

Monthly Hawaii Vegetables

In cooperation with:



April 22, 2006

Heavy Rains During March Drench Much Of State's Agricultural Areas

According to the National Weather Service, a "blocking pattern" in the North Pacific shifted the normal jet stream flow during March. This resulted in persistent low pressure systems to the west and northwest of the State. The ensuing weather pattern left atmospheric conditions over the State very unstable as southerly winds produced heavy rains. Thunderstorms, heavy flooding, and flash floods left fields in very wet, soggy condition. Rainfall amounts on Kauai were well above normal, especially for areas situated to the east and south of the island. On Oahu, rainfall totals were also well above normal for all locations, with many leeward areas not receiving the bulk of their rainfall until the later third of the month. Rainfall for Maui was mixed, much of the island was the recipient of above normal rainfall, with the bulk of the total falling during the second half of the month. Some windward locations received near normal rainfall. Rainfall totals for the Big Island were also mixed as the northern portion received below normal rainfall, while other areas had above normal totals. Statewide, vegetable and melon crops made variable progress.

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

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Review..... page 3**
Production statistics and
comments on selected crops.

Changes in the expected acres for harvest for vegetables in April compared with acres harvested in March were mixed. Declines in harvested acreage are expected for **Chinese cabbage** (-32%), **sweet corn** (-9%), **cucumbers** (-13%), **semi-head lettuce** (-20%), and **green onions** (-10%). Increases in harvested acreage are expected for: **snap beans** (+22%), **head cabbage** (+4%), **head lettuce** (+50%), and **dry onions** (+36%), while the acreage for **mustard cabbage** and **romaine** is expected to remain unchanged.

