

Hawaii Taro Millings

August 27, 2007

Taro for poi production continue below year ago

The USDA, NASS, Hawaii Field Office estimates taro for poi production at 820,000 pounds for the second quarter of 2007. This was 14 percent below the first quarter of 2007 and 15 percent lower than the second quarter of 2006.

Taro millers used 265,000 pounds of taro in April, a 12-percent decrease from March 2007. Taro for poi millings then increased 6 percent to 280,000 pounds in May. The amount of taro used for poi milling then dropped 2 percent in June to 275,000 pounds. Much of this decrease can be attributed to the detrimental weather conditions during March 2006.

Weather conditions during the second quarter of 2007 were generally dry. The first few days of

April began wet, but the weather quickly stabilized and conditions remained dry for the remainder of the month. As a result, rainfall totals for April was well below normal. Although there were a few unstable weather events which provided some much needed moist during May, dry conditions prevailed throughout much of the month. Since a more stable airmass was in control over the State for much of the month, rainfall totals during May was below normal. A more normal trade wind patterns returned to the State, during June, producing some much needed rainfall to windward areas of the State. However, conditions over leeward areas continued to be dry. ■

Monthly Taro for Poi Millings, State of Hawaii, 5-year average, 2006, and 2007.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>												
5-year average ¹	389	372	390	359	364	370	405	425	415	434	419	447	4,789
2006 ²	380	365	365	300	355	315	350	395	385	405	390	395	4,400
2007	335	320	300	265	280	275							
<u>Percent changes:</u>	<i>Percent</i>												
2007/5-year	86	86	77	74	77	74							
2007/2006.....	88	88	82	88	79	87							

¹ Years: 2002-2006.

² Revised.

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Monthly Taro for Poi Millings State of Hawaii: 2006, 2007, and 5-year averages

