



National Agricultural Statistics Service

Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service  
Hawaii Department of Agriculture

# Hawaii Taro Millings

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## Taro for poi millings increase 19 percent in third quarter

The Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service estimates poi millers utilized 1.2 million pounds of taro during the third quarter of 2003, up 19 percent from the second quarter but down 16 percent compared to the third quarter of last year.

Taro for poi millings showed an increase in each of the successive months in the third quarter. July's total of 400,000 pounds was 14 percent more than June, August at 410,000 pounds was 2 percent more than July, and September's total of 430,000 pounds was 5 percent higher than August's. September's monthly total was also the highest in 2003.

Cumulative taro for poi millings for 2003 is 3.4 million pounds, down 20 percent from the same 9-month period last year.

Weather-wise, the third quarter got

off to a rocky start when an unseasonable low-pressure system northwest of the State combined with the remnants of Tropical Storm Felicia and an unnamed tropical disturbance to produce heavy rainfall over the islands of Hawaii, Oahu, and Kauai during the last weekend of July. Taro fields adjacent to the Hanalei River on Kauai were inundated. However, the waters receded quickly and taro losses were not as heavy as expected earlier. Relatively gentle weather conditions in the subsequent months helped in the recovery of taro fields.

The flooding that occurred on Kauai in July, however, apparently helped to spread Apple snails over a wider area. The snails remained a major hindrance to production. ■

**Monthly Taro for Poi Millings, State of Hawaii, 5-year average, 2002, and 2003.**

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> .....	499	485	516	471	490	499	513	536	516	493	479	493	5,990
2002 .....	455	445	455	470	480	485	510	500	475	475	445	455	5,650
<b>2003<sup>2</sup></b> .....	<b>400</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>430</b>				
<i>Percent</i>													
<u>Percent changes:</u>													
2003/5-year .....	80	76	74	76	67	70	78	76	83				
2003/2002 .....	88	83	84	77	69	72	78	82	91				

<sup>1</sup> Years: 1998-2002. <sup>2</sup> Revised.

# Monthly Taro for Poi Millings

State of Hawaii

2002, 2003, and 5-year Averages

