

Monthly Hawaii Vegetables

In cooperation with:



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Mostly Dry Trade Wind Conditions During October

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

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Production statistics and
comments on selected crops.

Light to moderate trade winds prevailed throughout much of October. A few weather disturbances during the second half of the month interrupted this pattern. In general, windward portions of the State received more rainfall than leeward sectors. A low level trough towards the end of October produced moderate to heavy rains over the western islands of the State. This helped to raise rainfall totals along the windward sides of these islands to near normal or above normal levels. Leeward sectors remained much drier. Since most gages continued to record rainfall amounts below normal, water use conservation measures, notices, and restrictions continued in place. Rainfall totals for Kauai was mixed. Many windward areas recorded above normal rainfall, while the other areas had below normal rainfall. On Oahu, rainfall amounts were near normal at many windward sites; with leeward sections generally well below normal. Maui County was mostly dry, except for some eastern portions of each island in the county. Hawaii Island was the driest of all the islands, as every rain gage station recorded rainfall amounts at below normal levels, except for the Keahole Airport gage. Crops were rated in poor to good condition.

The expected vegetable acreage for harvest in November 2008, when compared with acreage harvested in October, was higher for 4 crops, lower for 3 crops, and unchanged for 4 crops. An increase in acreage for harvest is expected from **head cabbage** (+50%), **head lettuce** (+33%), **dry onions** (+117%), and **romaine** (+17%). A decrease in the acreage for harvest is expected for **snap beans** (-11%), **Chinese cabbage** (-18%), and **sweet corn** (-10%), while the expected acreage for harvest was unchanged for **mustard cabbage**, **cucumbers**, **semi-head lettuce**, and **green onions**.

