

Monthly Hawaii Vegetables

In cooperation with:



June 25, 2009

April Begins With Breezy Winds; Ends With Light And Variable Winds

Weather during April 2009 was mixed. The start of April was dominated by breezy trade winds. There were several upper level troughs during the first half of the month which provided some heavy showers. The second half of the month fell under a winter weather pattern with a couple of cold fronts that produced some heavier rainfall. However, generally dry conditions prevailed for much of the month. Overall, rainfall totals were below normal for most areas around the State. There were a few days of heavy rainfall on the Big Island, but rainfall totals were mainly below normal for most areas. Precipitation along the windward portion of the island was nearer to normal, while rainfall on the leeward side and in the Kohala district was well below normal. Most areas of Maui County received below normal rainfall. Many of Oahu's windward locations received above normal rainfall amounts, while most leeward sectors received below normal amounts of precipitation. Similar to the previous month, precipitation on Kauai was mixed as above normal rainfall and below normal rainfall were intermixed throughout the island. Crops were rated in fair to good condition.

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

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

The expected vegetable acreage for harvest in May 2009, when compared with acreage harvested in April 2009, was higher for 5 crops, lower for 4 crops, and unchanged for 2 crops. An increase in acreage for harvest is expected from **snap beans** (+22%), **Chinese cabbage** (+13%), **sweet corn** (+21%), **dry onions** (+45%), and **green onions** (+13%). A decrease in the acreage for harvest is expected from **head cabbage** (-14%), **mustard cabbage** (-33%), **head lettuce** (-33%), and **romaine** (-10%), while the expected acreage for harvest was unchanged for **cucumbers**, and **semi-head lettuce**.

