



National Agricultural Statistics Service

Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service  
Hawaii Department of Agriculture

# Hawaii Vegetables

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January 2004

## Rainy end to 2003

Rainfall totals for December was at, or above, normal levels in most areas of the State. A cold front brought some heavy showers at the start of the month. Minor ponding in low-lying fields was reported in many areas although no serious damage to agriculture resulted. The front stalled over the Big Island on December 2 before leaving the State. A second rain episode occurred from December 5 - 7, with the heaviest showers falling over Oahu on December 7. The National Weather Service reported that the maximum 24-hour rainfall during this period was 10.96 inches at the Schofield East gage. Fortunately a period of stable weather prevailed from December 8 - 26 which allowed farmers an opportunity of cleanup and catchup on activities delayed by the heavy rains. The year ended on a showery note as wet conditions returned to the State on December 27 and continued into the new year. Despite the generally wet weather in December, most areas in the State ended 2003 in a rainfall deficit.

### Harvested acreage charts ..... page 2

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

### December review ..... page 3

Production statistics and  
comments on selected crops.

### Long-run outlook for U.S. vegetables ..... page 4

Forecast of domestic vegetable  
production during the next  
decade.

Many of the leaf vegetables are expected to show a decline in harvested acreage in January. **Chinese cabbage** (-23%), **head lettuce** (-17%), and **romaine** (-18%) will show the largest declines while smaller decreases in harvested acreage are expected for **head cabbage** (-6%) and **mustard cabbages** (-9%). Declines in harvested acreage will become more widespread in February as 7 of the 11 vegetables listed are anticipated to show a drop. The only vegetable expected to show an increase in harvested acreage is **sweet corn** with increases of 35 percent and 19 percent in January and February.



