

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Hawaii Department of Agriculture

## Hawaii Vegetables

Mark E. Hudson, Director February 2005

# Wet start to 2005

## Harvested acreage charts ...... page 2

Year-ago, month-ago, current, and upcoming harvested acreage.

### **January**

California's winter vegetable review ... page 4 Latest winter fresh market vegetable acreage forecast.

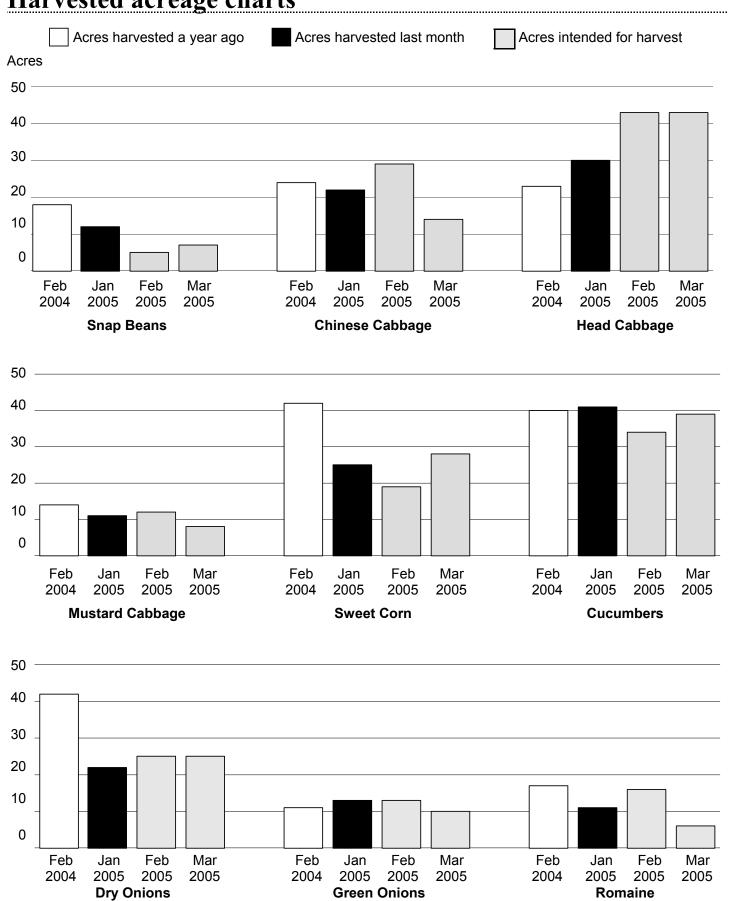
The New Year started off on a wet note when a strong storm system brought moderate to heavy rains to Kauai on January 1. Flash flooding inundated areas in and around the town of Waimea. The Hanalei River also overflowed its banks and forced the closure of the Hanalei Bridge for several hours. The storm system dumped 1 to 3 inches of rain on the other islands on its eastward trek through the State. On January 8, a rapidly moving cold front brought an additional 1 to 2 inches of rain to most areas. This system eventually stalled east of the Big Island and pelted the island's east-facing areas with 2 to 5 inches of rain. A period of favorable weather prevailed from January 12 through January 25 when conditions were relatively dry. The month, however, ended the way it began when another round of heavy showers caused flash flooding in south and east areas of Oahu on January 29. This was followed by a deep low pressure system that began generating heavy showers on Kauai on the January 31 and would last into the first few days of February. Overall, farming activities were hampered throughout January due to the heavy rains and muddy fields. Most crops made fair to poor progress due to the inclement weather.

Double-digit percent increases in harvested acreage are expected for **Chinese cabbage** (+32%), **head cabbage** (+43%), **head lettuce** (+17%), **dry onions** (+14%), and **romaine** (+45%) in February. Declines in harvested acreage are expected for three vegetables this month: **snap beans** (-58%), **sweet corn** (-24%), and **cucumbers** (-17%).

Acres planted, harvested, and for harvest for 11 selected vegetables, State of Hawaii.

Acres harvested Acres for harvest Acres planted Crop Dec Dec Feb Mar Jan. Jan. 2004 2004 2005 2005 2005 2005 7 7 12 7 Beans, snap 10 5 Cabbage, Chinese 21 33 18 22 29 14 Cabbage, head 39 50 38 30 43 43 Cabbage, mustard 11 12 19 11 12 8 Corn, sweet 33 30 39 25 19 28 Cucumbers 43 35 47 41 34 39 4 6 6 6 7 2 Lettuce, head Lettuce, semi-head 4 4 4 4 4 4 21 8 20 22 25 25 Onions, dry Onions, green 12 12 13 13 13 10 Romaine 11 14 16 11 16 6

## Harvested acreage charts



## Inclement weather affects production

**SNAP BEANS** production totaled 27,000 pounds in January, down 62 percent from December. Poor growing conditions during January lowered yields and overall quality.

