

Monthly Hawaii Vegetables

In cooperation with:



February 17, 2009

Variable Weather Conditions During September

**Harvested
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.

Trade winds were generally light throughout the month of September. Several upper-level lows helped to turn the already light winds to variable which destabilized the atmosphere and lead to an increase in precipitation. Although a number of rain gages recorded rainfall totals around normal, most gages recorded rainfall amounts below normal. As a result, water use conservation measures, notices, and restrictions continued in place. Rainfall totals for Kauai was mixed. Many eastern-facing areas recorded above normal rainfall along with Hanapepe, but all other areas had below normal precipitation. On Oahu, rainfall amounts were also diverse as many windward, central, and leeward areas either received above or below normal rainfall totals. The normally wet windward sectors of Maui County recorded below normal rainfall. Hawaii Island was the driest of all the islands, as every rain gage station recorded rainfall amounts at below normal levels, with most rain gages recording rainfall amounts at below 50 percent of normal. Crops were rated in poor to good condition.

The expected vegetable acreage for harvest in October 2008, when compared with acreage harvested in September, was higher for 2 crops, lower for 5 crops, and unchanged for 4 crops. An increase in acreage for harvest is expected from **sweet corn** (+46%), and **dry onions** (+20%). A decrease in the acreage for harvest is expected for **Chinese cabbage** (-8%), **head cabbage** (-10%), **mustard cabbage** (-22%), **head lettuce** (-25%), and **romaine** (-14%), while the expected acreage for harvest was unchanged for **snap beans**, **cucumbers**, **semi-head lettuce**, and **green onions**.

