



National Agricultural Statistics Service

USDA, NASS, Hawaii Field Office
Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Hawaii Taro Millings

Mark E. Hudson, Director

July 22, 2005

Taro for poi production down

The USDA, NASS, Hawaii Field Office estimates taro for poi production at 845,000 pounds for the second quarter of 2005, down 31 percent from the second quarter of 2004 and down 39 percent from the 5-year second quarter average of 1.4 million pounds.

In April 2005, poi millers used 280,000 pounds of taro, down 24 percent from March and down 32 percent from April 2004. Taro for poi production declined another 2 percent in May 2005 to 275,000 pounds. June saw an increase in the use of taro for poi to 290,000 pounds due to increased seasonal demand; e.g. graduation parties.

Weather-wise, the second quarter of 2005 started with moderate trade winds bringing almost daily showers to the windward sections of most islands. These showers, however, were generally light and totaled less than an inch. Leeward sections were mostly sunny and dry during April. The overall drier-than-normal conditions that started

in March extended into April with rainfall in locations close to major poi taro fields recording 40 percent to 50 percent below normal amounts. Trade winds continued to prevail through most of May, but at lighter than normal levels. A weak shear line brought some much needed rain to the upper slopes of windward areas in mid-May. It stalled over the Big Island on May 20 and then backtracked over Maui and Honolulu counties in the trade winds. Although rainfall gauges near major poi taro

locations continued to show below-normal readings, the added rainfall did increase streamflow from which taro fields depend on. Moderate trade winds returned to the State in June and were strong enough to prompt the issuance of a wind advisory for parts of Maui and the Big Island. The trade winds did bring in some welcomed rains to windward areas; particularly to the Big Island and Maui. The eastern half of the State continued to experience drier-than-normal conditions. ■

Second Quarter Rainfall (Inches) Totals ^{1/}
Selected Stations, State of Hawaii 2005

Station Name and County	Month			Total	
	April	May	June		
Hanalei, Kauai	Inches	5.97	4.60	5.95	16.52
	% of normal	49	49	92	59
Poamoho, Honolulu	Inches	1.68	0.70	0.53	2.91
	% of normal	45	35	41	42
Haiku, Maui	Inches	3.61	1.74	4.57	9.92
	% of normal	56	44	134	72
Honokaa, Hawaii	Inches	5.78	1.53	1.10	8.41
	% of normal	58	31	48	49

^{1/} Source: National Weather Service's Hydronet system of automated rain gauges.

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
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	280	275	290							
Percent changes:													
2005/5-year	75	75	78	63	60	63							
2005/2004.....	95	94	90	68	71	67							

¹ Years: 2000-2004.

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

