

Monthly Hawaii Vegetables

In cooperation with:



June 9, 2009

Breezy Trade Wind Weather During Second Half Of February

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

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Production statistics and
comments on selected crops.

Trade wind conditions dominated weather for much of February with breezier conditions in control during much of the second half of the month. Momentary interruptions to this trade wind pattern occurred with the passage of a couple of shear lines and a trough. These systems delivered the bulk of the precipitation that fell during the month. Winds generated during the second half of February came from a northerly direction enveloping the State with cold, dry air. As a whole, rainfall totals for the month were below normal for most areas. Rainfall amounts along the eastern half of the Big Island were generally above normal, while rainfall totals on the western half was below normal with the bulk of the rainfall falling during the first half of the month. Precipitation around Maui County was generally well below normal, except for portions of east Maui. On Oahu, rainfall amounts were well below normal for most areas. Conditions on Kauai were generally drier than normal, except for some portions of east Kauai. Crops were rated in fair to good condition.

The expected vegetable acreage for harvest in March 2009, when compared with acreage harvested in February 2009, was higher for 6 crop, lower for 3 crops, and unchanged for 2 crops. An increase in acreage for harvest is expected from **snap beans** (+100%), **Chinese cabbage** (+54%), **head cabbage** (+17%), **cucumbers** (+9%), **head lettuce** (+100%), and **dry onions** (+1,433%). A decrease in the acreage for harvest is expected for from **mustard cabbage** (-11%), **sweet corn** (-16%), and **green onions** (-27%), while the expected acreage for harvest was unchanged for **semi-head lettuce**, and **romaine**.

