

National Agricultural Statistics Service

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Hawaii Vegetables

A monthly summary of acreage, sales, and farm prices for Hawaii's major vegetables

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Crop conditions and projections of harvested acreage.

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Plantings, acres harvested, average yield, total sales, and average farm prices.

Spotlight on U.S. bell peppers page 4
A brief situation and outlook report on bell peppers.

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Head Cabbage

Crop condition

Crop conditions were fair to good. Weather conditions were generally less than ideal in November. Cloudy skies, showers, and ever-cooling temperatures hampered crop development. Heavy rains at the end of the month hampered planting and harvesting activities.

October review

Statewide sales totaled 650,000 pounds in November, down 41 percent from October. Although yields remained unchanged at an average of 26,000 pounds per acre during November, total production and harvested acreage declined

due to losses from insect and wildlife feeding.

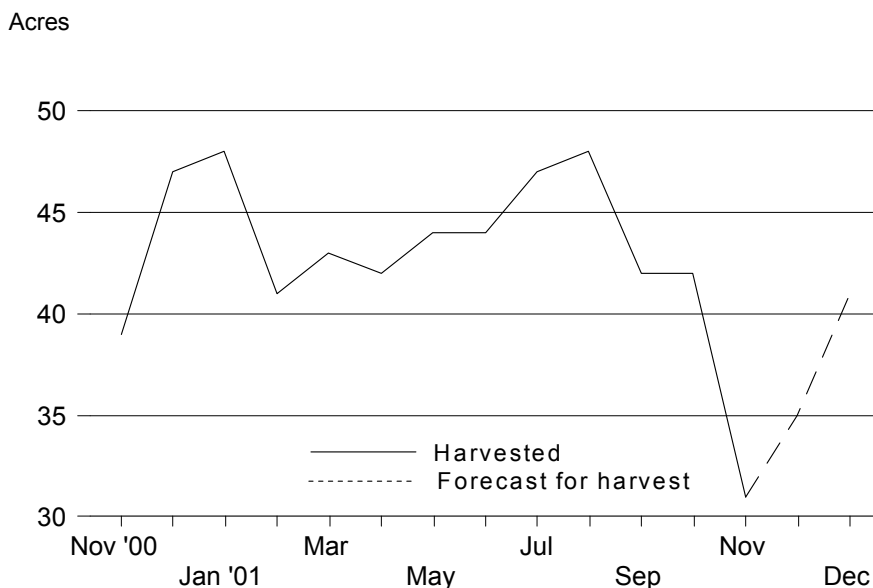
Farm prices averaged 26.3 cents per pound in November, up 16 percent from November.

Outlook

Harvested acreage is expected to increase 13 percent in December to 35 acres. An additional 17-percent increase is then forecast for January of 2002.

Harvesting in the coming months will depend on upcoming weather conditions, but farmers are hopeful for a return to normal yields.

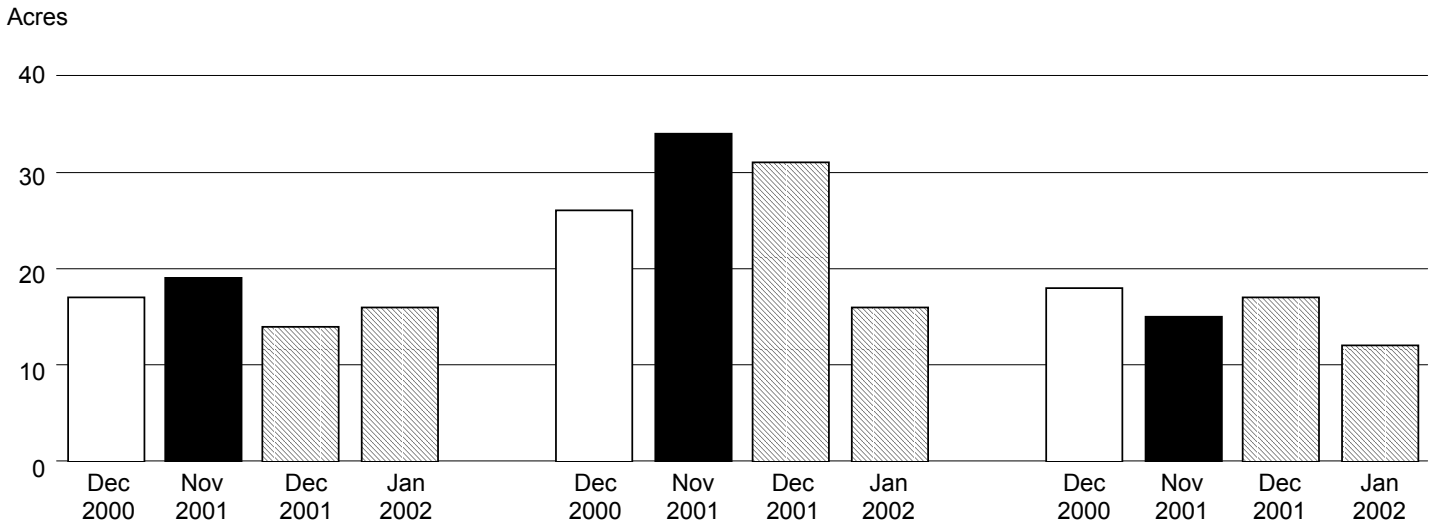
HEAD CABBAGE: Monthly acres harvested and forecast for harvest.
State of Hawaii



