



National Agricultural Statistics Service

Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service
Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Hawaii Vegetables

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Oahu records wettest February in 49 years

Vegetable crops were making favorable progress until a major winter storm moved through the island chain during the closing days of February. The month-ending storm did not severely impact February production, but is expected to curtail production in March and beyond. Most of the storm-related damage incurred by vegetable crops were the result of washouts, spoilage, or rain pelting. Gusty winds and cloudy skies also limited yields. In addition, muddy fields delayed recovery efforts for several days. The intense rain-storm (February 26 to 28) dumped 7 to 11 inches of rain in many parts of the State. Oahu experienced the most severe rainfall during the period as the storm pushed Honolulu Airport's February total to 9.47 inches, the highest total for any February since 1955.

Acreage for harvest will be lower for many vegetable crops in the coming months due to the loss of mature and young plantings. In addition to less acreage, yields are also expected to be lower as many crops are in fair to poor condition. However, subsequent weather conditions will have a significant impact on the progress of younger plantings which will eventually determine yields.

Harvested acreage is expected to decrease for most of the vegetables listed below. Not surprisingly, many of the larger declines will be for crops predominately grown on Oahu such as **dry onions** (-74%), **green onions** (-33%), **snap beans** (-28%), and **semi-head (Manoa) lettuce** (-50%). An exception to the declining acreage will be **head cabbage** (+39%) as farmers planted additional acreage to meet increased demand from St. Patrick's Day.

Harvested acreage charts page 2

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

February review page 3

Production statistics and
comments on selected crops.

U.S. cucumbers page 4

Background and facts about the
cucumber market in the U.S.



