



USDA, Hawaii Field Office

In cooperation with:



Agricultural Development Division

Monthly Hawaii Vegetables

December 13, 2005

Harvested acreage steady or higher for most vegetables

Relatively stable weather enabled Hawaii's vegetable and melon crops to make fair progress during November. The first half the month was characterized by moderate trade winds which brought in some moderate to heavy showers in windward areas. The trade winds dissipated in the second half of the month, but a couple of cold fronts pushed through the State and generated additional showers; mainly to Maui and Oahu. The National Weather Service pointed out that the November 23 front marked the first cold front of the 2005/06 wet season and its occurrence was about one month later than normal. The advent of cooler temperatures also benefited most crops. The level of irrigation decreased due to showers generated by the trade winds and cold fronts as well as the drop in temperatures.

Harvested acreage for most vegetables will remain steady or show an increase in December. **Romaine** is anticipated to show the largest percentage increase in harvested acreage going from 7 acres in November to 15 acres in December, up 114 percent. Other vegetables expected to show an increase in harvested acreage during December are: **head cabbage** (+66%), **head lettuce** (+29%), **dry onions** (+32%), and **green onions** (+22%). Harvested acreage will remain steady for **snap beans, mustard cabbages, cucumbers, and semi-head lettuce**. **Chinese cabbage** (-11%) and **sweet corn** (-26%) are the only vegetables expected to show a decrease in harvested acreage this month. ■

Harvested acreage chrs..... page 2
Year-ago, month-ago, current, and upcoming harvested acreage.

November Review..... page 3
Production statistics and comments on selected crops.