### Acreage

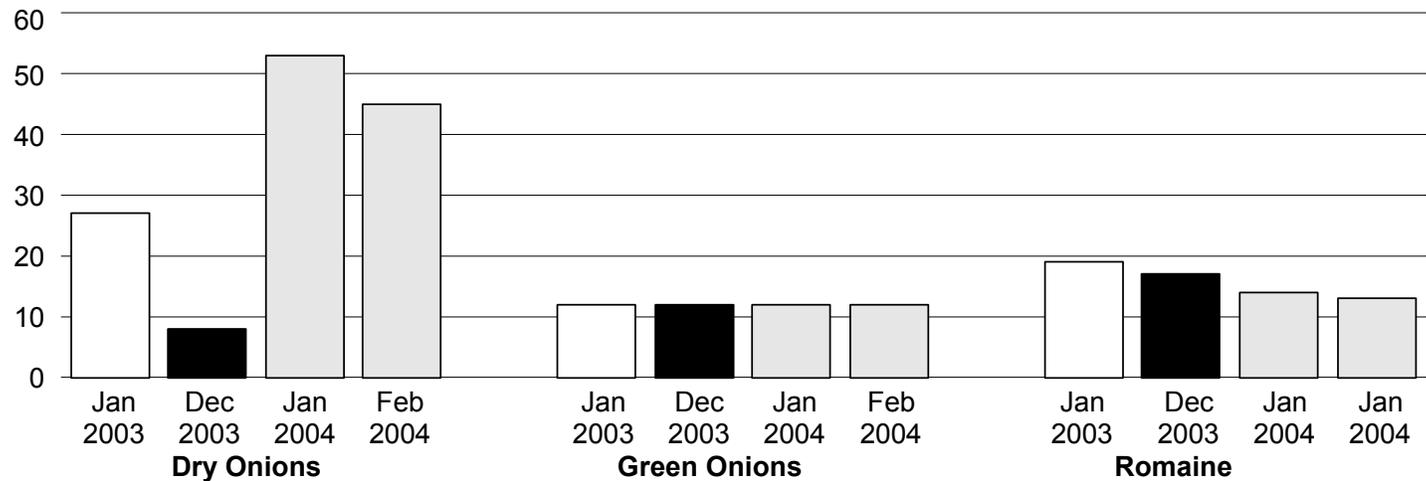
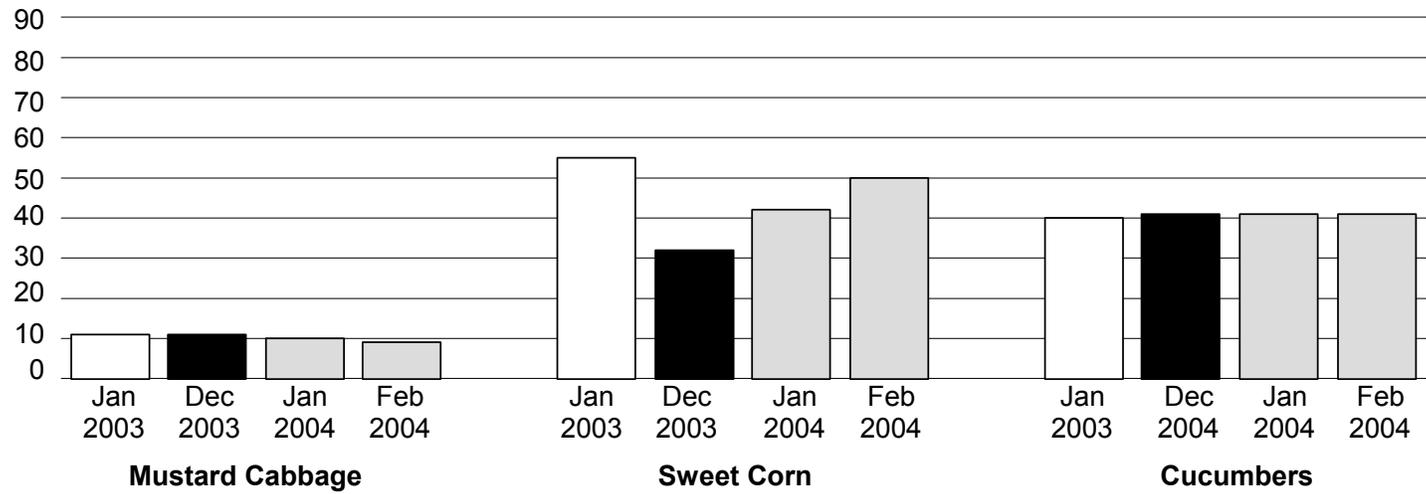
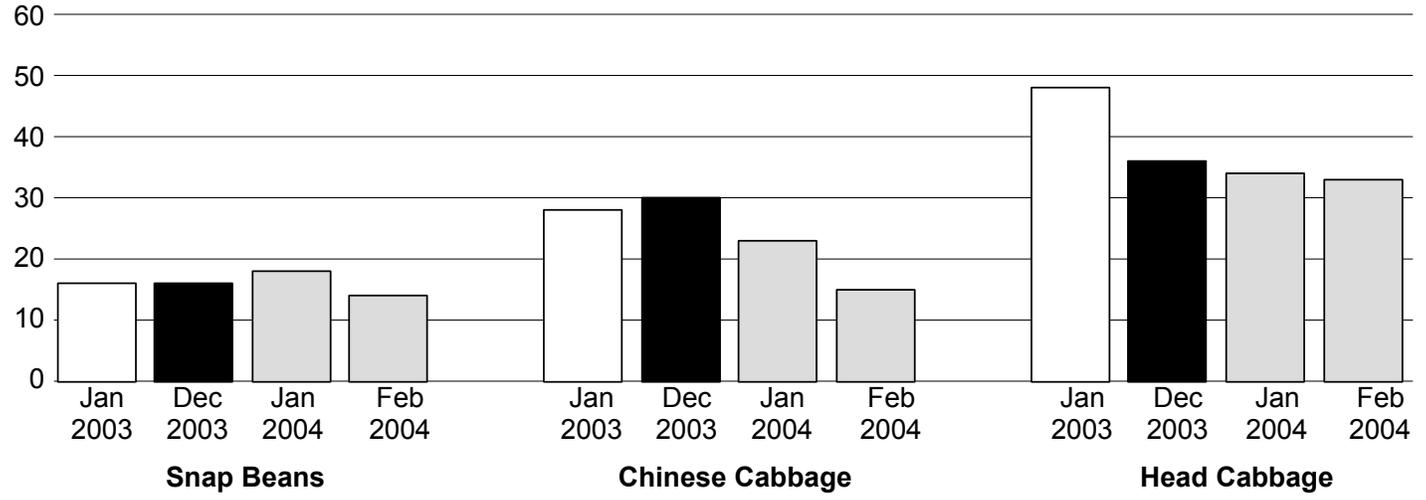
Acres planted, harvested, and for harvest for 11 selected  
vegetables, State of Hawaii.