Crop highlights

Crop conditions, acres harvested, and acres intended to be harvested for selected vegetables, State of Hawaii.

Acres harvested year ago
 Acres harvested
 Acres intended for harvest



Snap Beans

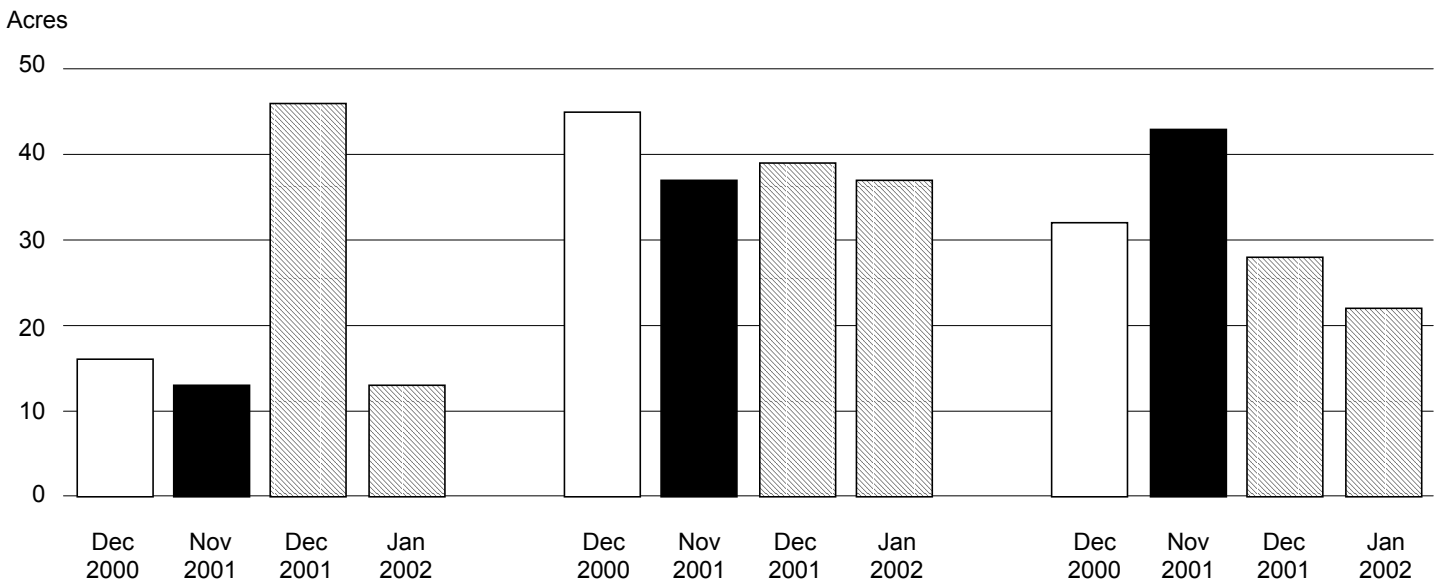
Crop conditions were mostly fair to poor. Increased showers, occasionally gusty winds, and cooler temperatures hampered growth and development during recent weeks.

Chinese Cabbage

Crop conditions were fair to good. Insect and disease incidences were generally light, but farmers have increased spray programs in response to recent rains. Cooler temperatures are anticipated to aid crop growth.

Romaine

Crop conditions were mostly good. Aided by weather and good growing conditions, yields were higher than expected in November.



Dry onion

Increased showers and the continued onset of cooler temperatures were fair for crop development. Plantings will be closely monitored in the weeks ahead to determine the impact of the recent rains.

Cucumbers

Crops made mostly fair progress during the past month. Cloudy skies, frequent showers, gusty winds, and cooler temperatures acted to hamper vine and fruit development.

