

Monthly Hawaii Vegetables

In cooperation with:



March 12, 2009

Wet Winter-Like Conditions, Second Half Of November

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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.

November began with mostly dry, stable tradewind-type conditions. A Kona low briefly interrupted this pattern by distributing some heavy rains, mostly over the Big Island towards mid-month. However, conditions changed during the second half of the month as the atmosphere around the State became unstable with the passages of shear lines, an upper level trough, and a Kona low. This produced an increase in rainfall and much wetter conditions. In general, the smaller islands received more precipitation than the island of Hawaii. As a percentage of normal, rainfall amounts were greatest on Kauai the northern most island. Rainfall percentage declined as you moved southward to the island of Hawaii, which was the driest. Water conservation measures, notices, and restrictions continued in place. Rainfall totals for Kauai was mixed. Most locations recorded near to above normal rainfall, while the north-northeast sector had below normal rainfall. On Oahu, rainfall amounts were nearest normal along many windward sites, while most leeward sections were below normal. In general, both Maui County and Hawaii County were dry, with below normal rainfall levels. Crops were rated in poor to good condition.

The expected vegetable acreage for harvest in December 2008, when compared with acreage harvested in November, was higher for 8 crops, lower for 2 crops, and unchanged for 1 crop. An increase in acreage for harvest is expected from **snap beans** (+38%), **Chinese cabbage** (+44%), **head cabbage** (+37%), **mustard cabbage** (+29%), **sweet corn** (+14%), **cucumbers** (+8%), **green onions** (+10%), and **romaine** (+17%). A decrease in the acreage for harvest is expected for **head lettuce** (-25%), and **dry onions** (-17%), while the expected acreage for harvest was unchanged for **semi-head lettuce**.