Acreage

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

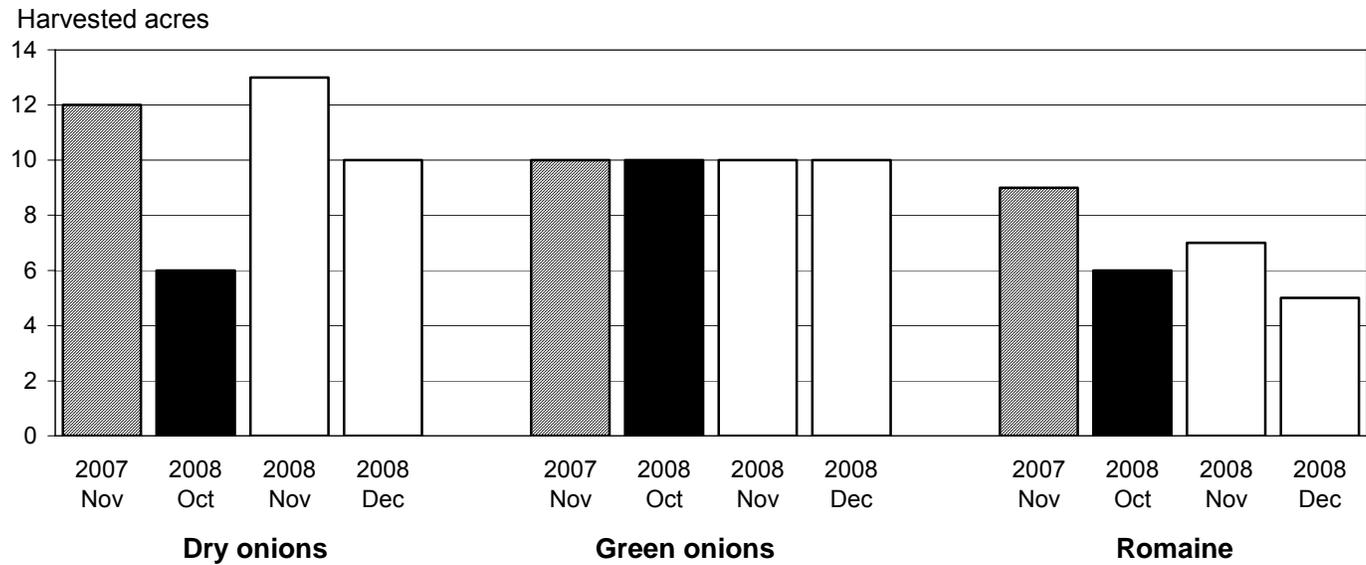
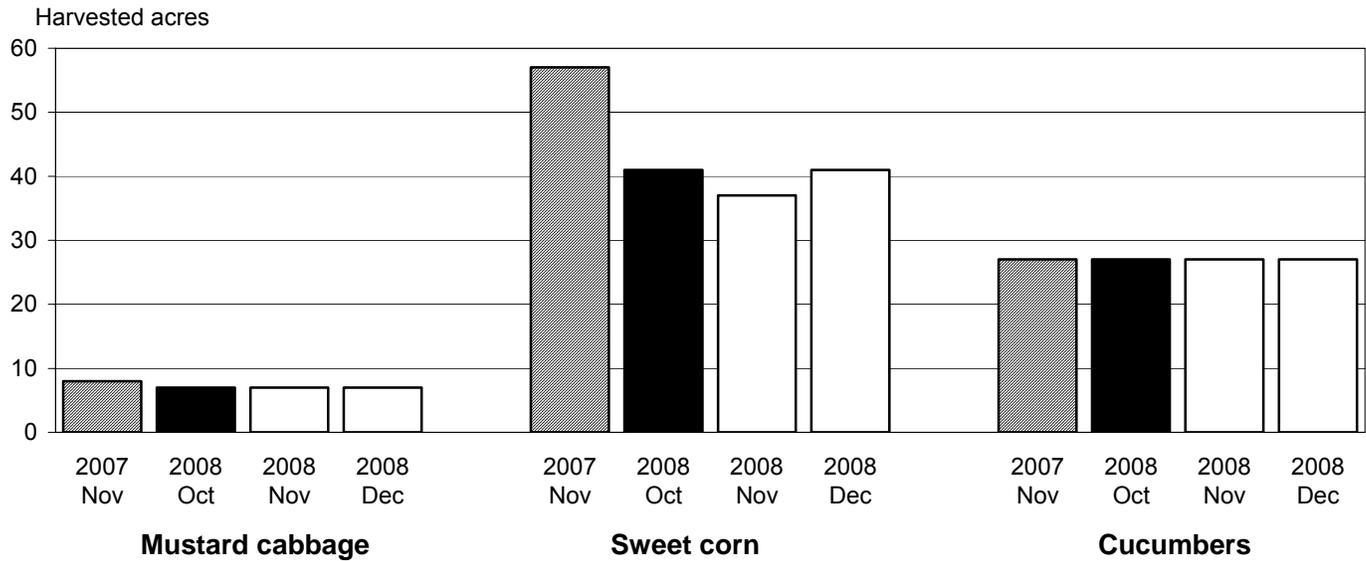
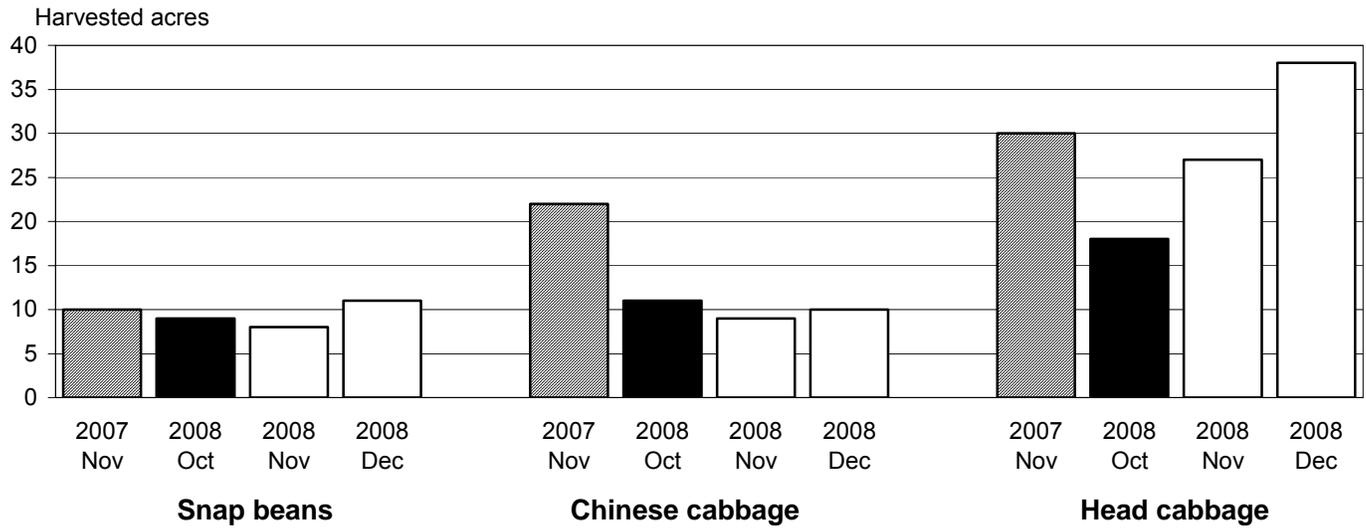
Crop	Acres planted		Acres harvested		Acres for harvest	
	Sep 2008	Oct 2008	Sep 2008	Oct 2008	Nov 2008	Dec 2008
Beans, snap	11	11	9	9	8	11
Cabbage, Chinese	11	11	12	11	9	10
Cabbage, head	33	36	19	18	27	38
Cabbage, mustard	8	8	9	7	7	7
Corn, sweet	37	50	28	41	37	41
Cucumbers	24	25	26	27	27	27
Lettuce, head	3	4	4	3	4	3
Lettuce, semi-head	4	4	4	4	4	4
Onions, dry	5	4	4	6	13	10
Onions, green	11	10	9	10	10	10
Romaine	6	7	7	6	7	5

Mark E. Hudson, Director
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Harvested acreage charts

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



October Review

Chinese Cabbage Production Higher

Chinese cabbage growers produced 516,000 pounds during October 2008, an increase of 49 percent and 2 percent from a month earlier and October of the previous year, respectively. Improved yields overcame the drop in acreage for harvest to account for the higher production. In general, dry, warm, sunny conditions along with heavy controlled irrigation helped to boost growth and provided for good quality heads. The problems of insect, disease, and rot damages which plagued the crop last month was not as much a factor during October. The crop was reported to be in fair to good condition.

