



National Agricultural Statistics Service

Hawaii Agricultural Statistics
Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Hawaii Vegetables

Mark E. Hudson, Director

November 2004

Wet season starts with drenching

Hawaii's rainy season (October-April) got off to a wet start as many areas of the State experienced heavy showers during October. The most significant amount of rain fell over the Manoa Valley area of Oahu in the evening of October 30. Rain was falling at a peak rate of more than 5 inches per hour during one 15-minute period. Manoa Stream overflowed and flooded area homes and the University of Hawaii causing several million dollars in damage. No major vegetable farms were affected by this flood. In addition to the Manoa flood, the National Weather Service reported heavy rains also produced minor flooding problems in these areas: October 12 (Big Island, central and east Oahu), October 13 (Oahu, Big Island, and east Maui), October 15 (east Kauai), October 19 (east Big Island), October 24 (east Kauai), October 25 (Oahu), October 27 (east Kauai), and October 31 (central Oahu). Crop conditions varied by location. In general, crops grown at the lower elevations in windward areas were in mostly poor to fair condition. Crops at the higher elevations, including most of the major vegetables, were in mostly fair conditions with some in good condition.

Harvested acreage charts page 2

Year-ago, month-ago, current, and upcoming harvested acreage.

October review page 3

Production statistics and comments on selected crops.

U.S. fresh vegetable outlook .. page 4

September-October review and a look ahead to the fall.

Harvested acreage is expected to increase for most vegetables in November. Double-digit percentage increases are expected for **snap beans** (+21%), **head cabbage** (+68%), **mustard cabbage** (+46%), **sweet corn** (+50%), **head lettuce** (+25%), **green onions** (+20%), and **romaine** (+71%). **Dry onions** is the only vegetable crop expected to show a decline in harvested acreage this month at 14 acres, down 67 percent from last month. ■



