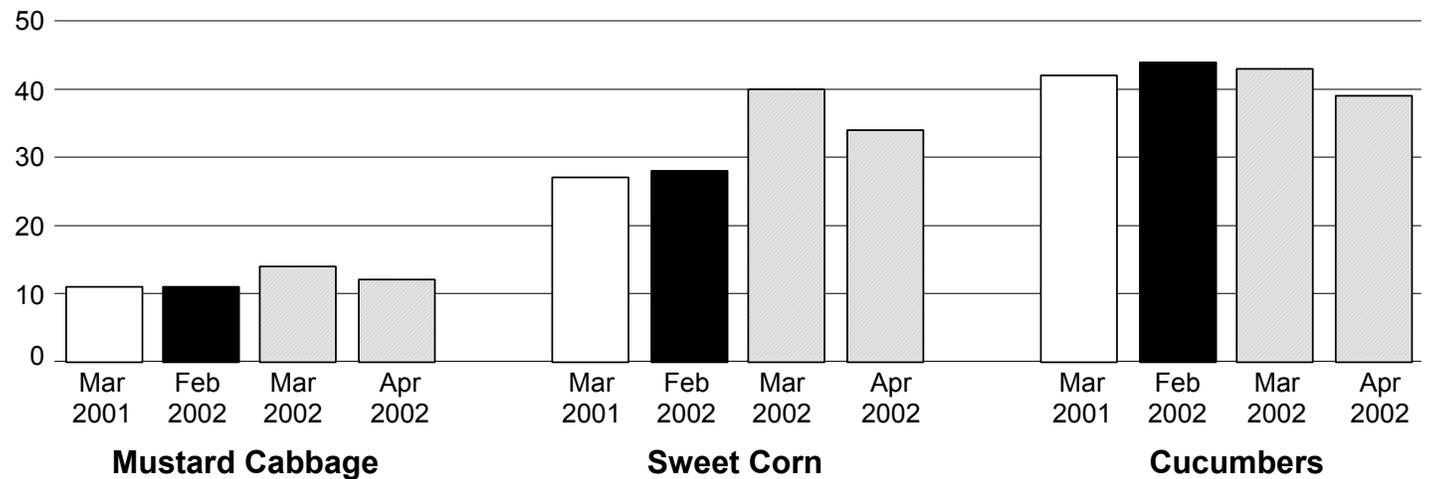
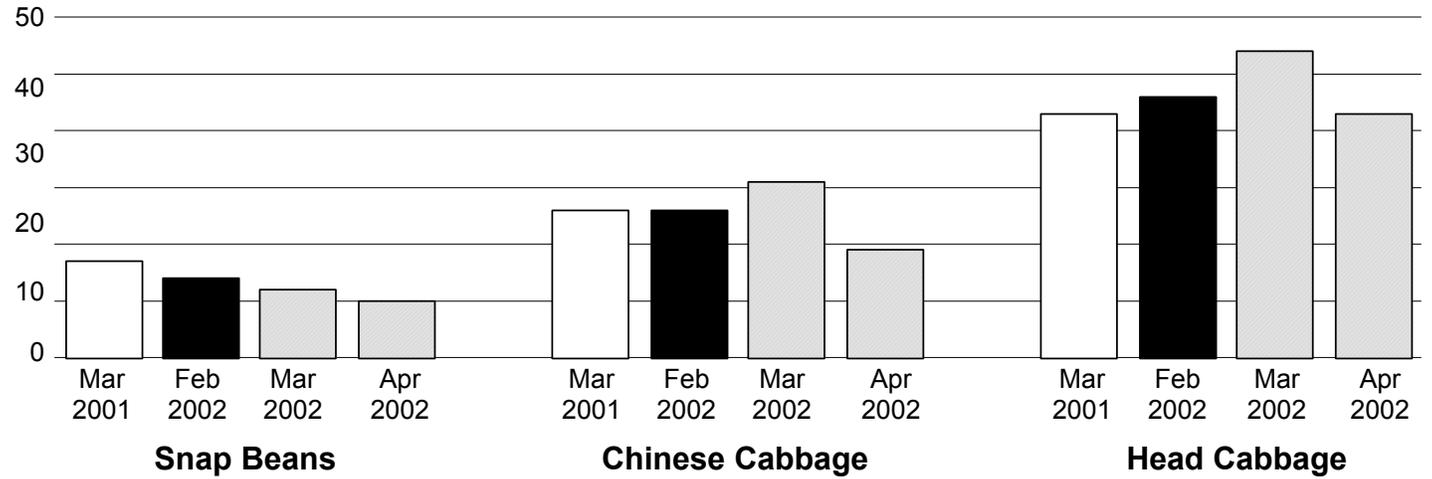
Acreage Acres planted, harvested, and for harvest for 11 selected vegetables, State of Hawaii.

