

# Monthly Hawaii Vegetables

In cooperation with:



**March 25, 2009**

## Year Ends With Wet Winter-Like Conditions

### Harvested

**acreage charts..... page 2**

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

### December

**Review..... page 3**

Production statistics and  
comments on selected crops.

Similar to November 2008, December began with mostly dry, stable tradewind-type conditions. However, conditions quickly changed starting late December 10. Several weather events quickly resulted in wet conditions for the State for the remainder of the month and year. Unstable conditions from Kona lows, upper level lows and troughs produced some heavy rains and floodings for all islands. As a result, rainfall totals during December was above normal for nearly all locations. An upper level low near the island of Hawaii produced heavy showers, flooding and road closures, beginning Christmas Day. However, rainfall amounts for parts of Kohala and Hamakua were at below normal levels for the month. Rainfall for Maui County was generally above normal, with the heaviest rains occurring along the eastern sector of Maui Island, resulting in some flooding. On Oahu, much of the rains occurred during the second half of the second week of the month. Even the normally dry leeward areas received heavy rains resulting in floodings. Multiple days of heavy rains on Kauai produced flooding in several different areas on the island. Water conservation measures, notices, and restrictions, however, still continued in place for most areas. Crops were rated in poor to good condition.

The expected vegetable acreage for harvest in January 2009, when compared with acreage harvested in December 2008, was higher for 3 crops, lower for 6 crops, and unchanged for 2 crops. An increase in acreage for harvest is expected from **snap beans** (+9%), **head cabbage** (+18%), and **mustard cabbage** (+11%). A decrease in the acreage for harvest is expected for Chinese **cabbage** (-15%), **sweet corn** (-5%), **cucumbers** (-17%), **dry onions** (-14%), **green onions** (-10%), and **romaine** (-29%), while the expected acreage for harvest was unchanged for **head lettuce** and **semi-**