Acreage

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

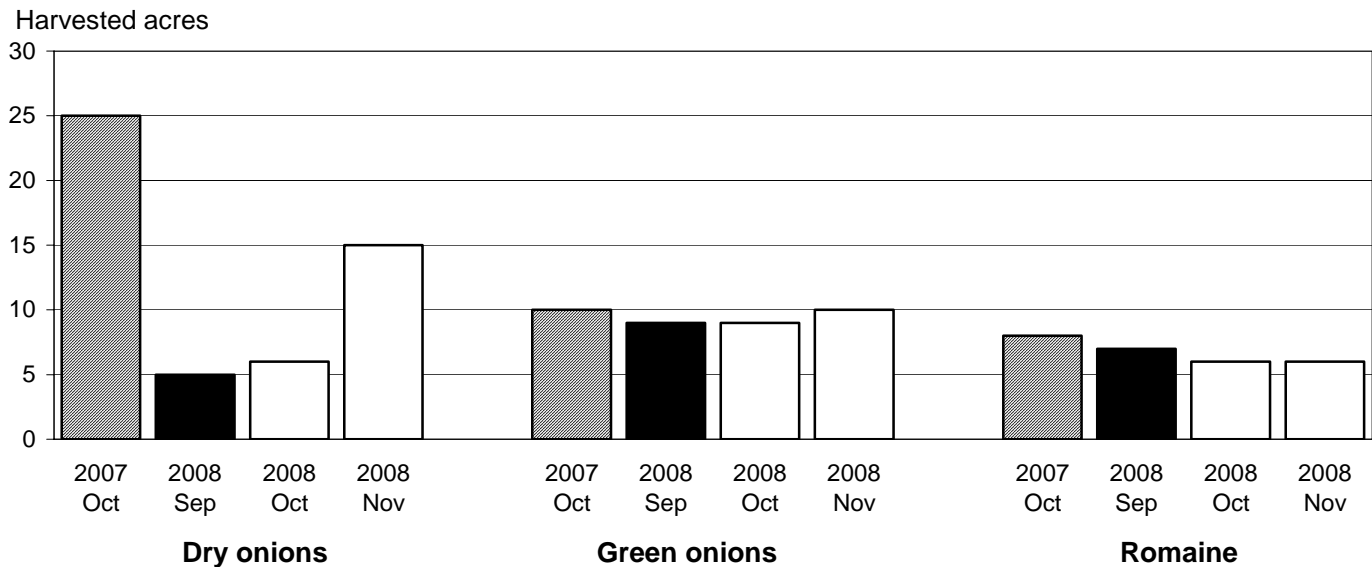
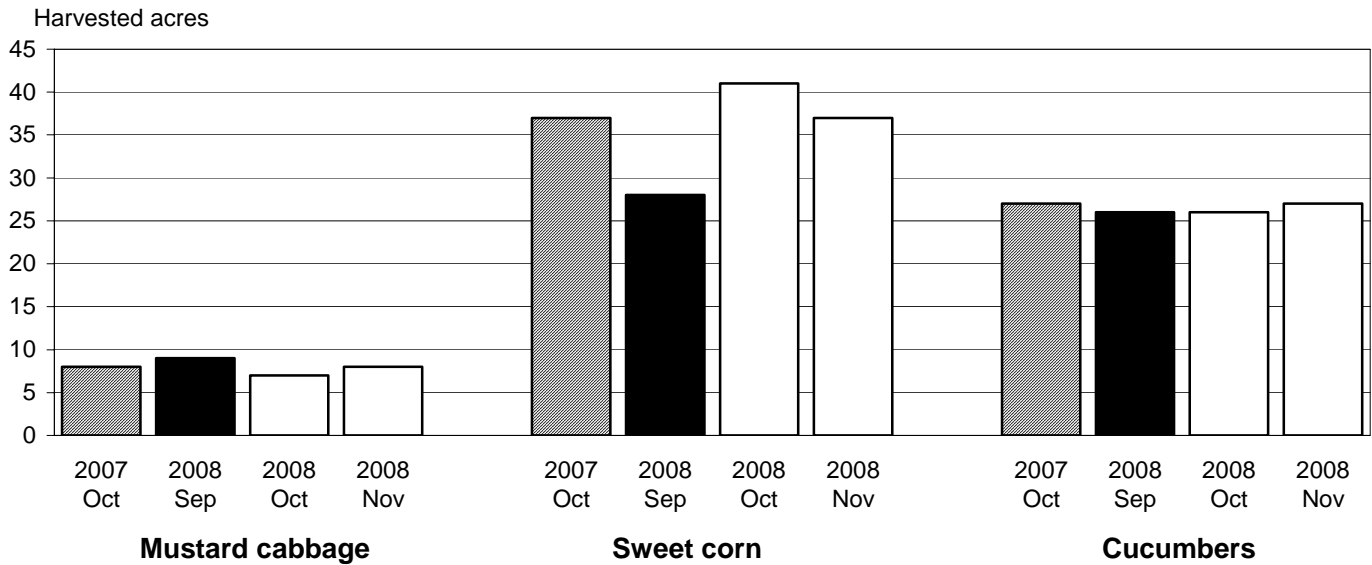
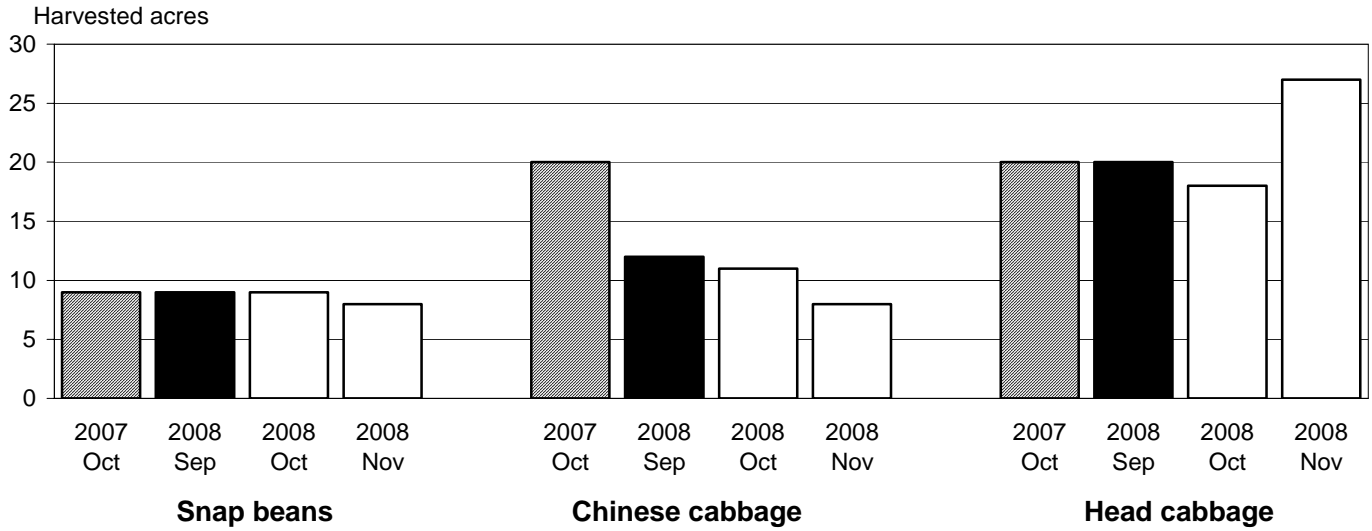
Crop	Acres planted		Acres harvested		Acres for harvest	
	Aug 2008	Sep 2008	Aug 2008	Sep 2008	Oct 2008	Nov 2008
Beans, snap	9	11	10	9	9	8
Cabbage, Chinese	6	11	13	12	11	8
Cabbage, head	17	31	20	20	18	27
Cabbage, mustard	8	8	8	9	7	8
Corn, sweet	37	37	37	28	41	37
Cucumbers	24	24	26	26	26	27
Lettuce, head	3	3	3	4	3	3
Lettuce, semi-head	4	4	4	4	4	4
Onions, dry	14	3	5	5	6	15
Onions, green	9	11	10	9	9	10
Romaine	6	6	5	7	6	6