Crop	Acres planted		Acres harvested		Acres for harvest	
	Jan 2002	Feb 2002	Jan 2002	Feb 2002	Mar 2002	Apr 2002
Beans, snap	14	11	17	14	12	10
Cabbage, Chinese	35	29	26	26	31	19
Cabbage, head	55	47	47	46	54	43
Cabbage, mustard	12	15	14	11	14	12
Corn, sweet	40	41	32	28	40	34
Cucumbers	42	38	43	44	43	39
Lettuce, head	8	5	6	7	5	2
Lettuce, semi-head	4	5	5	5	4	5
Onions, dry	13	8	12	37	46	11
Onions, green	13	13	11	12	13	11
Romaine	14	15	16	16	15	11

Harvested acreage charts

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

Acres



February review

Some Crops Hampered by Heavy Rains

SNAP BEANS production totaled 55,000 pounds in February, down 2 percent from January. Average yields improved in February, but a decline in acres harvested resulted in lower overall production.

CHINESE CABBAGE production totaled 632,000 pounds in February, up 3 percent from January. Farm prices averaged 19.1 cents per pound in February, down 18 percent from January.

HEAD CABBAGE production totaled 1.0 million pounds in February, down 3 percent from January but 9 percent more than a year ago.

CUCUMBERS production totaled 355,000 pounds in February, up 3 percent from January but 21 percent lower than a year ago as adverse weather hampered production in February.

DRY ONIONS production totaled 99,000 pounds in January, nearly double January's output of 50,000 pounds. Heavy showers during February heavily impacted production. Yields averaged 2,700 pounds in February down from an average of 4,200 pounds per acre in January. Farm prices dropped 24 percent

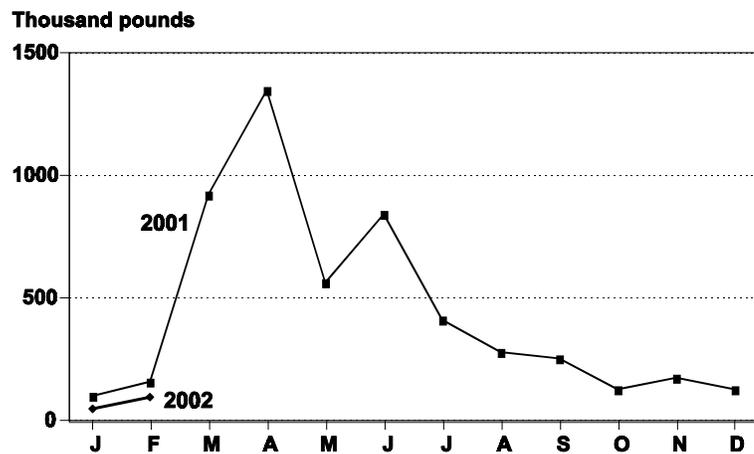
to an average of 85.6 cents per pound in February.

GREEN PEPPERS production totaled 254,000 pounds in February, unchanged from January. Farm prices averaged 57.7 cents per pound, down 9 percent from January.

TOMATOES production totaled 1.4 million pounds in February, up 4 percent

from January and up 9 percent from a year ago. Acres harvested remained steady at 70 acres, but yields increased to an average of 20,400 pound per acre in February. Farm prices average 48.6 cents per pound, down 25 percent from January.

**Hawaii Dry Onions:
Monthly production, 2001 and 2002**



Acres, average yield, sales, and average farm price, February 2002, State of Hawaii.