Acreage

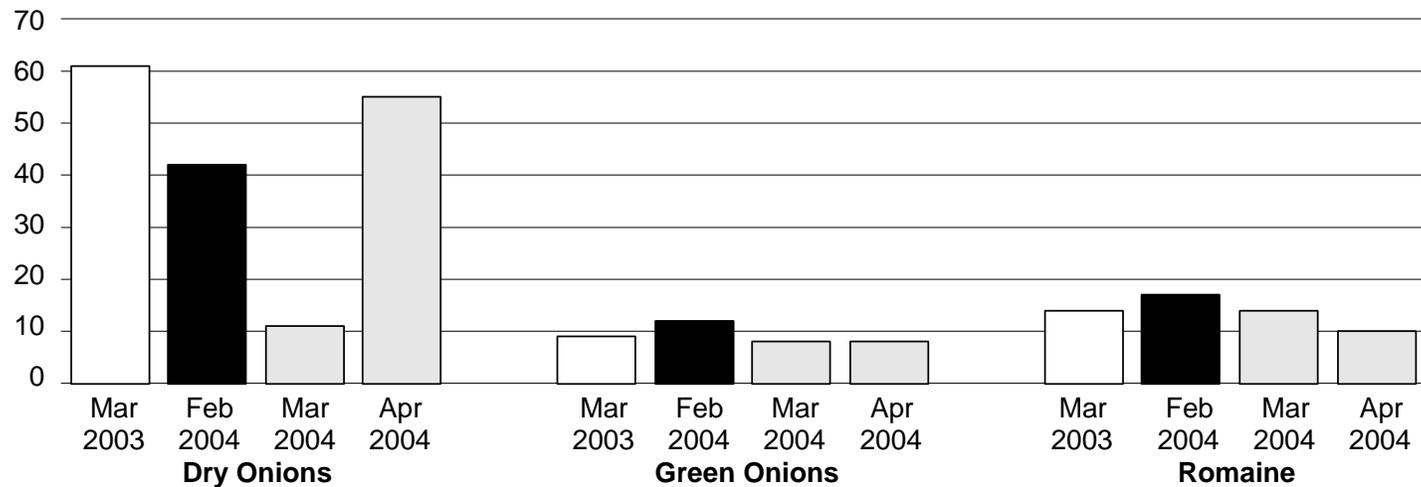
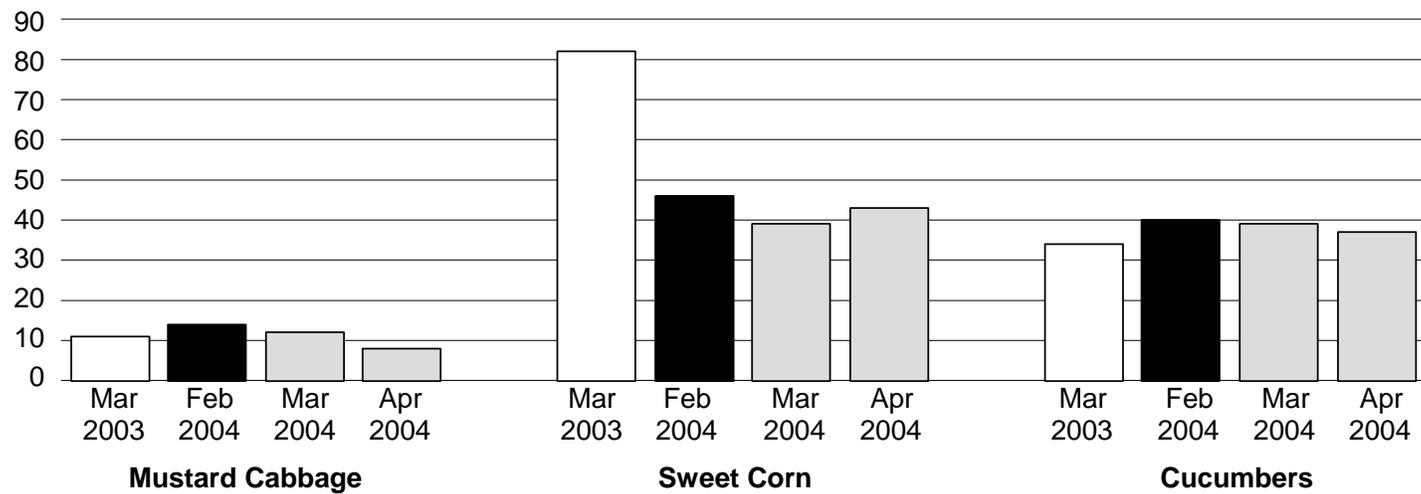
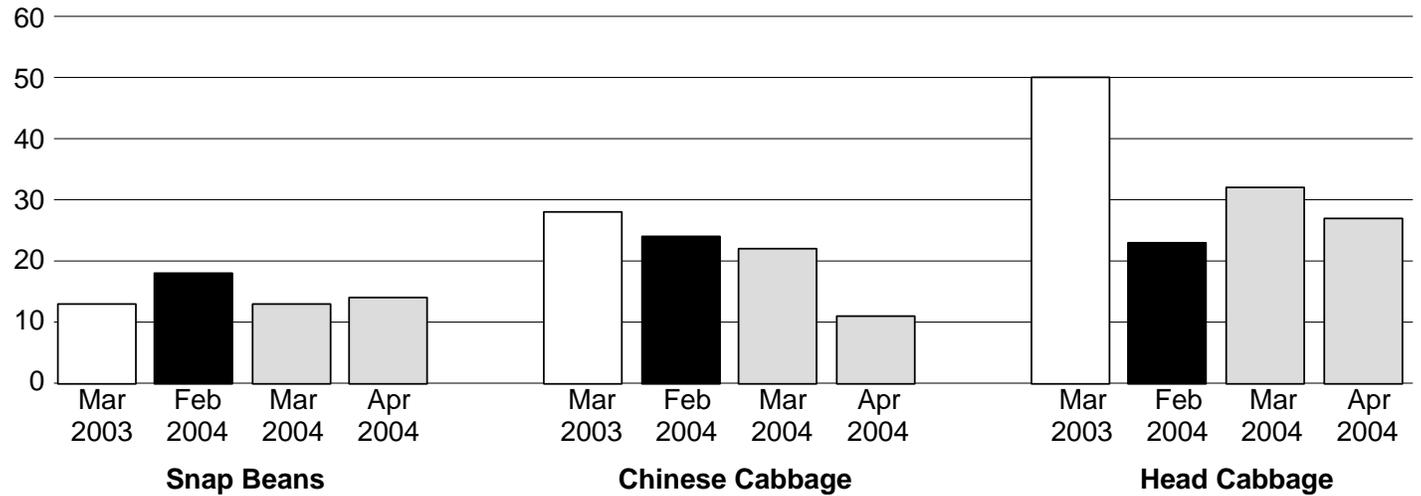
Acres planted, harvested, and for harvest for 11 selected
vegetables, State of Hawaii.