Acreage

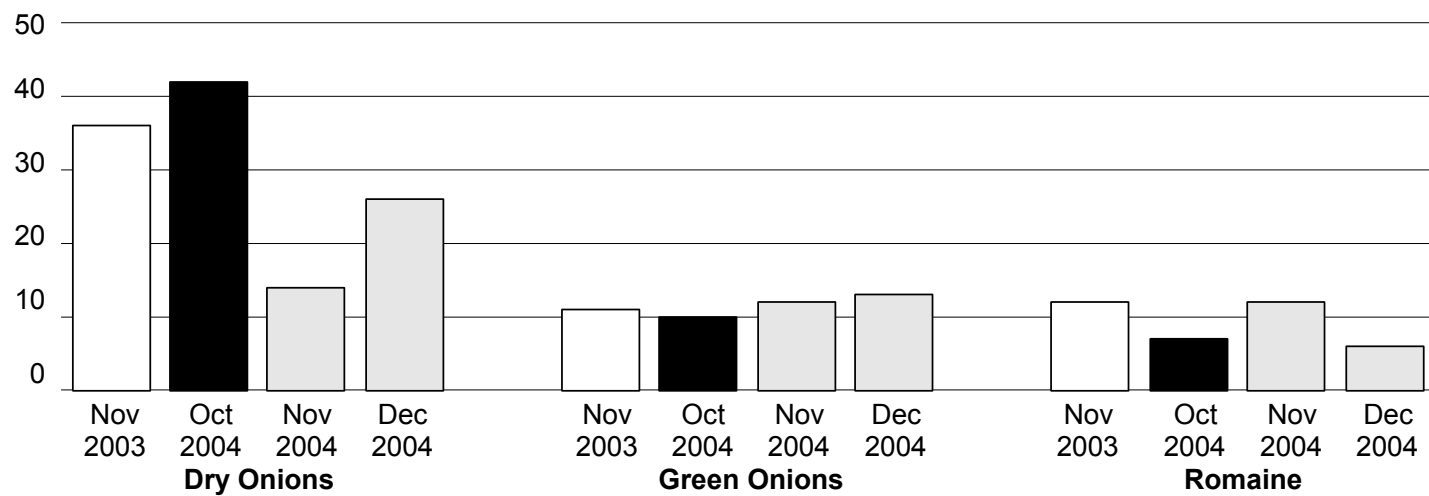
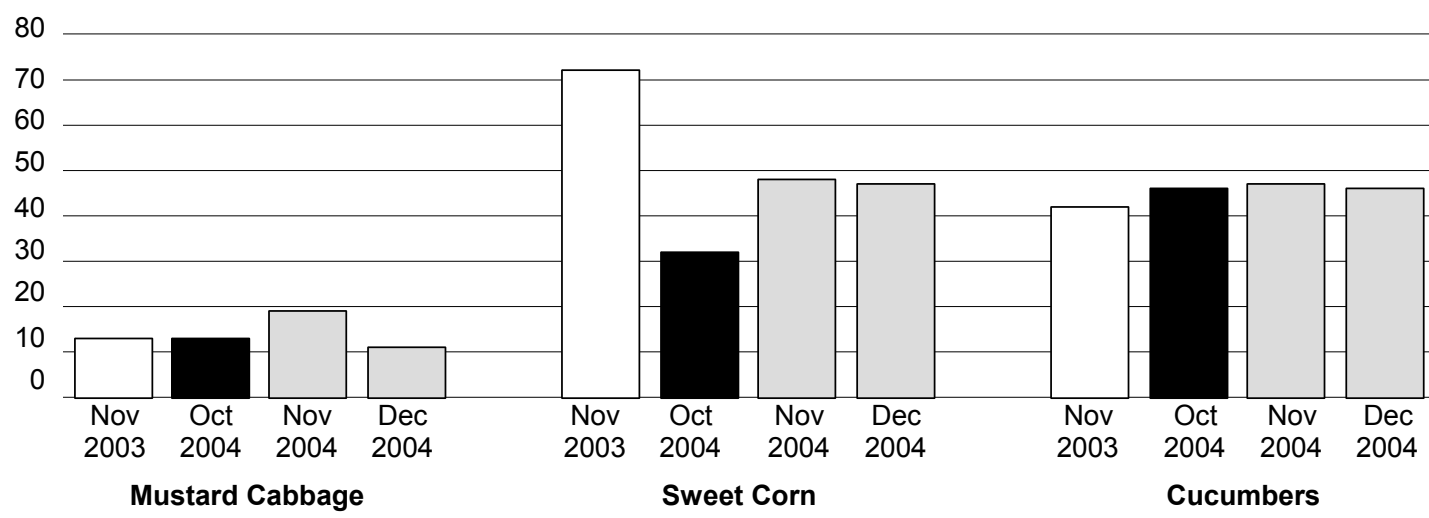
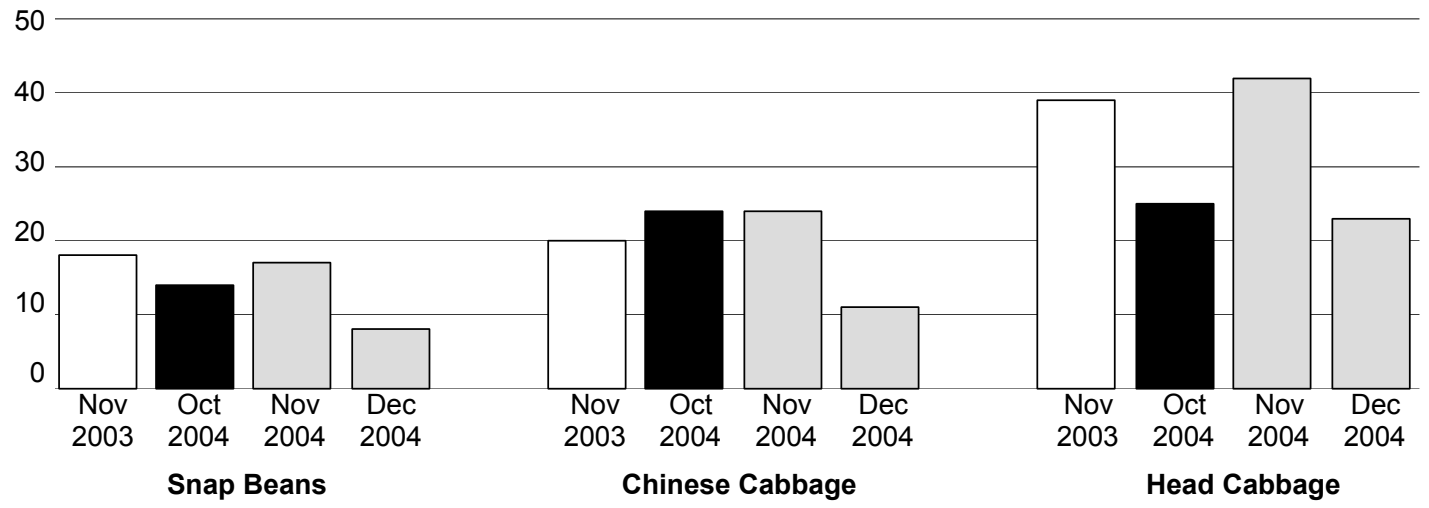
Acres planted, harvested, and for harvest for 11 selected vegetables, State of Hawaii.