Acreage

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

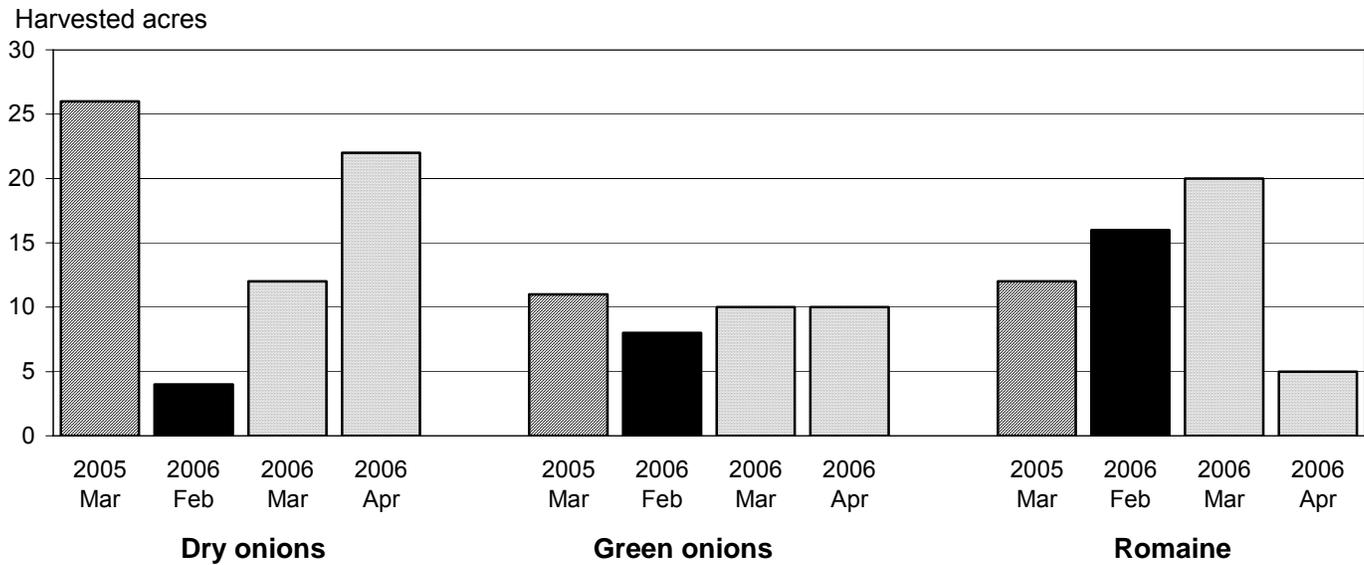
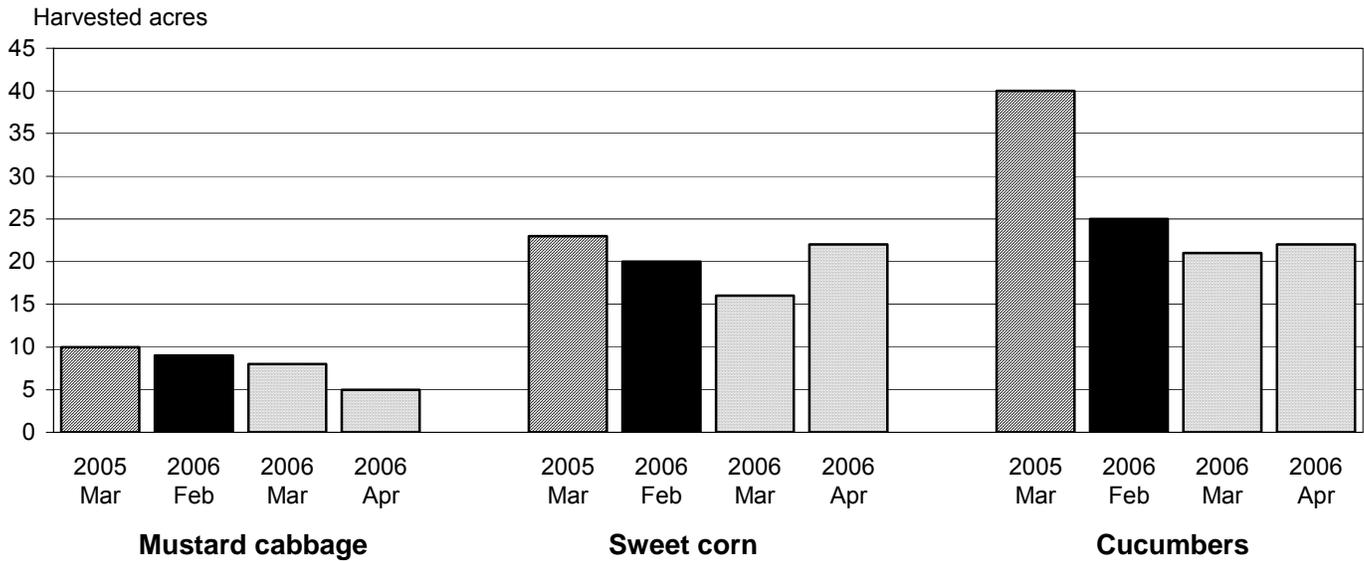
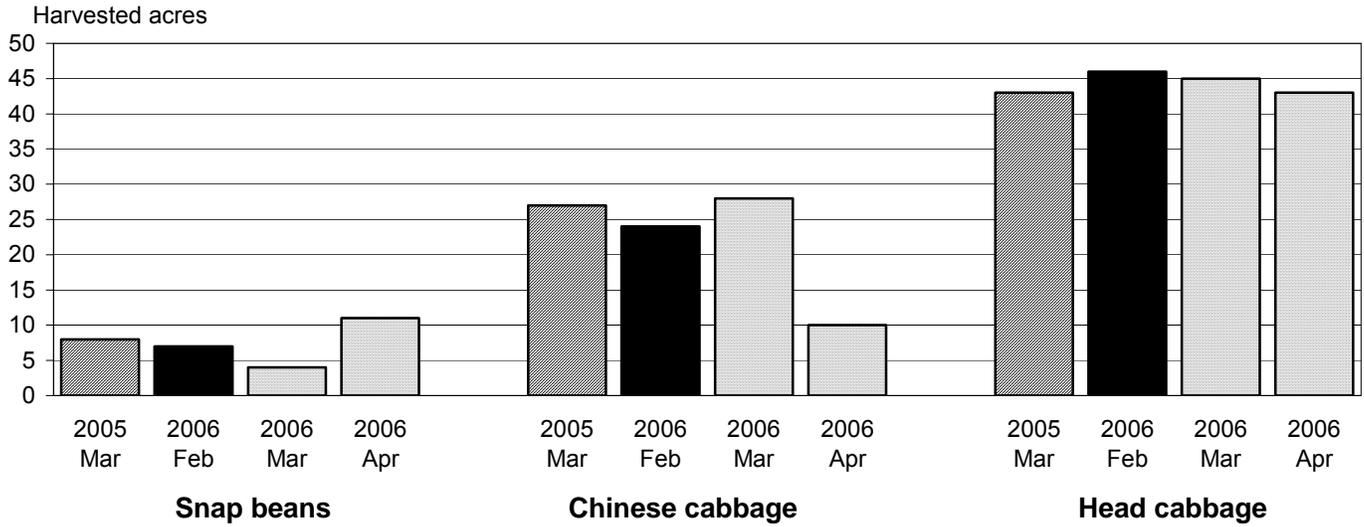
Crop	Acres planted		Acres harvested		Acres for harvest	
	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Apr 2006	May 2006
Beans, snap	12	5	7	9	11	4
Cabbage, Chinese	26	26	24	28	19	14
Cabbage, head	48	35	46	46	48	40
Cabbage, mustard	7	8	9	8	8	5
Corn, sweet	19	10	20	22	20	16
Cucumbers	24	22	25	23	20	18
Lettuce, head	5	6	6	4	6	2
Lettuce, semi-head	5	3	5	5	4	3
Onions, dry	20	7	4	11	15	26
Onions, green	10	4	8	10	9	7
Romaine	10	9	16	10	10	5