Acreage

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

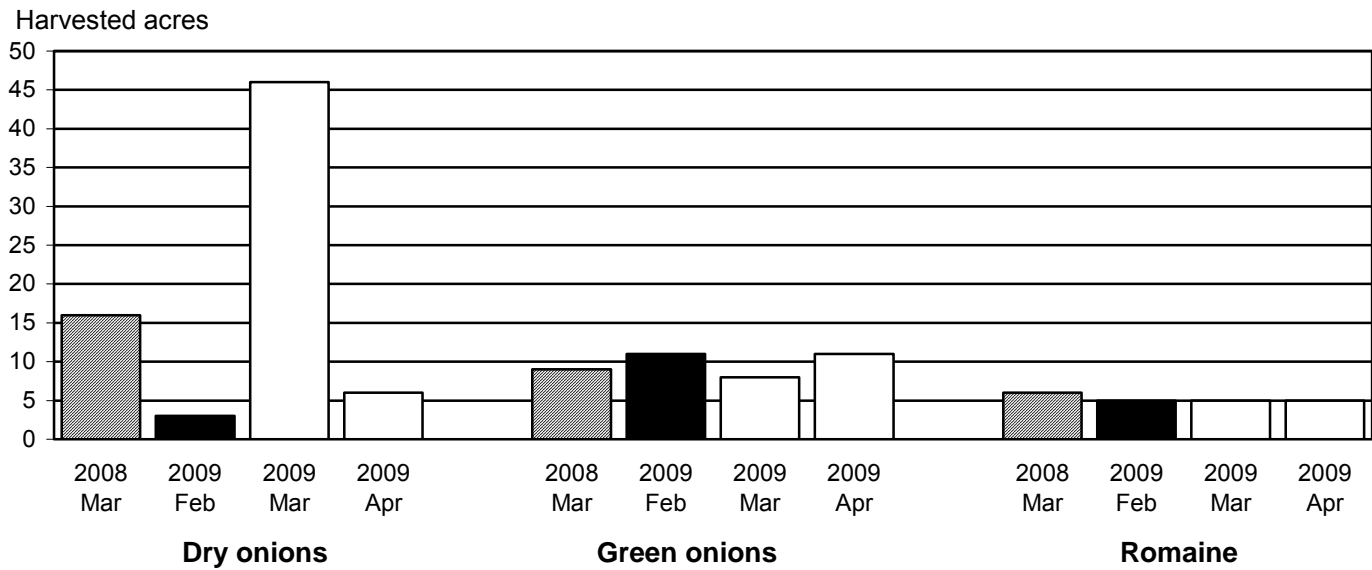
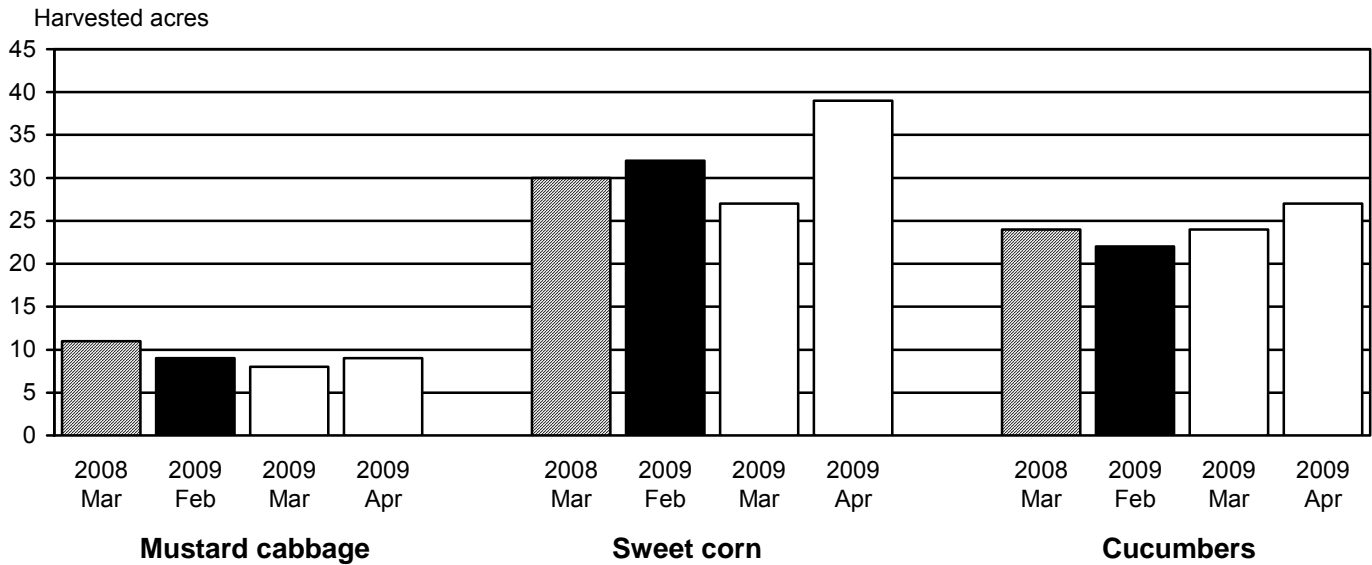
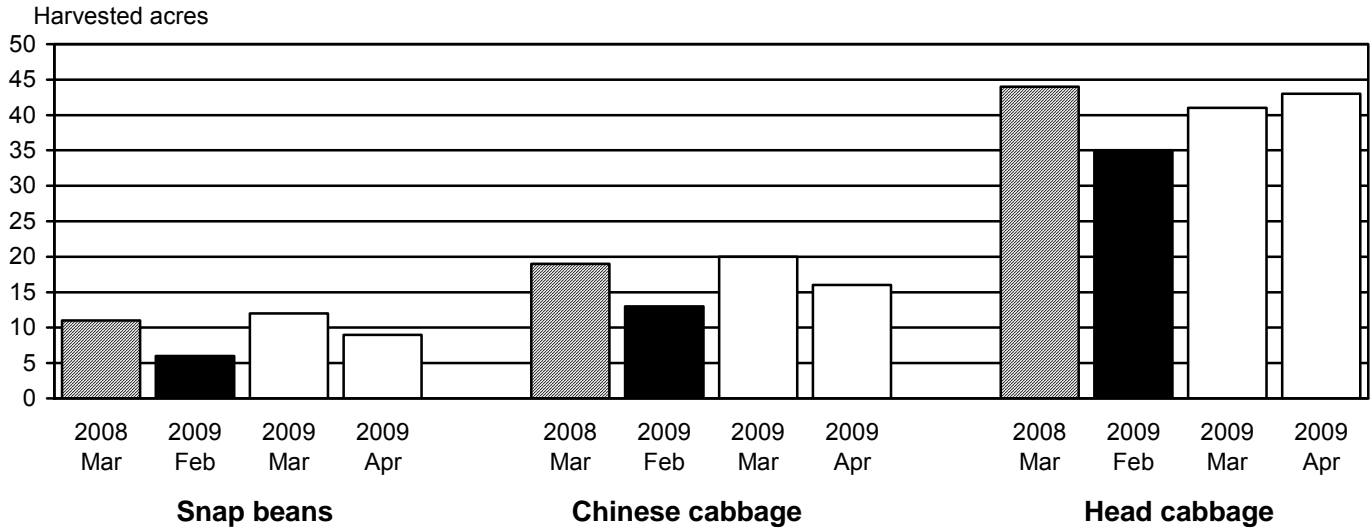
Crop	Acres planted		Acres harvested		Acres for harvest	
	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2009	Apr 2009
Beans, snap	10	11	12	6	12	9
Cabbage, Chinese	20	13	11	13	20	16
Cabbage, head	47	35	46	35	41	43
Cabbage, mustard	10	11	10	9	8	9
Corn, sweet	36	31	38	32	27	39
Cucumbers	23	23	20	22	24	27
Lettuce, head	3	3	3	2	4	2
Lettuce, semi-head	4	4	4	4	4	4
Onions, dry	15	2	3	3	46	6
Onions, green	10	8	11	11	8	11
Romaine	7	7	5	5	5	5