## Acreage

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

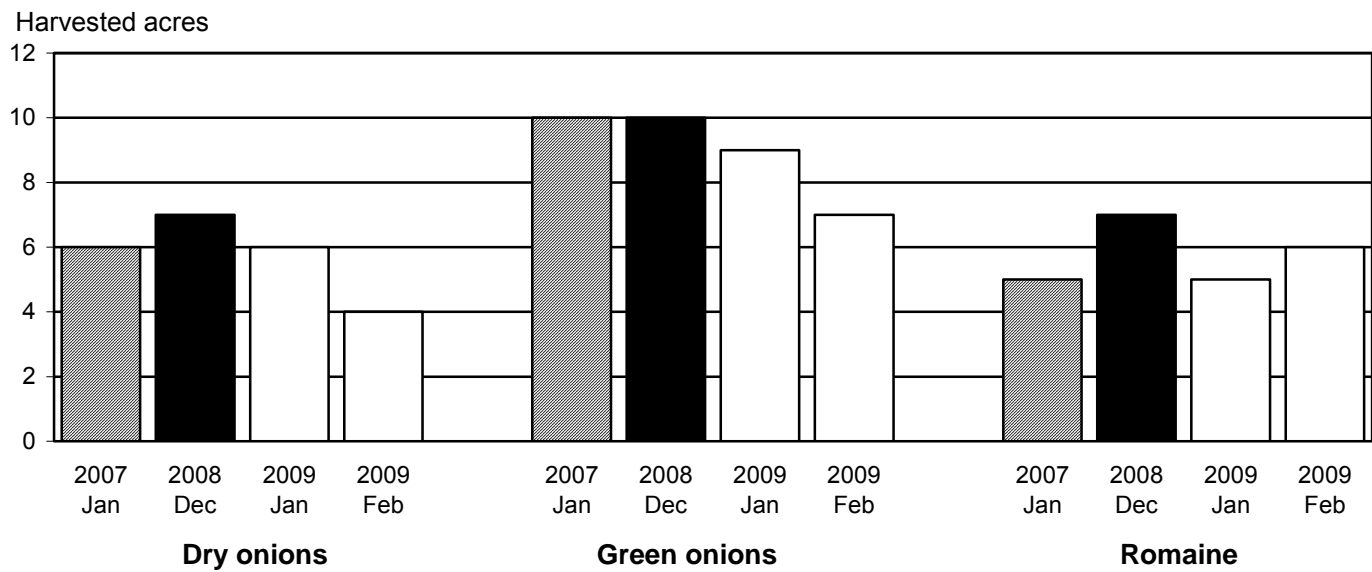
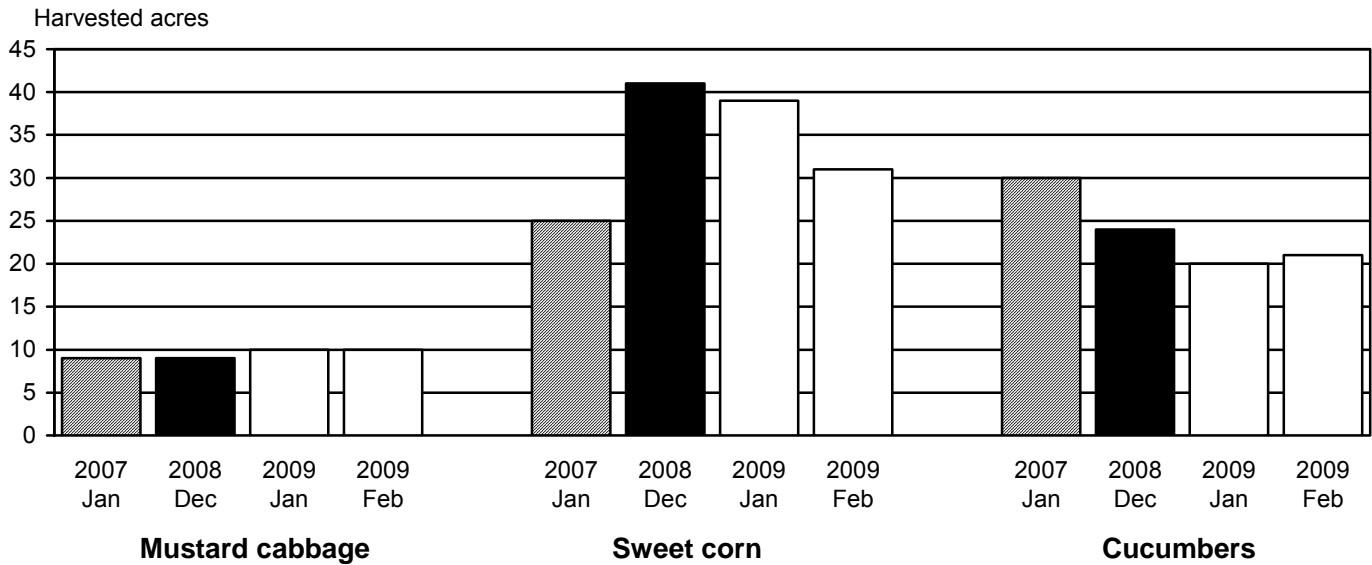
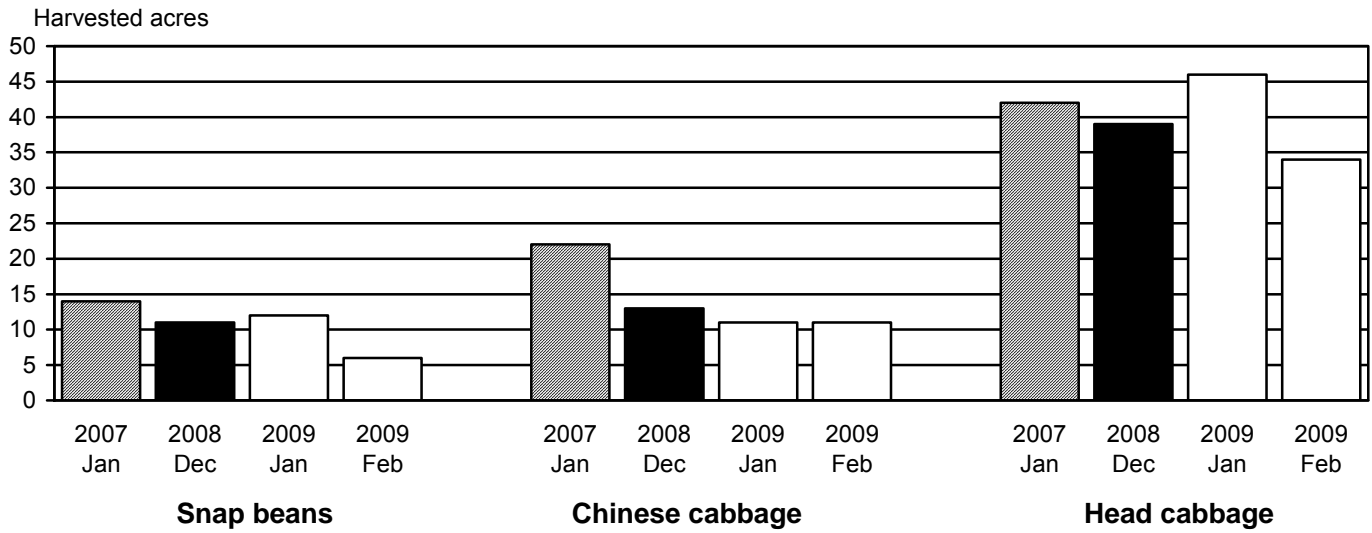
Crop	Acres planted		Acres harvested		Acres for harvest	
	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009
Beans, snap	10	8	8	11	12	6
Cabbage, Chinese	11	13	9	13	11	11
Cabbage, head	42	35	27	39	46	34
Cabbage, mustard	8	10	7	9	10	10
Corn, sweet	41	31	37	41	39	31
Cucumbers	27	23	25	24	20	21
Lettuce, head	3	3	4	3	3	3
Lettuce, semi-head	4	4	4	4	4	4
Onions, dry	51	4	12	7	6	4
Onions, green	10	8	10	10	9	7
Romaine	6	6	6	7	5	6

**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



# December Review

## 2008 Production For Year Generally Below 2007 Level

**Chinese cabbage** production, during December 2008, increased 7 percent from the previous month to 417,000 pounds, but this was a 12 percent decrease from the same month a year earlier. An increase in acreage for harvest overcame the drop in yield to account for the increase in production from November 2008. On the other hand, a higher yield was not enough to offset the smaller amount of acreage for harvest and the drop in production from December 2007. In general, wet and windy conditions, cooler temperatures, and shorter days slowed crop progress towards the end of December. The crop was rated in fair to good condition.