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Harvested acreage charts

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



March Review

Crop Production Generally Below Year-Ago Levels

Chinese cabbage growers produced 561,000 pounds in March, 12 percent above a year ago. Mostly ideal weather conditions on the islands of Hawaii and Maui contributed to the increase in production from a year earlier. Conditions on Oahu were fair until soggy conditions impeded harvesting activities later in the month. Crop conditions ranged from poor to good, dependent on location.

Head cabbage production totaled 1.2 million pounds in March, an increase of 15 percent and 24 percent from March 2005 and February 2006, respectively. Production from the islands of Maui and Hawaii were steady, while supplies from Oahu peaked during the St. Patrick's Day week. Crop condition was generally fair to good.

Cucumber production totaled 324,000 pounds in March, 6 percent below March 2005. This decrease in production resulted mostly from a decrease in acreage for harvest. Some of the decrease in acreage for harvest was a direct result of the

heavy rains which occurred during the month of March. Plantings were in poor to fair condition.

Green peppers production totaled 252,000 pounds, 8 percent and 5 percent below a year ago and February 2006, respectively. Crops were in fair to poor condition.

Tomato growers produced 983,000 pounds for March, a decrease of 13

percent from a year ago. Very wet, soggy conditions slowed crop progress leaving most tomato fields in poor to fair condition, with a few good. The wet conditions left many fields with increased incidences of diseases, fruit rotting and messy fields. ■

**Hawaii Head Cabbage
Monthly Production, 2005 – 2006**



Acreage, average yield, sales, and average farm price, March 2006, State of Hawaii.

Crop	Total acres on Apr. 1	March 2006				January-to-date sales		
		Acres harvested	Average yield ^{1/}	Total sales	Average farm price	2005 ^{2/}	2006	Change
		----- 1,000 lbs. -----		Cents per lb.		----- 1,000 lbs. -----		Percent
Beans, snap	15	9	5.1	46	122.4	112	193	72
Cabbage, Chinese	28	28	20.0	561	25.8	1,589	1,691	6
Cabbage, head	98	46	26.8	1,235	22.1	2,380	3,152	32
Cabbage, mustard	11	8	14.8	118	50.9	332	388	17
Corn, sweet	36	22	2.7	60	134.9	187	223	19
Cucumbers	38	23	14.1	324	59.4	807	1,158	43
Lettuce, head	8	4	15.0	60	58.5	155	180	16
Lettuce, semi-head	7	5	5.0	25	81.8	83	119	43
Onions, dry	69	11	6.4	70	175.8	160	171	7
Onions, green	16	10	10.6	106	108.8	239	344	44
Peppers, green	^{3/}	23	11.0	252	75.8	725	750	3
Romaine	14	10	9.9	99	63.9	416	380	-9
Tomatoes	^{3/}	77	12.8	983	74.0	2,717	3,440	27

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