



National Agricultural Statistics Service

Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service
Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Hawaii Vegetables

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Return of Warm Weather Benefits Most Vegetable Crops

Following a soggy May, most crops made favorable progress during June as rainfall waned, temperatures warmed, and trade winds resumed. Although overall conditions were drier in June, many locations continued to receive near or above their normal amount of rain. The absence of any severe weather conditions aided the recovery of most vegetable crops.

For July, harvested acreage for most vegetables will remain unchanged or show a slight gain. Decreases in harvested acreage are only anticipated for **snap beans** (-39%), **sweet corn** (-21%), and **green onions** (-8%).

In August, however, most crops will experience a seasonal decline in harvested acreage. The full brunt of summer is expected to have the greatest adverse effect on the harvested acreage of cool-weather crops such as **Chinese cabbage** (-33%), **head cabbage** (-24%), **mustard cabbage** (-33%), **head lettuce** (-50%), and **romaine** (-56%). Smaller declines in harvested acreage are expected for **sweet corn** (-4%) and **cucumbers** (-3%). On the other hand, increases in harvested acreage are anticipated for **snap beans** (+9%) and **dry onions** (+70%) during August. ■

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Acreage data and comments
regarding spring (April-June)
fresh vegetables.



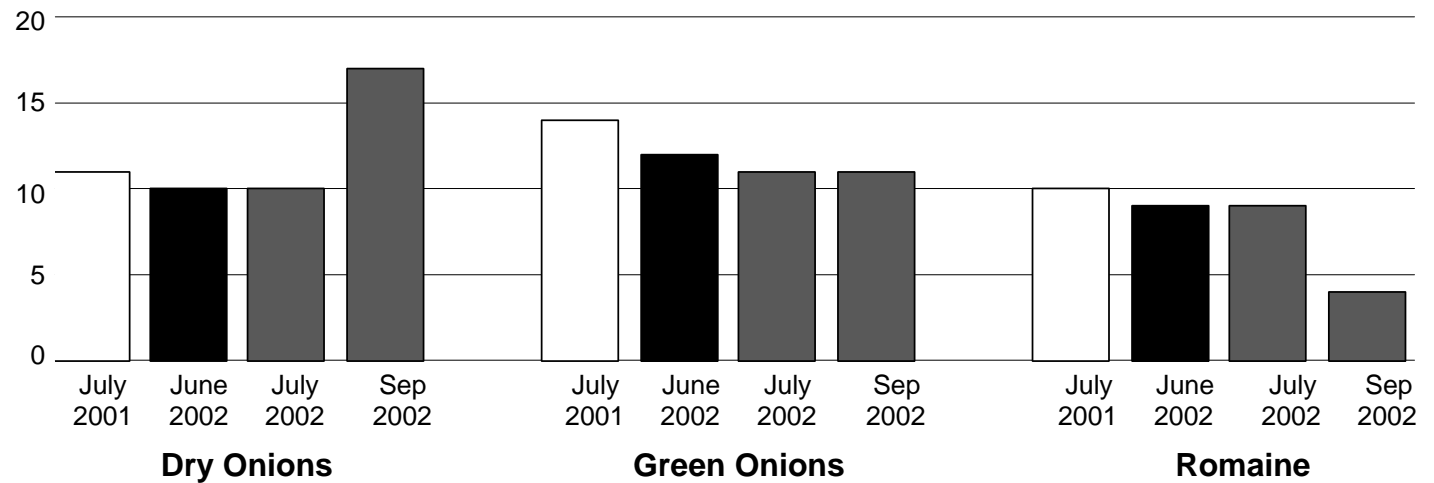
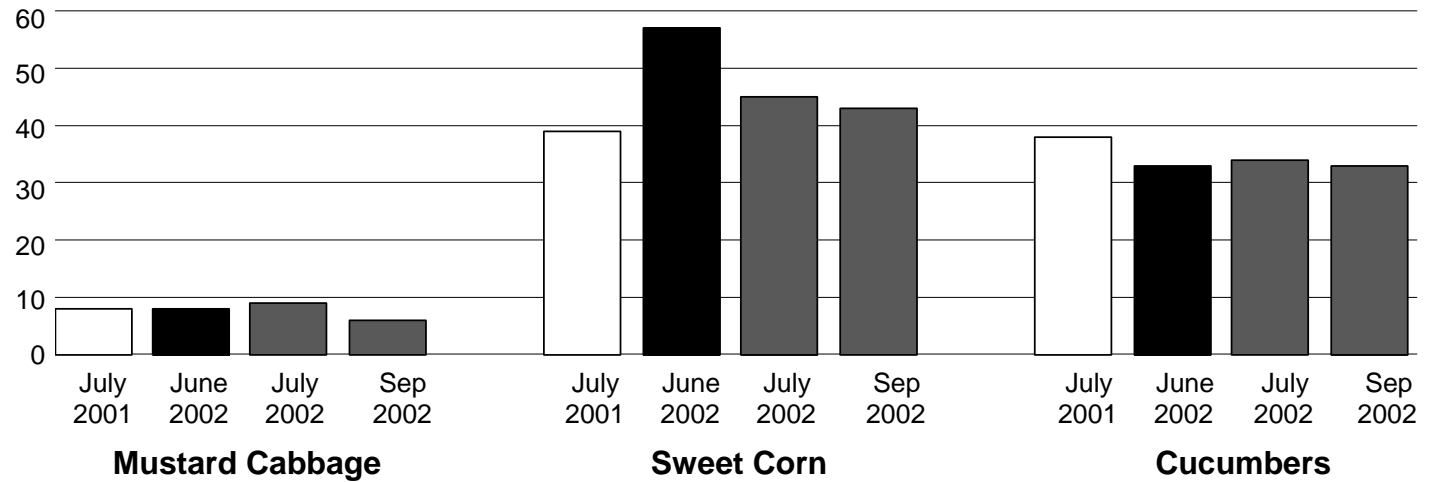
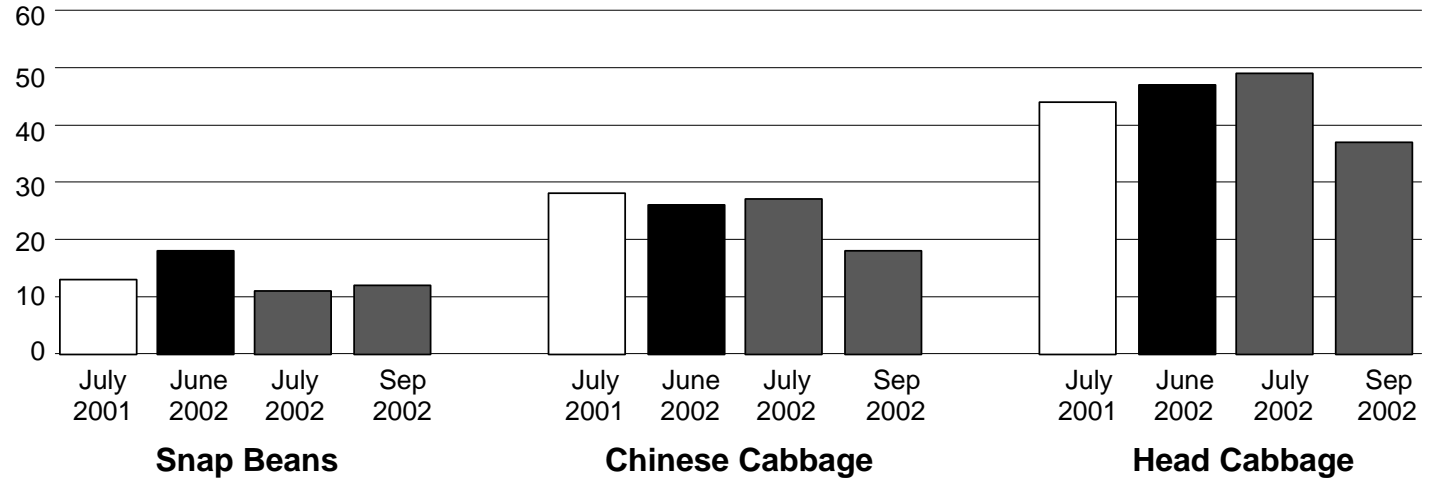
Acreage Acres planted, harvested, and for harvest for 11 selected vegetables, State of Hawaii.