Acreage

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

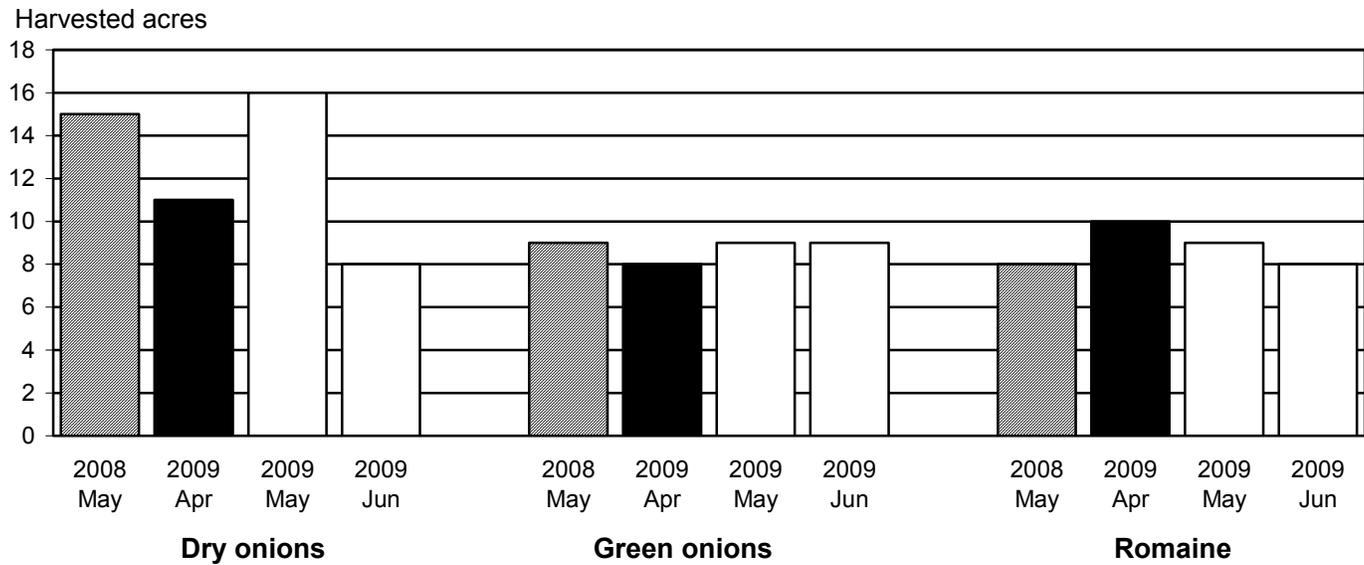
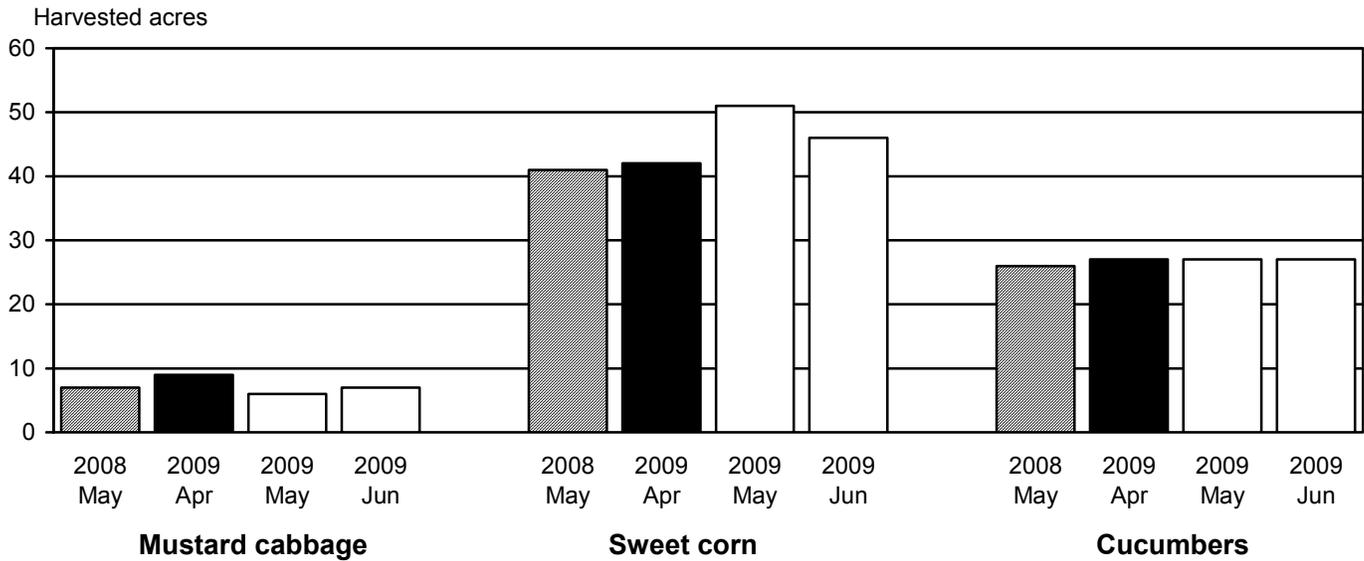
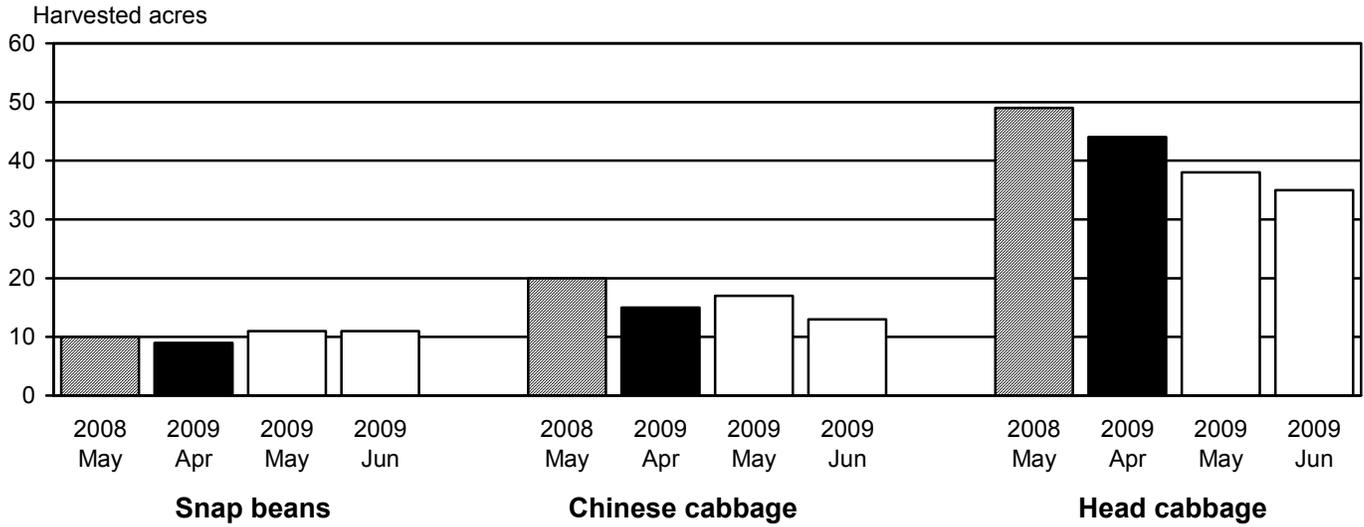
Crop	Acres planted		Acres harvested		Acres for harvest	
	Mar 2009	Apr 2009	Mar 2009	Apr 2009	May 2009	Jun 2009
Beans, snap	9	12	12	9	11	11
Cabbage, Chinese	16	16	20	15	17	13
Cabbage, head	40	35	41	44	38	35
Cabbage, mustard	8	8	8	9	6	7
Corn, sweet	50	46	27	42	51	46
Cucumbers	26	26	24	27	27	27
Lettuce, head	3	2	4	3	2	2
Lettuce, semi-head	4	4	4	4	4	4
Onions, dry	8	8	46	11	16	8
Onions, green	9	9	6	8	9	9
Romaine	9	10	8	10	9	8

Mark E. Hudson, Director
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Harvested acreage charts

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



April Review

Dry Onion Marketings Lower

Chinese cabbage growers harvested an estimated 432,000 pounds in April 2009, an increase of 1 percent from March 2009, but a decrease of 5 percent from April 2008. Better yields were just enough to offset the drop in harvested acreage to account for the slight increase in production from the previous month. On the other hand, higher yields were not enough to make up for the decline in acreage for harvest from a year earlier. Increased spraying was necessary to help maintain control of the increase in insect infestation. The crop was rated in fair to good condition.