Crop	Acres planted		Acres harvested		Acres for harvest	
	Sep 2004	Oct 2004	Sep 2004	Oct 2004	Nov 2004	Dec 2004
Beans, snap	17	12	9	14	17	8
Cabbage, Chinese	21	22	25	24	24	11
Cabbage, head	39	39	27	25	42	23
Cabbage, mustard	13	22	12	13	19	11
Corn, sweet	42	45	36	32	48	47
Cucumbers	45	46	43	46	47	46
Lettuce, head	5	6	5	4	5	3
Lettuce, semi-head	4	4	4	4	4	4
Onions, dry	37	23	11	42	14	26
Onions, green	11	13	11	10	12	13
Romaine	8	14	9	7	12	6

Harvested acreage charts

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

Acres



October review

Chinese cabbage and green peppers hit 2004 highs

SNAP BEAN production is estimated at 52,000 pounds for October, down 46 percent from September. Most snap bean fields were in fair to good condition and are located in areas that did not experience October's heavy rains.

CHINESE CABBAGE production totaled 500,000 pounds in October, up 38 percent from September and highest monthly total this year as the advent of cooler weather is helping the crop.

HEAD CABBAGE production is estimated at 625,000 pounds, up 8 percent from last month but down 6 percent from a year ago. Most plantings were in fair to good condition.

SWEET CORN production is estimated at 96,000 pounds for October, up 5 percent from last month and down 53 percent from a year ago. Production was lower than expected in October due to the inclement weather. The effect of another round of showers in early

November on the crop is being assessed.

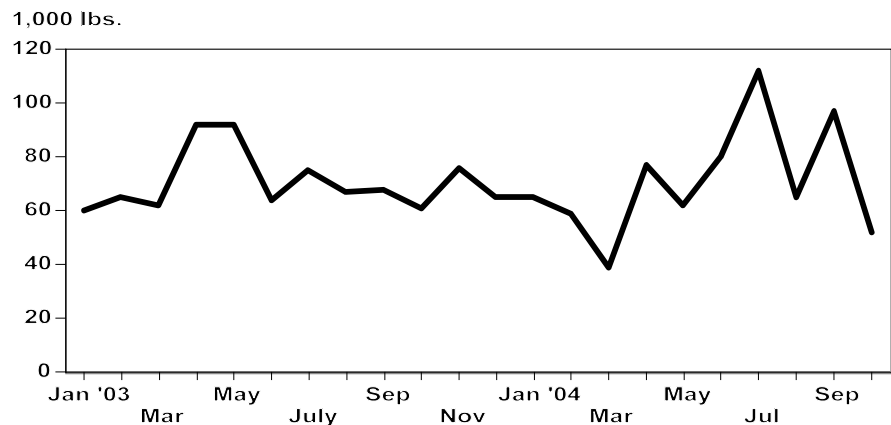
DRY ONION production totaled 171,000 pounds, up 6 percent from September and up 27 percent from a year ago. Overall crop conditions were fair.

GREEN PEPPER production is pegged at 310,000 pounds for October, up 19 percent from September and the highest monthly

total this year. Crop conditions were mostly good as major plantings escaped last month's heavy rains.