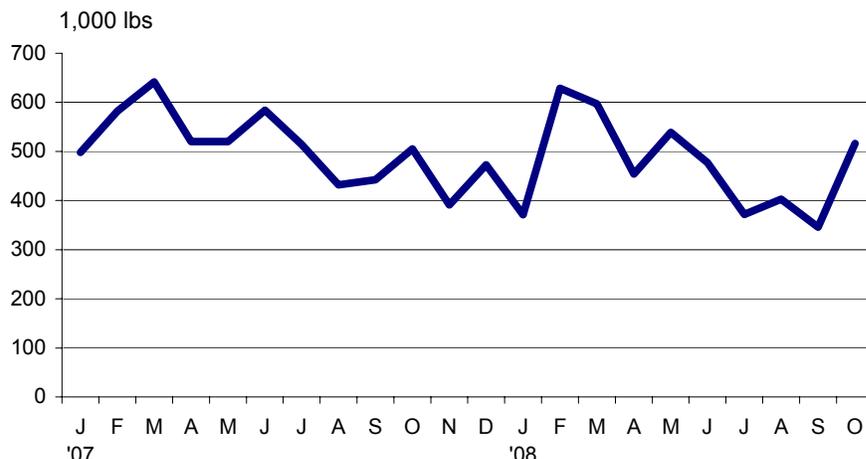
Head cabbage production totaled 513,000 pounds in October, an increase of 3 percent from the previous month but a decrease of 13 percent from a year ago. Improved yields overcame a decline in acreage to account for the increase in production from September 2009. Declines in both the acreage for harvest and the average yield per acre were the

reason for the drop in production from October 2007. Although cooler growing conditions slowed growth, it helped to improved head sizes. Heavy irrigation when possible helped the crop, but non-irrigated fields were negatively affected. Crops were reported in fair to good condition.

Sweet corn production totaled 164,000 pounds in October, 31 percent more than September 2008, but 23 percent less than a year earlier. Lower yields accounted for the difference since acreage for harvest was higher.

Cucumber producers harvested 426,000 pounds during October 2008. This was 11 percent and 17 percent less than September 2008 and October 2007, respectively. Lower yields accounted for the decline in production as high temperatures, humid conditions and moderate to heavy insect infestations were unfavorable for the crop on Oahu. On the Big Island, the sunny, dry weather was generally favorable for growth and development. ■

Hawaii Chinese Cabbage Monthly Production, 2007 – 2008



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

Crop	Total acres on Nov. 1	October 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	20	9	5.2	47	99.2	621	555	-11
Cabbage, Chinese	15	11	46.9	516	41.3	5,239	4,704	-10
Cabbage, head	69	18	28.5	513	29.3	8,770	7,812	-11
Cabbage, mustard	11	7	14.7	103	68.0	1,162	1,064	-8
Corn, sweet	91	41	4.0	164	58.4	2,093	1,791	-14
Cucumbers	47	27	15.8	426	63.3	4,420	4,226	-4
Lettuce, head	5	3	11.7	35	60.8	524	476	-9
Lettuce, semi-head	7	4	10.0	40	104.1	311	324	4
Onions, dry	28	6	9.2	55	114.0	1,477	1,043	-29
Onions, green	21	10	12.9	129	125.2	1,223	1,245	2
Romaine	10	6	13.3	80	62.6	968	793	-18

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

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Season and Crop
Major States, 2006-2007 and Forecasted Area 2008
(Domestic Units)**

Season And Crop	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2008
	2006	2007	
	Acres	Acres	Acres
Winter	179,100	179,600	173,700
Spring	281,200	279,150	275,750
Summer	410,700	418,400	392,300
Fall			
Snap Beans	13,100	18,500	16,200
Broccoli ¹	30,000	28,000	28,000
Cabbage	6,600	6,300	5,770
Carrots	15,200	19,100	19,300
Cauliflower ¹	8,500	8,300	7,900
Celery ¹	6,800	7,100	7,000
Sweet Corn	5,200	8,300	8,800
Cucumbers	6,300	5,600	5,700
Head Lettuce	31,100	33,200	30,000
Bell Peppers ¹	3,000	4,400	3,700
Tomatoes	21,000	18,400	19,000
Total	146,800	157,200	151,370
Cantaloups	12,400	12,100	12,100
Honeydew Melons	3,600	3,300	3,500
Total Melons	16,000	15,400	15,600
Total Fall Crop	162,800	172,600	166,970

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, Agricultural Statistics Board, USDA, *Vegetables*, October 3, 2008.