Crop	Acres planted		Acres harvested		Acres for harvest	
	Jan 2004	Feb 2004	Jan 2004	Feb 2004	Mar 2004	Apr 2004
Beans, snap	14	15	18	18	13	14
Cabbage, Chinese	24	22	17	24	22	11
Cabbage, head	30	34	23	23	32	27
Cabbage, mustard	14	13	12	14	12	8
Corn, sweet	59	65	42	46	39	43
Cucumbers	38	40	42	40	39	37
Lettuce, head	8	5	5	9	5	2
Lettuce, semi-head	3	4	4	4	2	2
Onions, dry	9	7	35	42	11	55
Onions, green	7	10	12	12	8	8
Romaine	15	14	9	17	14	10

Harvested acreage charts

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

Acres



Commodity Highlight: U.S. Cucumbers

Originating in India, cucumbers were brought to the New World by Columbus, and cucumbers have been grown in the U.S. for several centuries. Cucumbers are members of the cucurbit family and are related to gourds, gherkins, pumpkins, squash, and watermelon.

The U.S. produces 3 percent of the world's cucumbers, ranking fourth behind China (62 percent), Turkey, and Iran. Produced year-round, U.S. fresh-market cucumber production reached a record-high in 1999 but has trended lower since. Florida and Georgia are the leading fresh-market cucumber States, each with about 25 percent of the Nation's output during 2001-03.

There is limited overlap between the U.S. fresh and processing cucumber industries because of differences in varieties and methods of production and marketing. Fresh-market cucumbers are hand-harvested, while many pickling cucumbers are harvested by machine.

Fresh prices are generally higher January to April (because of limited domestic supplies and higher production costs) and lowest in June when supplies are available from many areas. The farm price (f.o.b. shipping-point) generally accounts for about 25 percent of the retail value for fresh cucumbers. Imports are strongest January and February when U.S. production is limited by cool weather and weakest in summer during the height of the domestic season.

Imports accounted for 45 percent of U.S. fresh cucumber consumption during 2001-03—up from 38 percent in the 1990s and 37 percent in the 1980s. In 2003, the majority of imports came from Mexico (86 percent) and Canada (9 percent). During 2001-03, about 3 percent of fresh export volume was exported, compared with about 5 percent in both the 1980s and 1990s. Canada takes 98 percent of U.S. fresh cucumber exports.

About 60 percent of cucumber consumption is in fresh form, with the remainder in processed (largely pickled) products. Per-capita use of all cucumbers has risen during each of the past four decades. Per capita use averaged 10.9 pounds during 2000-03, up from 10.2 in the 1990s, 9.8 in the 1980s and 8.9 pounds in the 1970s. Fresh-market use has accounted for all the growth over the past 20 years, because pickling use has been on a slow decline since peaking in 1976 at 6.1 pounds. Fresh use reached a record-high 6.8 pounds in 1999, 44 percent higher than 1989. This level was nearly matched in 2002 (6.7 pounds).

According to the USDA 1994-1996 Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals, 85 percent of fresh cucumbers are consumed at home. This may reflect limited uses for fresh cucumbers in fast food establishments and on mainstream restaurant menus. ■

Source: *Vegetables and Melons Outlook/VGS-301*/February 26, 2004, Economic Research Service, USDA.