Acreage

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

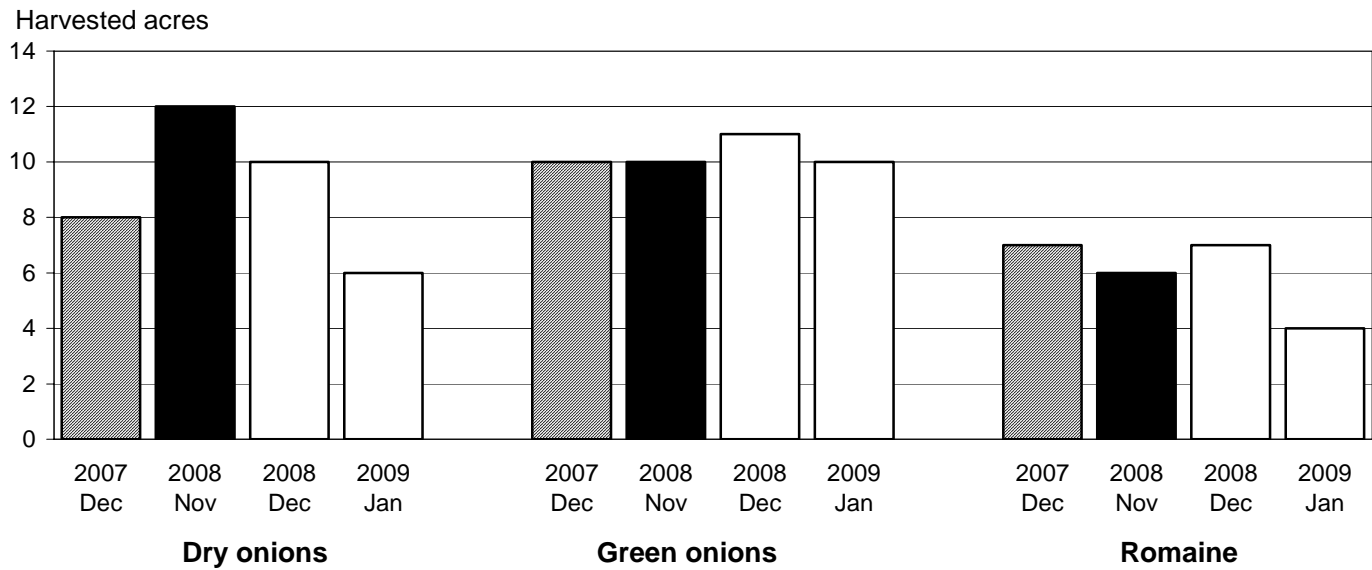
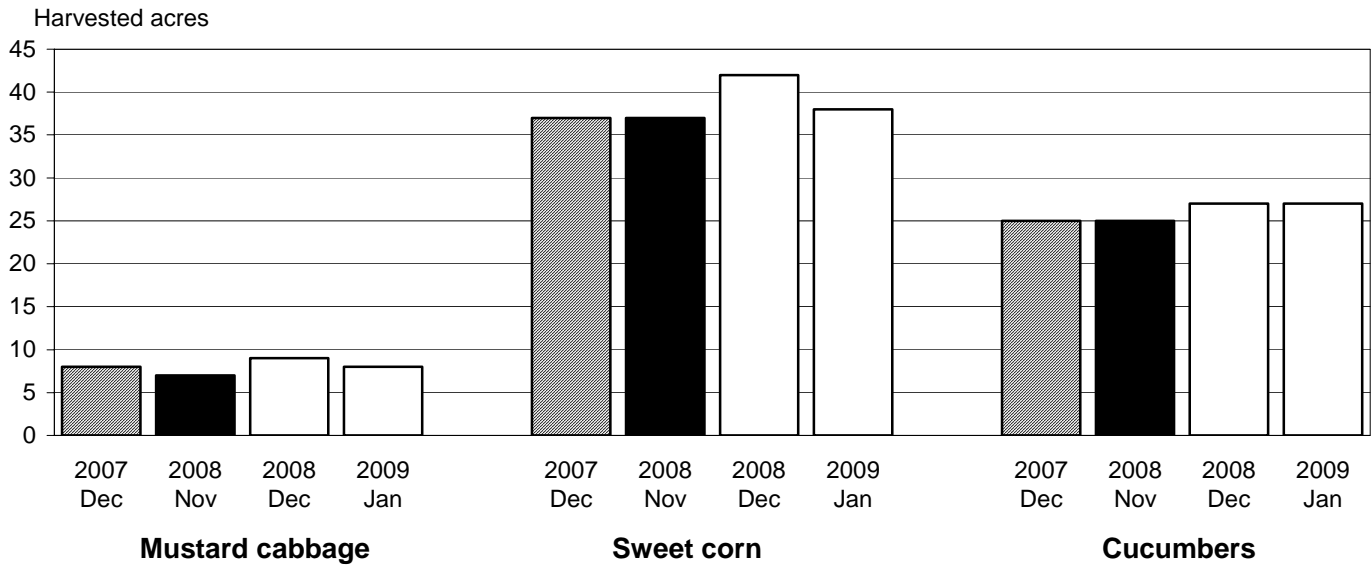
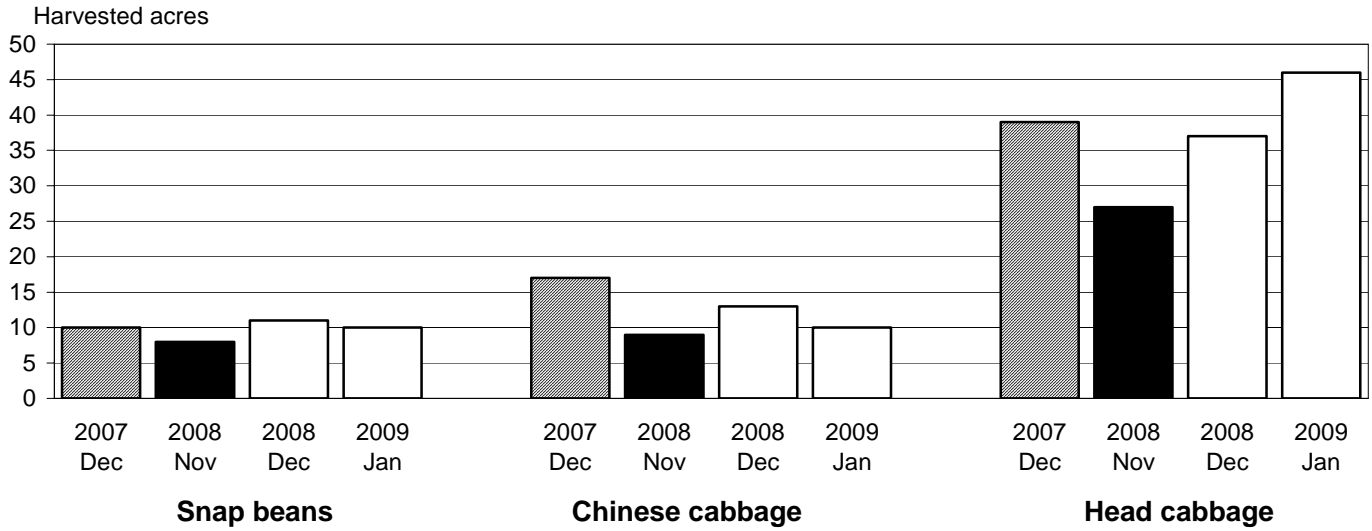
Crop	Acres planted		Acres harvested		Acres for harvest	
	Oct 2008	Nov 2008	Oct 2008	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009
Beans, snap	11	10	9	8	11	10
Cabbage, Chinese	12	11	11	9	13	10
Cabbage, head	41	42	18	27	37	46
Cabbage, mustard	8	8	7	7	9	8
Corn, sweet	50	41	41	37	42	38
Cucumbers	25	27	27	25	27	27
Lettuce, head	4	3	3	4	3	3
Lettuce, semi-head	4	4	4	4	4	4
Onions, dry	4	51	6	12	10	6
Onions, green	10	10	10	10	11	10
Romaine	6	6	6	6	7	4

Mark E. Hudson, Director
King Whetstone, Deputy Director

Nils Morita, Research Statistician

Harvested acreage charts

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



November Review

Head Cabbage Production Up

Chinese cabbage growers produced 388,000 pounds during November 2008, a decrease of 25 percent and 1 percent from October 2008 and November 2007, respectively. Less acreage for harvest was the main factor for the drop in production. In general, dry conditions and cooler temperatures helped to improve crop condition, which was rated fair to good.