Crop	Total acres on Mar 1 st	February 2002				January-to-date sales		
		Acres harvested	Average yield ^{1/}	Total sales	Average farm price	2001 ^{2/}	2002	Change
				----- 1,000 lbs. -----	Cents per lb.	----- 1,000 lbs -----		Percent
Beans, snap	22	14	3.9	55	105.1	165	111	-33
Cabbage, Chinese	48	26	24.3	632	19.1	1,076	1,247	16
Cabbage, head	106	46	21.8	1,005	24.7	1,930	2,036	5
Cabbage, mustard	20	11	11.4	125	49.5	279	273	-2
Corn, sweet	88	28	5.0	140	64.9	141	273	94
Cucumbers	65	44	8.1	355	57.0	883	699	-21
Lettuce, head	7	7	8.6	60	45.2	145	120	-17
Lettuce, semi-head	7	5	4.0	20	69.5	53	51	-4
Onions, dry	72	37	2.7	99	85.6	267	149	-44
Onions, green	30	12	7.3	87	91.3	242	197	-19
Peppers, green	3 [/]	17	14.9	254	57.7	532	508	-5
Romaine	20	16	11.0	176	51.2	487	326	-33
Tomatoes	3 [/]	70	20.4	1,431	48.6	2,739	2,796	2

^{1/} Total sales divided by acres harvested. ^{2/} Revised. ^{3/} Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

U.S. Winter Fresh-market Vegetable Update

Cold slows harvest

Although cool temperatures have done little damage to vegetables this winter, the resulting erratic growth rates have caused havoc with harvest and shipping schedules. Because day-to-day market volume has been more uncertain than usual, the result has been increased variation in shipping-point prices, with average prices higher than expected.

Winter season (largely Jan.-Mar.) fresh-market vegetable area for harvest was forecast to decline 6 percent to 179,700 acres in 2002. The majority of this drop came from sharp reductions in California's broccoli (down 29 percent) and cauliflower (down 19 percent) acreage-both of which experienced low prices over the past year.

In coastal California and the desert production areas of California and Arizona, which produce cool-season crops like lettuce, broccoli, and carrots, average temperatures have generally been on the cool side. In combination with reduced acreage, cold weather dramatically slowed January shipments of crops such as broccoli (down 27 percent) and cauliflower (down 42 percent).

The desert winter season began with a cold spell after Christmas and continued into the New Year. Frost and morning icing slowed crop growth and harvest of crops like lettuce in late December and early January. January also ended on a cool note in the desert areas of California and Arizona, with temperatures below freezing on several occasions. As a result, crop growth slowed and fresh vegetable prices, which had moderated in mid-month with warmer temperatures, began to rise again. As temperatures slowly return to long-term averages, desert yields are expected to improve and supplies of cool season vegetables are expected to be at or above year-earlier levels.

Prices Rise

Western head lettuce shipping-point prices were high between mid-December and mid-January because of supply gaps and lower yields caused by a November heat wave, a cold snap in December slowing harvests, and increased demand caused by holiday buying. Similarly, cauliflower and broccoli were also in short supply and prices were elevated entering 2002.

Current price strength for crops like broccoli also reflects sharp declines in winter acreage caused by low prices and soft demand over the past year. After declining in mid-January, prices for many western-produced fresh vegetables entered February near the highs experienced at the start of the year.

Acreage expectations for this spring and summer

After a decline in area during the first quarter, fresh-vegetable and melon acreage is expected to remain near year-earlier levels this coming spring and summer seasons. Given generally low shipping-point prices last fall, growers and shippers will likely reduce acreage during the fall of 2002.

Assuming average weather in 2002, annual fresh vegetable and melon supplies from domestic sources could be lower for the year, with grower prices averaging about 5 percent above a year-earlier. However, since the farm share of retail value only ranges between 20 to 30 percent, 2002 consumer prices for fresh vegetables and melons will be affected more by changes in marketing costs such as labor and transportation.

Excerpt from *Vegetables and Melons Outlook*, February 20, 2002, Economic Research Service/USDA.