Mark E. Hudson, Director
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Harvested acreage charts

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



September Review

Vegetable Production Lower For Most Crops

Chinese cabbage production totaled an estimated 346,000 pounds during September 2008, a decrease of 14 percent and 22 percent from August 2008 and September 2007, respectively. A decrease in acreage and yields accounted for the decrease in production from a month earlier, while a decrease in acreage for harvest was the reason for the decline in production from a year earlier. In general, the continued warm, dry conditions contributed to insect, disease, and rot damages reducing crop yields from a month earlier. The crop was reported to be in fair condition.

Head cabbage growers produced 497,000 pounds in September, a 3 percent decline from the previous month, but a 9-percent increase from a year ago. A decline in the average yield per acre was the reason for the drop in production from August 2008, while an increase in yields overcame the decline in acreage for harvest to record an increase in production from September 2007. Warm growing

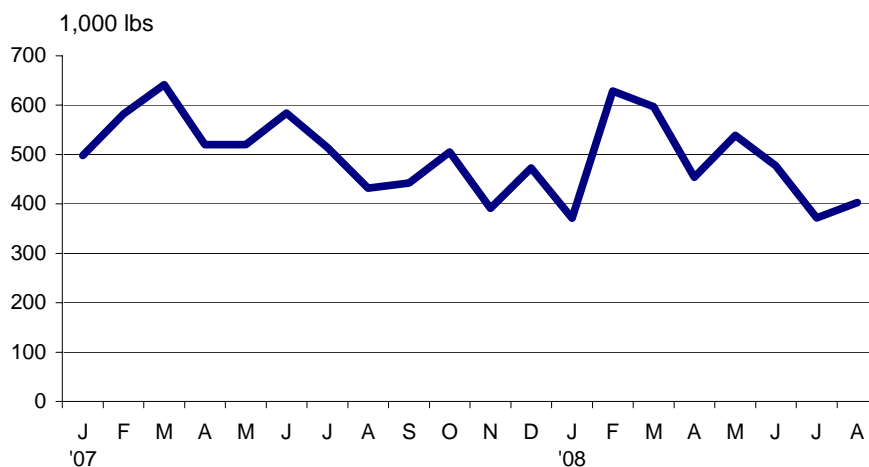
conditions and a slight increase in insect infestation has also contributed to the lower yields. Heavy irrigation when possible has helped, but non-irrigated fields were negatively affected. Crops were reported in fair to good condition.

Sweet corn production totaled 125,000 pounds in September, 44 percent lower than August 2008, but unchanged from a year earlier. Lower yields and fewer acres for harvest

accounted for the decrease in production from the previous month, as some fields continue to be adversely affected by corn ear worm infestation. Plantings were also lower in areas affected by water use restrictions.

Cucumber producers harvested 478,000 pounds during September 2008. This was 1 percent less than in August 2008, but 2 percent above September a year ago. Heavy white fly infestation is expected to shorten

**Hawaii Chinese Cabbage
Monthly Production, 2007 – 2008**



Acreage, average yield, sales, and average farm price, September 2008, State of Hawaii.

Crop	Total acres on Oct. 1	September 2008				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	17	9	5.1	46	95.8	568	508	-11
Cabbage, Chinese	16	12	28.8	346	42.2	4,734	4,188	-12
Cabbage, head	48	20	24.9	497	30.7	8,180	7,299	-11
Cabbage, mustard	11	9	11.6	104	73.1	1,045	961	-8
Corn, sweet	83	28	4.5	125	62.8	1,879	1,627	-13
Cucumbers	47	26	18.4	478	55.6	3,908	3,800	-3
Lettuce, head	5	4	9.5	38	61.6	469	441	-6
Lettuce, semi-head	7	4	9.3	37	103.3	285	284	0
Onions, dry	30	5	7.0	35	111.8	1,222	988	-19
Onions, green	21	9	14.4	130	127.9	1,100	1,116	1
Romaine	10	7	11.0	77	60.0	866	713	-18

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