



National Agricultural Statistics Service

Hawaii Agricultural Statistics
Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Hawaii Taro Millings

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Taro for poi production off to slow start

The Hawaii Agricultural Statistics office estimates taro for poi production at 1.1 million pounds for the first quarter of 2005, down 7 percent from the first quarter of 2004 and down 24 percent from the 5-year first quarter average of 1.4 million pounds. Unfavorable weather conditions during the last quarter of 2004 and the first part of 2005 were mainly responsible for 2005's slowdown in poi taro production.

In January 2005, poi millers used 350,000 pounds of taro, down 22 percent from December 2004 and down 5 percent from January 2004. Taro for poi production declined another 3 percent in February 2005 to 340,000 pounds. March saw an increase in the use of taro for poi to 370,000 pounds, up 9 percent from February, but down 10 percent from a year ago.

A strong storm with a slow moving cold front that began approaching

the State in late 2004 arrived at the start of 2005 and brought a week of moderate to heavy showers. Heavily impacted was the island of Kauai where flash flooding put parts of Waimea under several feet of standing water. The Hanalei River also overflowed its banks; flooding nearby taro fields. The relatively wet weather pattern continued through February with significant rain events occurring on January 8, January 29-February 2, February 11-12, and February 22-24. Kauai's Hanalei River would overflow its banks and flood nearby taro fields again during a February 2 rainstorm. By the end of February 2005, most rain gages on Kauai were running at least 30 percent above normal. March, on the other hand, was relatively dry with rainfall totals below or near normal levels at most stations throughout the State. ■

Monthly Taro for Poi Millings, State of Hawaii, 5-year average, 2004, and 2005.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>												
5-year average ¹	464	453	477	443	455	462	478	485	469	482	458	483	5,609
2004	370	360	410	410	390	430	460	440	440	420	420	450	5,000
2005	350	340	370										
<u>Percent changes:</u>	<i>Percent</i>												
2005/5-year	75	75	78										
2005/2004.....	95	94	90										

¹ Years: 2000-2004.

Monthly Taro for Poi Millings State of Hawaii: 2004, 2005, and 5-year averages