Mark E. Hudson, Director
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Harvested acreage charts

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



February Review

Head Cabbage Production Higher

Chinese cabbage production totaled 383,000 pounds in February 2009, a 5 percent increase from January 2009, but a 39 percent decrease from February 2008. The main factor for the increase or decrease in production was the change in acreage available for harvest, since yield were 11 percent lower for both periods. 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 813,000 pounds during February, an increase of 20 percent and 14 percent from the previous month and a year earlier, respectively. Better yields accounted for the increase in production from both months. Cool temperatures accompanied by heavy irrigation helped to maintain head quality and keep the crop in fair to good condition.

Sweet Corn production totaled an estimated 106,000 pounds for February 2009, 12 percent below January 2009, but 49 percent more than during the same month a year ago. Fewer acreage for harvest accounted for the drop in production from January of this year. A large increase in acreage for harvest had offset a large decline in yield to produce the higher production from February 2008.

Cucumber producers produced an estimated 292,000 pounds in February, a decrease of 4 percent and

21 percent from January 2009 and February 2008, respectively. The small increase in acreage that was available for harvest could not offset the lower yields. During February 2009, the long periods of overcastted skies and windy conditions contributed to the lower yields experienced by the exposed cucumber plantings. ■

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



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

Crop	Total acres on Mar. 1	February 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	6	5.5	33	124.4	76	72	-5
Cabbage, Chinese	19	13	29.5	383	35.3	1,000	748	-25
Cabbage, head	73	35	23.2	813	28.2	1,374	1,491	9
Cabbage, mustard	15	9	11.2	101	68.2	254	185	-27
Corn, sweet	76	32	3.3	106	51.6	182	227	25
Cucumbers	42	22	13.3	292	69.9	768	597	-22
Lettuce, head	4	2	15.5	31	59.8	90	62	-31
Lettuce, semi-head	7	4	7.0	28	98.2	49	49	0
Onions, dry	62	3	2.7	8	82.4	45	33	-27
Onions, green	16	11	7.3	80	150.7	236	140	-41
Romaine	10	5	15.2	76	62.0	131	141	8

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

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Crop,
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	21300	20,500	20,300
Broccoli ¹	33000	33,000	31,000
Cabbage	6480	7,790	6,600
Carrots	15900	14,200	12,300
Cauliflower ¹	8200	7,800	6,600
Celery ¹	5700	6,000	6,000
Sweet Corn	37200	38,400	37,100
Head Lettuce	9300	9,700	9,200
Bell Pepper ¹	33000	33,000	31,000
Spinach	7900	7,700	7,800
Tomatoes	27100	24,500	26,300
Total	205,080	202,590	194,200

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, Agricultural Statistics Board, USDA, *Vegetables*, April 4, 2009.