



USDA, NASS, Hawaii Field Office

In cooperation with:



Department of Agriculture

STATE OF HAWAII

Agricultural Development Division

Hawaii

Taro Millings

November 30, 2009

Taro for Poi Production 23 percent Below Year Ago

The USDA, NASS, Hawaii Field Office estimates taro for poi production at 965,000 pounds for the third quarter of 2009. This was 5 percent more than the second quarter of 2009, but 23 percent lower than the same quarter a year earlier.

Taro millers used 320,000 pounds of taro in July a dip of 2 percent from June 2009, while the amount of taro used for poi millings remained unchanged at 320,000 pounds for August. Taro for poi millings then increased 2 percent to 325,000 pounds for September.

Weather conditions, during the third quarter of 2009, were mixed. Trade winds dominated conditions for much of the quarter. In general, shower activities were light and confined mostly to windward areas

with leeward locations mostly drier. Wetter conditions associated with heavier rainfall accompanied a surface trough and tropical storm remnants. During July, heavy rains occurred towards the late middle part of the month with flooding along the windward slopes of Haleakala and the West Maui Mountains as well as Hanalei River on the northeast side of Kauai. Towards the middle of August, the remnants of Hurricane Felicia provided some much needed moisture to most central and leeward areas of the State. Some flooding occurred in Waikane of windward Oahu. However, limited precipitation fell along the leeward sector of Hawaii Island as the center of the remnant passed to the north of the island. Much drier conditions dominated weather conditions during the month of September.

Monthly Taro for Poi Millings, State of Hawaii, 5-year average, 2008, and 2009.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>												
5-year average ¹	351	332	349	319	326	330	374	400	381	400	371	407	4,340
2008 ²	330	285	315	330	315	320	420	445	385	355	315	385	4,200
2009	315	285	295	305	285	325	320	320	325				
	<i>Percent</i>												
<u>Percent changes:</u>													
2009/5-year	90	86	85	96	87	98	86	80	85				
2009/2008.....	95	100	94	92	90	102	76	72	84				

¹ Years: 2004-2008.

² Revised.

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Monthly Taro for Poi Millings State of Hawaii: 2008, 2009, and 5-year averages

