



National Agricultural Statistics Service

Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service  
Hawaii Department of Agriculture

# Hawaii Taro Millings

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## Taro for poi millings off to slow start in 2002

The Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service estimates poi millers utilized 1.18 million pounds of taro during the first quarter of 2002, down 16 percent from the previous quarter and down 24 percent from the first quarter of last year.

On the production side, yields have been hampered by periods of adverse weather. Hardest hit has been the Hanalei area of Kauai island where flash flooding occurred in November 2001 and again in March of this year. These episodes of flooding caused a set back in plant growth which reduced corm size at harvest. Another consequence of the floods was the unfortunate spreading of Apple snails over a wider area.

Crop progress was also hampered across the State during the first quarter of 2002 by five cold fronts, two significant Kona lows, and a variety of upper and lower disturbances that produced cloudy skies, cool temperatures, and occasionally heavy showers. On the demand side, the downturn in the local economy after the tragic national events of September 11, 2001 have slowed poi sales.

**Monthly Taro for Poi Millings, State of Hawaii, 5-year average, 2000, and 2001.**

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>												
5-year average <sup>1</sup> ...	493	463	498	452	465	476	491	511	504	498	480	509	5,840
2001 .....	525	500	525	460	525	505	505	535	515	495	440	470	6,000
<b>2002</b> .....	<b>400</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>400</b>										
<u>Percent changes:</u>	<i>Percent</i>												
2002/5-year .....	81	82	80										
2002/2001 .....	76	76	76										

<sup>1</sup> Years: 1997-2001.



# Monthly Taro for Poi Millings

State of Hawaii  
2001, 2002, and 5-year averages