Sweet corn

Crop conditions were varied widely from poor to fair to good. Most fields were in fair condition. Winter weather is usually not ideal for corn growing and this past month's cloudy, wet weather was not exception. In addition, some fields continued to experience poor germination.

November statistics

Total acres, harvested acres, average yield, total sales, and average farm prices for 13 selected vegetables with January-to-date totals, State of Hawaii.

Crop	Total acres on Dec 1 st	November 2001				January-to-date sales		
		Acres harvested	Average yield ^{1/}	Total sales	Average farm price	2000 ^{2/}	2001	Change
			<i>1,000 lbs per acre</i>	<i>1,000 lbs</i>	<i>Cents per lb.</i>	<i>----- 1,000 lbs -----</i>	<i>Percent</i>	
Beans, snap	30	19	3.9	75	104.2	1,111	986	-12
Cabbage, Chinese	47	34	17.0	575	26.2	6,630	6,199	-9
Cabbage, head	90	31	26.0	650	26.3	13,676	11,588	-13
Cabbage, mustard	16	12	13.7	134	48.7	1,374	1,303	-5
Corn, sweet	55	43	3.3	130	61.6	2,275	1,674	-26
Cucumbers	62	37	12.3	365	43.1	5,233	4,976	-5
Lettuce, head	10	6	10.7	70	43.7	899	841	-8
Lettuce, semi-head	8	5	4.4	21	71.0	310	286	-6
Onions, dry	141	13	4.5	178	111.1	4,179	5,212	25
Onions, green	32	13	7.2	86	94.0	1,359	1,263	-4
Peppers, green	34	19	13.3	245	58.2	2,524	2,840	12
Romaine	22	15	8.6	147	47.2	1,785	1,774	-3
Tomatoes	3/	62	24.8	1,270	55.3	14,753	16,153	14

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

Acreage summary

Monthly new plantings, acres harvested, and acres for harvest for 13 selected vegetables, State of Hawaii.

Crop	New acres planted			Acres harvested			Acres for harvest	
	Sep 2001	Oct 2001	Nov 2001	Sep 2001	Oct 2001	Nov 2001	Dec 2001	Jan 2002
Beans, snap	21	13	19	16	17	19	14	16
Cabbage, Chinese	31	33	29	28	32	34	31	16
Cabbage, head	47	44	47	42	33	31	35	41
Cabbage, mustard	10	11	11	8	8	12	9	8
Corn, sweet	29	32	22	36	42	43	28	22
Cucumbers	37	39	38	36	37	37	39	37
Lettuce, head	5	7	7	8	7	6	8	2
Lettuce, semi-head	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Onions, dry	46	40	50	22	33	13	46	13
Onions, green	14	14	13	12	13	13	15	12
Peppers, green	1/	1/	1/	18	19	19	1/	1/
Romaine	11	15	16	13	11	15	17	12
Tomatoes	1/	1/	1/	54	59	62	1/	1/

^{1/} Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

U.S. Commodity Spotlight:

Sweet Peppers: Saved by the Bell

On any given day, 24 percent of Americans consume at least one food containing bell peppers.

Over the past two decades, consumption of most types of peppers has been on the rise in the U.S. However, after an apparent peak in the mid-1990s, the use of pungent chile peppers in America leveled off, while demand for their mild cousins, sweet peppers, climbed to a record high level.

Bell peppers (green, red, purple, and yellow) are the most common sweet peppers. Among the colors, most farmers harvest mature green bell peppers, but growers receive a premium for a limited amount of the other colors. The premium reflects the fact that bright colored bell peppers are more costly to produce (field losses are higher and yields are lower) than those harvested at the green stage.

California Is Top Supplier

During 1998-2000, California produced 46 percent of the nation's bell peppers. California's shipping season runs from April to December, with peak volume hitting the market May through July. Florida is the second leading producer with 36 percent of the nation's output during 1998-2000. Florida's shipments run from October through the following July, with peak volume occurring during March and April. During the winter season, imports, largely from Mexico, provide the only other source of field-grown bell peppers.

Excerpt from *Agricultural Outlook/December 2001*, Economic Research Service, USDA. Visit their website: www.ers.usda.gov for the complete text.

Per Capita Use of Bell Peppers Rises

On a per-capita basis, Americans consumed about 8 pounds of bell peppers in 2000 - 80 percent higher than in 1990. Factors contributing to the increasing popularity of bell peppers include: the widening range of foods that use bell peppers as an ingredient, increased away-from-home dining, increased recognition of the nutritional value of vegetables in general, and the increased diversity in the nation's population. ▲

U.S. Bell Peppers Ring Up Increases in Per Capita Use