**Head cabbage** growers produced an estimated 758,000 pounds in December, an increase of 22 percent and 13 percent from November 2008 and December 2007, respectively. An increase in acreage for harvest from November had offset the drop in productivity to account for the higher production from the previous month. An increase in yields from December 2007 resulted in the higher production

from a year earlier. Field operations were slowed during the second half of the month due to the inclement weather. However, the cool conditions and low incidences of insect infestation have helped with the crops progress. The crop was reported in fair to good condition.

**Sweet corn** production totaled 155,000 pounds in December, 11 percent and 17 percent below November 2008 and December 2007, respectively. Lower yields was the reason for the dip in productions as it more than offset the increase in

acreage harvested.

**Cucumber** producers harvested an estimated 336,000 pounds in December 2008, 11 percent and 17 percent less than a month earlier and December a year earlier, respectively. Less acreage for harvest and lower yields accounted for the decrease in production from November 2008. A slight increase in yields from December 2007 was not enough to offset the drop in acres harvested, resulting in the dip in production from a year ago. ■

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



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

Crop	Total acres on Jan. 1	December 2008				January-to-date sales		
		Acres harvested	Average yield <sup>1/</sup>	Total sales	Average farm price	2007 <sup>2/</sup>	2008	Change
			----- 1,000 lbs. -----		Cents per lb.	----- 1,000 lbs. -----		Percent
Beans, snap	19	11	3.2	35	125.6	724	624	-14
Cabbage, Chinese	18	13	32.1	417	36.2	6,103	5,509	-10
Cabbage, head	85	39	19.4	758	33.8	10,163	9,189	-10
Cabbage, mustard	14	9	9.7	87	79.1	1,381	1,251	-9
Corn, sweet	85	41	3.8	155	49.8	2,529	2,120	-16
Cucumbers	39	24	14.0	336	68.6	5,163	4,941	-4
Lettuce, head	4	3	15.3	46	63.2	603	559	-7
Lettuce, semi-head	7	4	5.5	22	100.5	349	382	9
Onions, dry	62	7	14.3	100	132.7	1,607	1,289	-20
Onions, green	18	10	10.2	102	128.8	1,453	1,461	1
Romaine	9	7	8.9	62	65.6	1,131	920	-19

<sup>1/</sup> Total sales divided by acres harvested. <sup>2/</sup> Revised.

**Principal Vegetables for Fresh Market: Production and Value by Crop, United States, 2006-2008  
(Domestic Units)**

Crop	Production		Harvested	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	<i>1,000 Cwt.</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt.</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Artichokes <sup>2</sup>	1,056	1,188	58,080	57,499
Asparagus <sup>2</sup>	1,125	952	104,074	89,451
Beans, Snap	6,502	6,209	397,611	331,180
Broccoli <sup>2</sup>	19,188	19,766	694,922	708,030
Cabbage	23,886	24,910	386,373	366,584
Cantaloups	20,426	19,294	302,485	370,821
Carrots	24,430	24,565	540,434	599,889
Cauliflower <sup>2</sup>	6,828	6,809	233,413	270,250
Celery <sup>2</sup>	20,011	20,025	408,001	337,649
Corn, Sweet	28,504	29,068	646,374	752,621
Cucumbers	9,700	9,907	238,925	242,375
Garlic <sup>2</sup>	4,104	4,283	169,218	186,826
Honeydews	4,144	3,687	73,517	67,970
Lettuce				
Head	57,474	52,952	1,247,941	1,059,014
Leaf	12,240	11,938	373,692	386,525
Romaine	26,409	25,724	655,533	532,995
Onions <sup>2</sup>	79,638	73,837	816,061	865,442
Peppers, Bell <sup>2</sup>	16,100	16,656	532,799	672,325
Peppers, Chile <sup>2</sup>	3,877	3,520	115,745	91,479
Pumpkins <sup>2</sup>	11,458	10,663	123,519	140,765
Spinach	5,079	5,236	163,952	174,378
Squash <sup>2</sup>	6,266	6,687	173,917	204,283
Tomatoes	33,627	31,137	1,168,693	1,414,131
Watermelons	37,349	39,551	422,546	492,446
24 Vegetables and Melons	459,421	448,564	10,047,825	10,414,928
Strawberries <sup>2</sup>	24,453	25,317	1,751,108	1,884,799

<sup>1</sup> Only includes estimates for the selected crops in the NASS annual program. These crops are not estimated for all States that might produce them. See the 2007 Census of Agriculture for a comprehensive tally of total vegetable acres by State. <sup>2</sup> Includes processing total for dual usage crops. Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, USDA, *Vegetables 2008 Summary*, January 28, 2009.