Crop	Acres planted		Acres harvested		Acres for harvest	
	May 2002	Jun 2002	May 2002	Jun 2002	Jul 2002	Aug 2002
Beans, snap	17	12	15	18	11	12
Cabbage, Chinese	27	29	36	26	27	18
Cabbage, head	41	42	49	47	49	37
Cabbage, mustard	8	8	10	8	9	6
Corn, sweet	51	58	62	57	45	43
Cucumbers	32	33	33	33	34	33
Lettuce, head	6	10	7	6	6	3
Lettuce, semi-head	4	4	4	4	4	4
Onions, dry	14	12	12	10	10	17
Onions, green	11	11	11	12	11	11
Romaine	8	10	12	9	9	4

Harvested acreage charts

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

Acres



June review

Cucumber Production Increased 25 Percent in June

BUSH BEAN production totaled 105,000 pounds in June, up 50 percent from May. Most the increase occurred on Oahu where fields were in generally fair condition.

CHINESE CABBAGE production continued a downward trend with June production pegged at 505,000 pounds, down 4 percent from May and the lowest monthly total this year. For the year, Chinese cabbage production is down 6 percent for the first six months compared to last year.

HEAD CABBAGE production totaled 1.2 million pounds in June, up 12 percent from May. Crop conditions ranged from fair to good.

SWEET CORN production is estimated at 319,000 pounds for June, up 45 percent from May. Total production for the first six months of 2002 was 41 percent higher than the same period a year ago.

CUCUMBER production totaled 554,000 pounds in June, up 25 percent from May and highest monthly since January 1999. Oahu accounts for

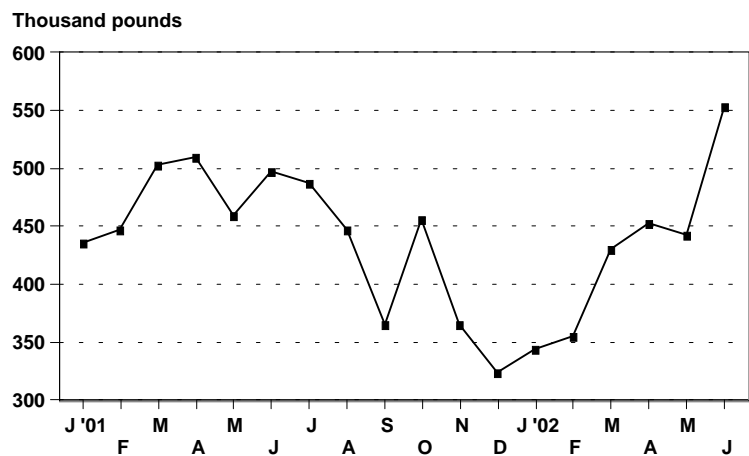
approximately 43% percent of June's total production and fields there were in mostly good condition.

DRY ONION production totaled 100,000 pounds in June, down 14 percent from May. The drop in production was the result of continued losses from the rains received in May.

TOMATO production totaled 1.5 million

pounds in June, up 2 percent from May. Tomato production has consistently been in the 1.4 to 1.5 million pound range for the past five months. Cumulative production for the first six months of this year is down 1 percent compared to the same period a year ago.