TOMATO production is estimated at 1.5 million pounds in October, up 6 percent from last month but down 1 percent from a year ago. Crop conditions were fair to good. ■

**Hawaii Snap Beans:
Monthly Production, 2003 - 2004**



Acres, average yield, sales, and average farm price, October 2004, State of Hawaii.

Crop	Total acres on Nov 1 st	October 2004				January-to-date sales		
		Acres harvested	Average yield ^{1/}	Total sales	Average farm price	2003 ^{2/}	2004	Change
				----- 1,000 lbs. -----	Cents per lb.	----- 1,000 lbs -----		Percent
Beans, snap	25	14	3.7	52	118.3	706	708	0
Cabbage, Chinese	32	24	20.8	500	34.8	5,599	4,289	-23
Cabbage, head	76	25	25.0	625	32.2	10,880	7,057	-35
Cabbage, mustard	26	13	8.0	104	55.2	1,054	1,146	9
Corn, sweet	103	32	3.0	96	66.9	2,108	1,164	-45
Cucumbers	75	46	10.8	499	56.7	4,919	4,637	-6
Lettuce, head	8	4	17.5	70	52.7	707	658	-7
Lettuce, semi-head	8	4	11.0	44	74.7	254	308	21
Onions, dry	82	42	4.1	171	165.2	3,006	1,260	-58
Onions, green	28	10	10.5	105	95.9	1,204	962	-20
Peppers, green	3 [/]	20	15.5	310	67.6	2,721	2,608	-4
Romaine	18	7	17.6	123	51.2	1,528	1,221	-20
Tomatoes	3 [/]	63	23.7	1,495	74.9	14,594	13,190	-10

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

U.S. Fresh-Market Vegetable Outlook

Storm damage pushes prices higher

An unprecedented parade of mid-to-late summer hurricanes and tropical storms brought winds and heavy rains to East Coast vegetable and melon producing areas from Florida to New England, battering crops and early-fall plantings. The result was a reduction in late summer and fall shipments from places such as Georgia, the Carolinas, and the Eastern Shore. In Florida, the storms delayed or damaged fall plantings of crops such as tomatoes, peppers, and sweet corn, requiring replanting of crops in many areas. Special conditional Federal disaster relief was authorized and announced for specialty crop growers suffering storm losses.

With market volume lower, prices moved higher for some fresh-market vegetables in late September and October. Shipping-point prices rose above month-earlier and year-earlier-levels for crops such as tomatoes, bell peppers, snap beans, cucumbers, and squash.

Prices for other crops largely produced in California such as celery, cauliflower, and head lettuce were not directly affected by the series of storms in the East, although demand may have been temporarily diminished by the storm's impact on consumers. Except for broccoli, prices for these crops remained within normal seasonal ranges. Broccoli prices were the exception as hot weather and reports of good demand combined to push early-October shipping-point prices for a 23-pound carton of bunched broccoli to \$14.68 a carton—twice the average of the 3 previous Octobers. Despite stronger demand, fresh-market broccoli prices have

already started to weaken due to the 9-percent gain in fall acreage, plus expectations for generally favorable weather which should promote good yields.

Fall acreage slightly higher

This fall (largely October-December), area for harvest of 11 selected fresh-market vegetables (excluding melons) is forecast to rise less than 1 percent from a year ago to 163,900 acres. Fall area was forecast the same or higher for 7 of the 11 vegetables surveyed. The greatest increases from a year ago were for bell peppers (up 11 percent) and broccoli (9 percent), while tomatoes (down 9 percent) were the most notable decline. The decline in tomato area is expected to stem from a 15-percent drop in Florida's acreage, which is likely a reaction to lower prices received last fall and poor weather this year. California, which accounts for two-thirds of fall area, plans to harvest 1 percent more acres this fall. In Florida, which will account for 22 percent of 2004 fall acreage, total fresh-market area is down 6 percent. Despite generally low prices this summer, melon area for harvest is expected to rise 28 percent this fall to 16,400 acres due largely to a 38-percent jump in cantaloup area. The entire increase will come from Arizona where growers plan to harvest more cantaloup (up 66 percent) and more honeydew melons (up 70 percent). ■

Source: *Vegetables and Melons Outlook/VGS-305*/October 21, 2004, Economic Research Service, USDA.