Acreage

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

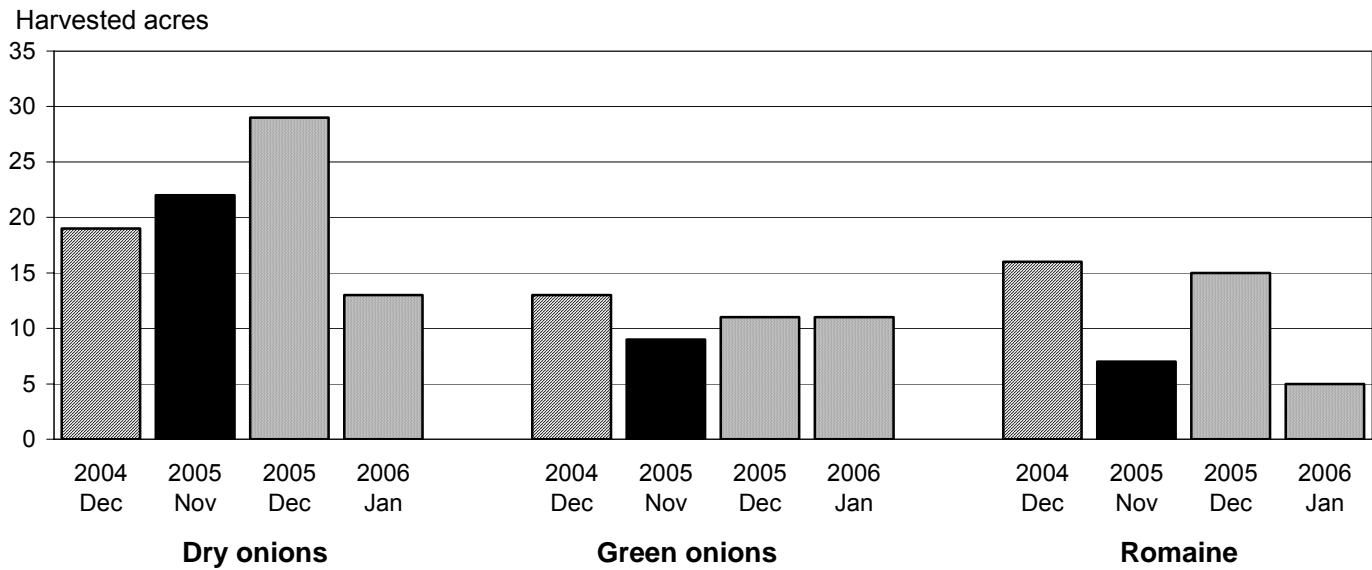
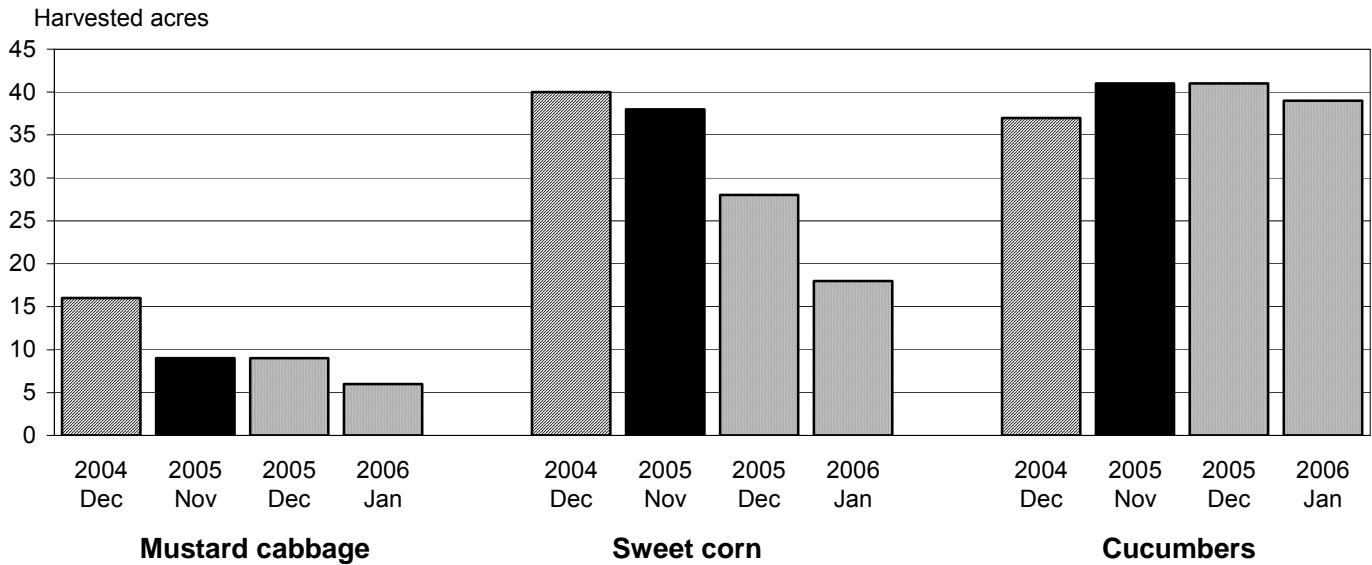
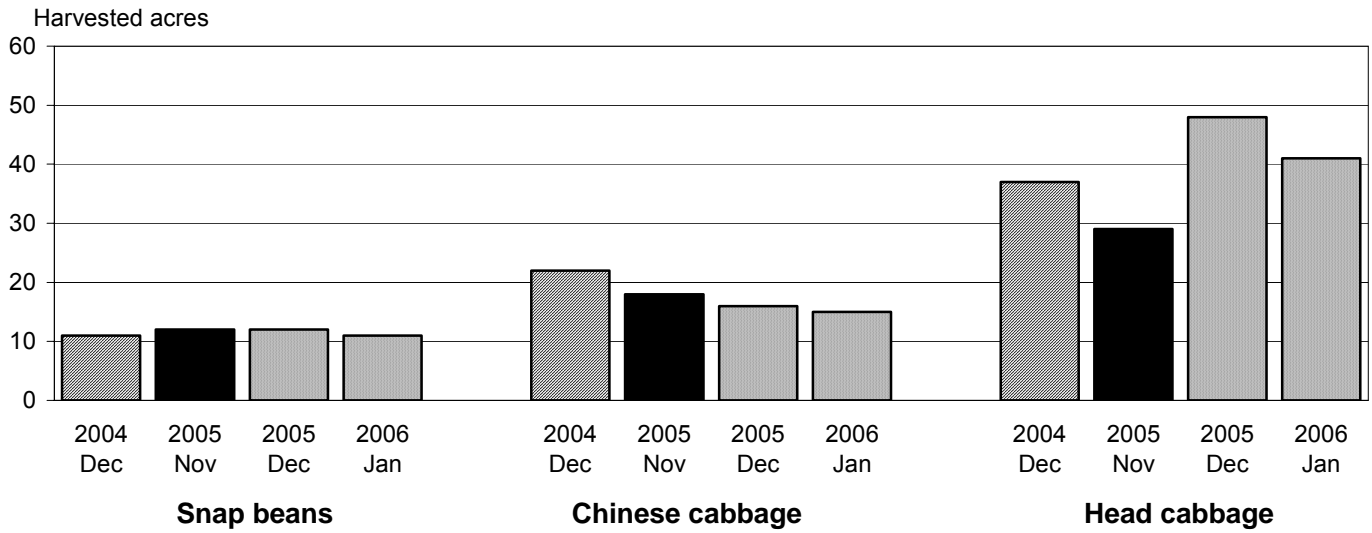
Crop	Acres planted		Acres harvested		Acres for harvest	
	Oct 2005	Nov 2005	Oct 2005	Nov 2005	Dec 2005	Jan 2006
Beans, snap	46	13	10	12	12	11
Cabbage, Chinese	22	19	18	18	16	15
Cabbage, head	48	47	22	29	48	41
Cabbage, mustard	9	9	7	9	9	6
Corn, sweet	30	11	48	38	28	18
Cucumbers	41	39	40	41	41	39
Lettuce, head	9	8	7	7	9	7
Lettuce, semi-head	5	4	5	5	5	4
Onions, dry	12	10	32	22	29	13
Onions, green	10	10	9	9	11	11
Romaine	10	14	8	7	15	8

