

Hawaii Taro Millings

December 12, 2007

Taro for poi production continue below year ago

The USDA, NASS, Hawaii Field Office estimates taro for poi production at 980,000 pounds for the third quarter of 2007. This was 20 percent above the second quarter of 2007 but 13 percent lower than the third quarter of 2006.

Taro millers used 320,000 pounds of taro in July, a 16-percent increase from June 2007. Taro for poi millings then increased 2 percent to 325,000 pounds in August. The amount of taro used for poi milling increased another 3 percent in September to 335,000 pounds. Much of this increase can be attributed to the drier weather conditions, especially when compared to the wet conditions experienced between late February 2006 and early March 2006.

Weather conditions during the third quarter of 2007 were mostly dry. The month of July saw many windward locations with near normal rainfall totals, while conditions remained mostly dry for leeward locations. The passage of Tropical Depression Cosme to the south of the Big Island provided an increase in moisture to the island. Dry conditions prevailed throughout much of the month of August. Hurricane Flossie which quickly weakened into a tropical depression provided only some enhanced showers to the Big Island, instead of the much anticipated heavy rains. Strong trade wind patterns during September produced more normal shower activities and as a result near normal rainfall totals to many areas of the State. ■

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	320	325	335				
<u>Percent changes:</u>	<i>Percent</i>												
2007/5-year	86	86	77	74	77	74	79	76	81				
2007/2006.....	88	88	82	88	79	87	91	82	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

