



National Agricultural Statistics Service

Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service
Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Hawaii Taro Millings

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January 30, 2003

Fourth Quarter Milling Down 7 Percent

The Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service estimates poi millers utilized 1.38 million pounds of taro during the fourth quarter of 2002, down 7 percent from the third quarter and down 2 percent compared to the fourth quarter of last year.

Taro for poi millings is estimated at 5.65 million pounds for 2002, down 6 percent from 2001 as a myriad of factors combined to hamper taro for poi production during 2002. Cloudy, rainy weather in late 2001 and early 2002 hampered corm development. Hardest hit was the Hanalei area of Kauai which experienced floods in November 2001 and again in March 2002. While the floods did not cause extensive damage, they served to spread Apple snails over a wider area. Taro Pocket Rot (TPR) continued to be problem, but the University of Hawaii achieved a breakthrough by clinically reproducing TPR for the first time in 2002. Farmers also had to deal with leaf blight and other pests such as crayfish and birds. Finally, the tragic events of September 11, 2001 had a lingering effect on taro sales.

At the end of 2002, taro fields were in improved condition following several months of beneficial weather. The economic effects brought on by September 11th were also beginning to improve.

Monthly Taro for Poi Millings, State of Hawaii, 5-year average, 2001, and 2002.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>												
5-year average ¹ ...	493	463	498	452	465	476	491	511	504	498	480	509	5,840
2001	525	500	525	460	525	505	505	535	515	495	440	470	6,000
2002²	455	445	455	470	480	485	510	500	475	475	445	455	5,650
<u>Percent changes:</u>	<i>Percent</i>												
2002/5-year	92	96	91	104	103	102	104	98	94	95	93	89	97
2002/2001	87	89	87	102	91	96	101	93	92	96	101	97	94

¹ Years: 1997-2001.

² Revised.



Monthly Taro for Poi Millings

State of Hawaii
2001, 2002, and 5-year averages