Hawaii Fresh Cucumber: Monthly production, 2001 and 2002



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

Crop	Total acres on Jul 1 st	June 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	18	5.8	105	90.9	558	358	-36
Cabbage, Chinese	46	26	19.4	505	23.1	3,722	3,497	-6
Cabbage, head	89	47	25.5	1,199	17.4	6,416	6,371	-1
Cabbage, mustard	11	8	10.1	81	48.9	770	699	-9
Corn, sweet	110	57	5.6	319	46.0	857	1,211	41
Cucumbers	53	33	16.8	554	35.2	2,854	2,579	-10
Lettuce, head	10	6	10.8	65	54.6	475	418	-12
Lettuce, semi-head	6	4	9.0	36	75.5	177	201	14
Onions, dry	41	10	10.0	100	92.2	3,952	749	-81
Onions, green	25	12	9.3	112	87.1	746	632	-15
Peppers, green	3 [/]	18	14.4	260	61.1	1,546	1,577	2
Romaine	13	9	13.3	120	44.6	1,227	1,003	-18
Tomatoes	3 [/]	51	29.3	1,495	57.6	8,793	8,721	-1

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

U.S. Fresh Vegetable and Melon Outlook

Fresh market prices ease

Shipping-point prices for fresh market vegetables averaged about 10 percent below a year earlier during the second quarter (April-June). Shipment volume during the second quarter will likely exceed that of a year earlier as smaller marketings during April will be outweighed by strong volume in May and June. May fresh shipments were up 9 percent from a year ago, partly reflecting the marketing of crops delayed in April by cool weather. Shippers received lower prices during the second quarter for most commodities, including head lettuce, celery, cauliflower, and asparagus. Higher prices were noted for onions (driven largely by a smaller Vidalia crop), carrots, and tomatoes. Lower second-quarter prices stand in contrast to the first quarter, which saw prices jump 54 percent from a year earlier driven by higher prices for lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, and carrots. The first-quarter increase was a bit unusual in that it was not triggered by a freeze in Florida but rather cold weather in California and Arizona.

Summer outlook

The outlook for the summer quarter (July-September) appears to favor normal supplies and an improving economy, which should allow fresh market prices to follow the average of the past five seasons. If these conditions hold, shipping-point prices for fresh vegetables and melons would average 5 to 9 percent below a year ago this summer.

Fall outlook

Similarly, if fall season (October-December) prices follow the average of the previous 5 years, the outlook for fall shipping-point prices favors a 10- to 15-percent increase over the previous fall as growers respond to last fall's low prices by reducing acreage. This further assumes that the normal economic response to last fall's price reduction will be

lessened. The assumption is that growers, shippers, and buyers will discount a portion of last fall's price decline, reasoning that it partly reflected the unusual demand effects stemming from both the recession and the events of September 11.

Crop conditions

Although crop were delayed by a week or two by cool weather in some areas (notably in the Midwest), warmer weather now prevails and crop growth has been strong. Cool, wet weather and then a Midwest freeze on May 21 slowed and/or damaged crops such as sweet corn, snap beans, and asparagus but regrowth and replanting has been rapid during June. Despite a long stretch of hot, dry weather in Colorado which has stressed water supplies, the majority of the summer storage onion crop was reported to be in good to excellent condition in mid-June.

Melon shipments up, prices steady

Driven by a 9-percent gain in watermelon shipments, total season-to-date (through June 7) market shipments for the top three melon crops (watermelon, cantaloupe, and honeydew) were up 2 percent from a year earlier. Watermelon accounts for about 58 percent of all melon shipments during the season, followed by cantaloupe (31 percent), honeydew (10 percent), and others (1 percent). First-quarter (January-March) melon import volume was up 5 percent from a year earlier, With melon prices down this past winter, these imports were valued at \$112 million—down 10 percent from a year earlier.

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA, *Vegetables and Melons Outlook*, June 20, 2002.