Head cabbage production totaled 1.0 million pounds during April, a decline of 13 percent from March of this year, but 7 percent more than April a year earlier. Lower yields in April 2009 accounted for the drop in production from the previous month, while an increase in acreage for harvest was enough to overcome the drop in yield from a year ago to record the increase in production. Crop condition was rated fair to good.

Sweet corn producers harvested an estimated 148,000 pounds in April, an

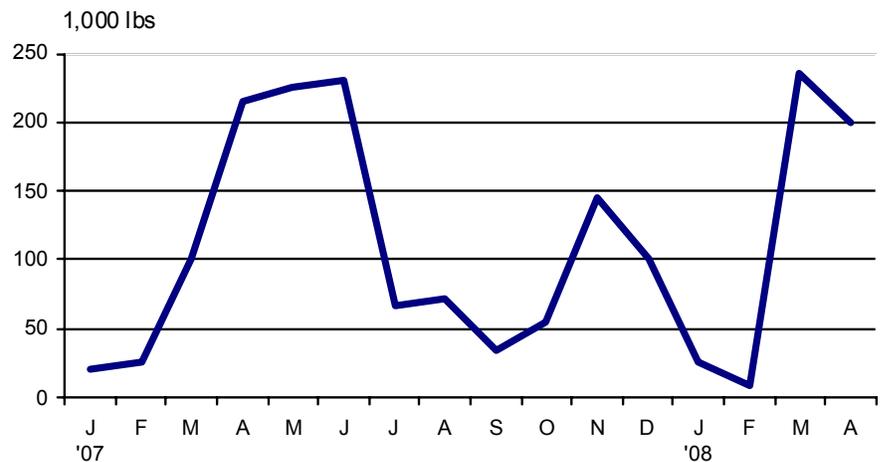
increase of 37 percent from March 2009, but a decrease of 31 percent from April 2008. A large increase in acreage for harvest accounted for the higher production from March 2009, while a big drop in yield from the previous April resulted in April's comparative lower production. Crop condition was rated fair to good.

Cucumber growers produced 425,000 pounds in April 2009, an increase of 9 percent from March 2009, but a decrease of 1 percent from April 2008. Additional acreage for harvest provided for the increase in production

from a month earlier. A slight decrease in yield resulted in the slight decrease in production from the same month a year ago. The crop was in fair to good condition.

Dry Onions producers provided 200,000 pounds of onion during April, a decline of 15 percent and 7 percent from March this year and April a year ago, respectively. An increase in sunny skies and dry weather has the crop in fair to good condition. ■

**Hawaii Dry Onion
Monthly Production, 2008 – 2009**



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

Crop	Total acres on May. 1	April 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	22	9	7.2	65	113.4	205	188	-8
Cabbage, Chinese	25	15	28.8	432	34.8	2,051	1,606	-22
Cabbage, head	78	44	23.7	1,043	27.5	3,838	3,728	-3
Cabbage, mustard	12	9	11.9	107	59.1	494	383	-22
Corn, sweet	109	42	3.5	148	48.3	536	483	-10
Cucumbers	51	27	15.7	425	63.8	1,613	1,413	-12
Lettuce, head	3	3	15.7	47	68.3	205	154	-25
Lettuce, semi-head	7	4	6.5	26	96.3	111	98	-12
Onions, dry	33	11	18.2	200	103.6	360	468	30
Onions, green	19	8	12.6	101	130.7	479	322	-33
Romaine	14	10	10.2	102	60.2	316	339	7

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

**Onions: Area Planted by Season, State, and United States,
2007-2008 and Forecasted Area 2009**

Season and State	Area Planted		
	2007	2008	2009
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Summer¹			
Non-storage			
CA	8,000	7,800	6,000
NV	2,800	2,600	2,500
NM	7,300	7,000	5,000
TX	1,100	800	700
WA ²	1,500	1,900	2,000
Total	20,700	20,100	16,200
Storage			
CA ³	30,000	32,500	33,500
CO	9,000	8,000	7,000
ID	9,300	8,800	8,700
MI	3,900	4,000	4,000
NY	11,200	10,600	10,500
OR			
Malheur	12,600	12,400	12,200
Other	10,300	9,600	9,300
WA	22,500	20,000	21,000
WI	2,200	1,900	1,900
Other Sts ⁴	2,180	1,690	1,920
Total	113,180	109,490	110,020
Total Summer	133,880	129,590	126,220
US	166,880	160,790	155,720

¹ Primarily fresh market. ² Includes Walla Walla and other non-storage onions. ³ Primarily dehydrated and other processing. ⁴ OH and UT.