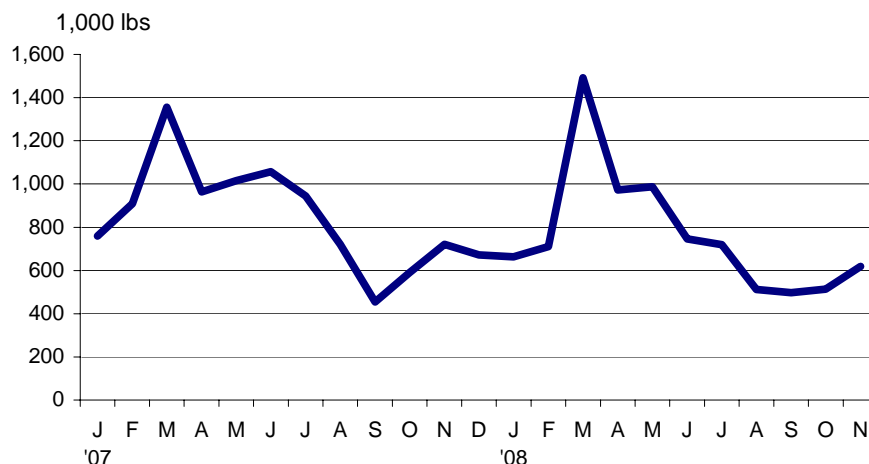
Head cabbage producers harvested an estimated 619,000 pounds in November, an increase of 21 percent from the previous month, but a decrease of 14 percent from a year earlier. A large increase in acreage for harvest in November had offset the drop in productivity to account for the higher production from October. Declines in both yields and acreage for harvest resulted in the lower production from November 2007. Although cooler temperatures helped to improve head quality it also slowed the rate of growth. The improved weather conditions were helping the younger plantings, but crop closer to maturity was not fairing as well. 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 174,000 pounds in November, 6 percent more than a month earlier, but 30 percent less than November 2007. Improved yields offset the drop in acreage for harvest to account for the increase in production from October 2008. Higher yields, however, were not enough to offset the drop in acres harvested, which resulted in the dip in production from a year ago.

Cucumber growers harvested an estimated 379,000 pounds during November 2008, a decrease of 11 percent and 6 percent from October 2008 and November 2007, respectively. Lower yields and acreage for harvest accounted for the decline in production from a month earlier. The dip in production from a year ago was the result of fewer acres available for harvest as yields were slight higher. Insect infestation and inclement weather during the second half of the month were unfavorable for

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



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

Crop	Total acres on Dec. 1	November 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	22	8	4.3	34	123.0	675	589	-13
Cabbage, Chinese	17	9	43.1	388	37.4	5,630	5,092	-10
Cabbage, head	88	27	22.9	619	34.9	9,491	8,431	-11
Cabbage, mustard	13	7	14.3	100	74.0	1,281	1,164	-9
Corn, sweet	95	37	4.7	174	56.3	2,343	1,965	-16
Cucumbers	51	25	15.2	379	67.4	4,823	4,605	-5
Lettuce, head	4	4	9.3	37	59.8	574	513	-11
Lettuce, semi-head	7	4	9.0	36	104.4	333	360	8
Onions, dry	66	12	12.2	146	119.8	1,582	1,189	-25
Onions, green	22	10	11.4	114	121.7	1,351	1,359	1
Romaine	10	6	10.8	65	65.3	1,061	858	-19

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

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Crop, State, and Total
Fall Season, 2006-2007 and Forecasted Area 2008**

Season and State	Usual Harvest Period	Area		
		Harvested		For Harvest 2008
		2006	2007	
		Acres	Acres	Acres
Snap Beans				
FL	Oct-Dec	4,500	10,300	8,500
GA	Oct-Dec	5,600	5,300	4,800
NJ	Sep-Oct	1,200	1,100	1,100
VA	Sep-Oct	1,800	1,800	1,800
Total		13,100	18,500	16,200
Cabbage				
FL	Oct-Dec	900	900	1,200
GA	Oct-Dec	5,100	4,700	3,600
NJ	Sep-Nov	400	500	800
TX	Sep-Nov	200	200	170
Total		6,600	6,300	5,770
Sweet Corn				
CA	Oct-Dec	3,500	4,100	3,300
FL	Sep-Dec	1,700	4,200	5,500
Total		5,200	8,300	8,800
Head Lettuce				
CA	Oct-Dec	31,000	33,000	30,000
NJ ²		100	200	
Total		31,100	33,200	30,000

¹ Includes fresh market and processing. ² Estimates discontinued in 2008.

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