Crop	Acres planted		Acres harvested		Acres for harvest	
	Nov 2003	Dec 2003	Nov 2003	Dec 2003	Jan 2004	Feb 2004
Beans, snap	18	14	18	16	18	14
Cabbage, Chinese	30	23	20	30	23	15
Cabbage, head	35	36	39	36	34	33
Cabbage, mustard	12	10	13	11	10	9
Corn, sweet	49	45	72	31	42	50
Cucumbers	39	40	42	41	41	41
Lettuce, head	16	6	6	6	5	4
Lettuce, semi-head	4	4	4	4	4	4
Onions, dry	52	40	36	8	53	45
Onions, green	12	12	11	12	12	12
Romaine	18	16	12	17	14	13

# Harvested acreage charts

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

Acres





# Long-Run Outlook For U.S. Vegetables

## Crop Value To Reach \$21 Billion by 2013

Domestic production of vegetables and melons is forecast to increase an average of 2 percent annually during the next decade (2004-2013), while value of production is expected to increase an average of 3.3 percent a year. This would place total U.S. production at nearly 72 million metric tons by 2013, with an estimated farm value of \$21 billion (table 8). All major categories (fresh, processed, potatoes, sweet potatoes, pulses, and mushrooms) are expected to register gains. Throughout the baseline period, potatoes will remain the largest vegetable crop produced in the United States in terms of volume; however, lettuce (all types combined) could pass potatoes in terms of crop value towards the end of the baseline period. Assuming demand for potatoes and potato products recovers from the lull of recent years, potatoes should account for over one-third of total vegetable tonnage and 16 percent of total forecast farm value of vegetables in 2013. Fresh market vegetables (excludes fresh-market potatoes, sweet potatoes, and mushrooms) will also account for over one-third of total tonnage and are forecast to account for 65 percent of the total farm value of all vegetables in 2013. Lettuce and tomatoes should continue to be the top two crops in the fresh-market category in terms of farm value.

Farm value for fresh vegetables is forecast to increase by an average of 4.2 percent a year during the next decade, while fresh vegetable production (tonnage) is forecast to increase at an average rate of 2.5 percent a year. These growth rates are second only to pulses (forecast average growth rates of 4.9 and 4.4 percent for value and volume, respectively) due largely to an expected surge in pulse production in the next few years. Grower prices for fresh vegetables are expected to rise at a slightly faster pace than in any of the other categories.

As world trade continues to increase in the coming decade, the United States' net trade deficit in vegetables is expected to increase from \$1.5 billion in 2002 to a forecast of \$2.2 billion in 2013. Exports of vegetables and processed vegetable products are forecast to increase by an average of 2.9 percent annually from 2004-2013, totaling \$4.4 billion by 2013. However, imports are expected to experience similar growth rates (average of 2.7 percent/year) as exports over the 10-year period, placing the total forecast import value at nearly \$6.7 billion in 2013.

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Source: *Vegetables and Melons Outlook*/VGS-300/December 18, 2003, Economic Research Service, USDA.

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