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Harvested acreage charts

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



November Review

Production Higher For Most Cool-Weather Vegetables

Chinese cabbage production totaled 480,000 pounds in November, up 16 percent from the previous month. Crop conditions were generally good to fair. Disease and insect damage were relatively light.

Head cabbage farmers harvested 770,000 pounds in November, up 51 percent from October and 10 percent more than a year ago. Crop progress was variable among the islands depending on weather conditions. Overall, the crop was in fair to good condition.

Sweet corn production is estimated at 117,000 pounds for November, down 20 percent from October. Although helped by Thanksgiving sales, corn production normally declines in the winter months due to shorter daylight hours and cooler temperatures.

Cucumber growers picked 544,000 pounds in November, down 4 percent from October, but 46 percent higher than a year ago. Weather conditions were mixed for cucumbers as periodic heavy rains

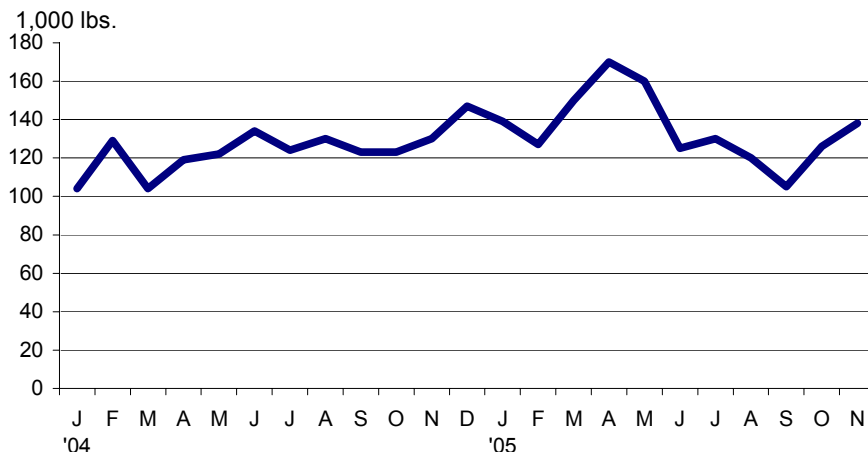
and cloudy skies slowed growth. Light winds during the second half of month aided growth.

Dry onion production totaled 130,000 pounds in November, down 45 percent from October and 38 percent less than a year ago. Part of the reason for the decline in output was that some growers abandoned fields. Overall, onion plantings were

in fair condition.

Tomato production is estimated at 1.1 million pounds for November, up 8 percent from October and 5 percent more than a year ago. The bulk of production is of field-grown tomatoes which were in generally fair to good condition at the end of November. ■

**Hawaii Romaine
Monthly Production, 2004 – 2005**



Acreage, average yield, sales, and average farm price, November 2005, State of Hawaii.

Crop	Total acres on Dec. 1	November 2005				January-to-date sales		
		Acres harvested	Average yield ^{1/}	Total sales	Average farm price	2004 ^{2/}	2005	Change
		----- 1,000 lbs. -----		Cents per lb.		----- 1,000 lbs. -----		Percent
Beans, snap	22	12	3.6	43	98.2	778	598	-23
Cabbage, Chinese	31	18	26.7	480	31.9	4,719	5,116	8
Cabbage, head	106	29	26.6	770	31.5	7,547	8,548	13
Cabbage, mustard	13	9	12.9	116	52.7	1,274	1,271	0
Corn, sweet	49	38	3.1	117	62.0	1,316	1,487	13
Cucumbers	71	41	13.3	544	43.9	5,010	5,129	2
Lettuce, head	10	7	8.6	60	58.5	718	647	-10
Lettuce, semi-head	8	5	6.4	32	83.6	343	302	-12
Onions, dry	62	22	5.9	130	163.6	1,470	2,219	51
Onions, green	25	9	12.9	116	95.3	1,058	1,106	5
Peppers, green	^{3/}	20	12.7	253	65.0	2,812	2,714	-3
Romaine	20	7	19.7	138	63.8	1,342	1,490	11
Tomatoes	^{3/}	77	14.8	1,137	65.4	14,268	12,626	-12

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