



USDA, NASS, Hawaii Field Office

In cooperation with:



Department of Agriculture

STATE OF HAWAII

Agricultural Development Division

Hawaii

Taro Millings

January 26, 2006

2005 taro for poi production down 22 percent

The USDA, NASS, Hawaii Field Office estimates taro for poi production at 1.1 million pounds for the fourth quarter of 2005, up 1 percent from the third quarter.

The final quarter of 2005 began with two consecutive months of declining taro for poi millings. In October, taro millers used 330,000 pounds of taro, down 6 percent from September. Taro for poi millings dropped another 6 percent in November to 310,000 pounds. December, however, saw the highest monthly total of taro for poi millings in 2005 with 410,000 pounds, up 32 percent from November.

Overall, weather conditions were generally favorable for taro growing during the final quarter of 2005. The fourth quarter is normally a wet period and it started-off that way with heavy showers pelting Kauai and Oahu. Overnight showers on October 1 caused flash flooding on Kauai's

Hanalei River which forced the closure of Kuhio Highway. The Wailua River and the Hanalei River also experienced a rise in water level. However, no significant losses were reported. On Oahu, windward and interior areas received as much as 10 inches of rain. Parts of Maui and Hawaii islands also received a lot of rain in October, but not as much as Kauai and Oahu. November, on the other hand, was abnormally dry. Some of the worst heavy rain events have occurred in November, but in 2005 November was a period of relatively stable weather which benefited taro growing. Weather-wise, December was also a favorable month for taro farmers. While the first week saw some heavy showers on Kauai and Oahu, the relatively dry weather that followed allowed farmers and crops a good recovery period. ■

Monthly Taro for Poi Millings, State of Hawaii, 5-year average, 2004, and 2005.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>												
5-year average ¹	464	453	477	443	455	462	478	485	469	482	458	483	5,609
2004	370	360	410	410	390	430	460	440	440	420	420	450	5,000
2005 ²	330	330	340	270	260	280	310	380	350	330	310	410	3,900
<u>Percent changes:</u>	<i>Percent</i>												
2005/5-year	71	73	71	61	57	61	65	78	75	68	68	85	
2005/2004.....	89	92	83	66	67	65	67	86	80	79	74	91	

¹ Years: 2000-2004.

² Revised.

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Monthly Taro for Poi Millings

State of Hawaii: 2004, 2005, and 5-year averages

