



National Agricultural Statistics Service

Hawaii Agricultural Statistics
Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Hawaii Taro Millings

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Total taro for poi production increased during 2004

The Hawaii Agricultural Statistics estimates poi millers utilized 1.3 million pounds of taro during the fourth quarter of 2004, down 4 percent from the previous quarter and down 10 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2003.

The final quarter of 2004 began with 420,000 pounds in October, a 5-percent decrease from September. Taro for poi production remained at 420,000 pounds in November before increasing 7 percent to 450,000 pounds in December. For the year, total taro for poi production is estimated at 5.0 million pounds, up 6 percent from 2003.

Taro farmers faced weather conditions were less than ideal for taro farming during the fourth quarter of 2004 as excessive rains and cloudy skies slowed drop development. October marks the start of Hawaii's wet, or rainy, season and that was validated by several episodes of heavy showers during the month. The worst rainstorm

occurred in the evening of October 30th over Manoa Valley on Oahu. Intense showers caused the Manoa Stream to overflow and flood homes and parts of the University of Hawaii's Manoa campus. Losses at the University of Hawaii are expected to total in the millions of dollars. Heavy rains also caused some minor flooding on October 12 (Big Island, Central and East Oahu), October 13 (Oahu, Big Island, and East Maui), October 15 (East Kauai), October 19 (East Big Island), October 24 (East Kauai), October 25 (Oahu), October 27 (North Kauai), and October 31 (Central Oahu). Wet weather continued into November, although not as intense. Flood advisories or flash flood warnings were issued on 10 days during the month. Farmers got a respite from the wet weather in December when trade winds returned and brought drier conditions for most of the month. Showers returned in the closing days of the month.■

Monthly Taro for Poi Millings, State of Hawaii, 5-year average, 2003, and 2004.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
<i>1,000 Pounds</i>													
5-year average ¹	486	471	495	451	473	476	498	517	497	502	480	503	5,850
2003	404	362	365	326	306	317	386	395	413	469	456	501	4,700
2004	370	360	410	410	390	430	460	440	440	420	420	450	5,000
<i>Percent</i>													
<u>Percent changes:</u>													
2004/5-year	76	76	83	91	82	90	92	85	89	84	88	89	
2004/2003	92	99	112	126	127	136	119	111	107	90	92	90	

¹ Years: 1999-2003.

Monthly Taro for Poi Millings
State of Hawaii
2003, 2004, and 5-year Averages