HEAD CABBAGE production is estimated at 650,000 pounds, down 25 percent from last month. Most of the decline in production is due to a 21 percent decrease in harvested acreage. Plantings at the higher elevations were relatively good condition having escaped most of January's adverse weather. Plantings at the lower elevations made poor progress.

**SWEET CORN** production is estimated at 57,000 pounds for January, down 56 percent from the previous month. Wet conditions and overcast skies hampered production during the month. Overall crop condition was fair.

**CUCUMBER** production is estimated at 192,000 pounds for January, down 41 percent from December. Heavy rains damaged flower and fruit sets

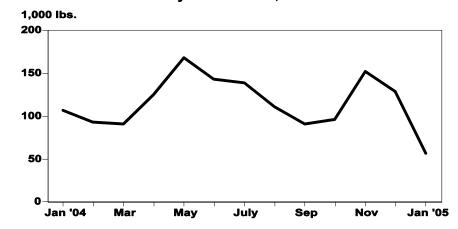
during the month; lowering yields. Most plantings were in poor condition.

**DRY ONION** production totaled 51,000 pounds, down 61 percent from December. Some mature fields were abandoned because of damage caused by the inclement weather.

**TOMATO** production is pegged at 779,000 pounds for January, down 27 percent from December. Field

tomato plantings were in poor to fair condition after last month's rainy weather. The wet weather slowed crop development and adversely affected flower and fruit setting. Some fields were abandoned. Greenhouse tomatoes were in generally good condition.

#### Hawaii Sweet Corn: Monthly Production, 2004 - 2005



Acreage, average yield, sales, and average farm price, January 2005, State of Hawaii.

Crop	Total acres on Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	January 2005				January-to-date sales		
		Acres harvested	Average yield <sup>1/</sup>	Total sales	Average farm price	2004 <sup>2/</sup>	2005	Change
			1,000 I	lbs	Cents per lb.	1,00	0 lbs	Percent
Beans, snap	12	12	2.3	27	91.1	65	27	-58
Cabbage, Chinese	42	22	23.0	505	33.5	410	505	23
Cabbage, head	83	30	21.7	650	26.9	542	650	20
Cabbage, mustard	15	11	7.5	83	53.4	89	83	-7
Corn, sweet	54	25	2.3	57	58.0	107	57	-47
Cucumbers	61	41	4.7	192	53.9	293	192	-34
Lettuce, head	9	6	8.3	50	58.5	50	50	0
Lettuce, semi-head	8	4	4.8	19	80.8	17	19	12
Onions, dry	72	22	2.3	51	164.5	40	51	28
Onions, green	27	13	5.9	77	115.5	79	77	-3
Peppers, green	3/	22	10.0	219	59.2	278	219	-21
Romaine	20	11	12.6	139	47.9	104	139	34
Tomatoes	3/	55	14.2	779	76.5	1,190	779	-35

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1/</sup> Total sales divided by acres harvested. <sup>2/</sup> Revised. <sup>3/</sup> Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

### California Winter Vegetable Review

Broccoli: California acreage is forecast at 29.0 thousand acres, 5 percent above 2004 and 14 percent greater than 2003. Weather conditions have been favorable for early development of the broccoli crop this season. However, in late December, a series of storms brought cold and wet weather to the southern growing areas. Growers have allocated the most fertile fields to vegetables and expect good yields as conditions improve.

**Carrots**: The California crop is growing well with very few problems. High demand for baby carrots continues. The carrot crop is progressing well in the San Antonio-Winter Garden area.

**Cauliflower**: California acreage is forecast at 8.60 thousand acres, up 1 percent from 2004 and 15 percent greater than 2003. Weather conditions have been favorable for the winter desert crop early in the season. No disease or pest problems have developed.

Celery: The winter celery crop for harvest in California is forecast at 7.50 thousand acres, down 1 percent from last year, but unchanged from the year before. The quality of the celery crop is good at this time. However, there were delays early in the season when rain disrupted transplanting. Heavy rainfall in December disrupted harvest and there was some flood damage in the Oxnard area. The excess moisture

has leached nutrients from the soil and farmers will have to take measures to avoid pith problems in the coming weeks.

**Lettuce**, **head**: The California desert lettuce crop is experiencing quality problems due to cold, wet weather conditions. Misshapen heads and ground rot have been reported. Some areas have had freezing temperatures, which are expected to have a negative effect on quality. Supplies have been plentiful, but poor quality has lowered prices causing growers to curtail harvest in an attempt to strengthen the market.

California Winter Market Vegetable Acreage 1/

Cron	Area Ha	rvested	2005	2005/2004	
Crop	2003	2004	Forecast		
			Acres	Percent	
Broccoli 2/	25,500	27,500	29,000	105	
Carrots	19,500	20,000	19,800	99	
Cauliflower	7,500	8,500	8,600	101	
Celery	7,500	7,600	7,500	99	
Lettuce, head	16,000	16,000	18,000	113	

<sup>1/</sup> Usual harvesting period: January - March.

SOURCE: California Vegetable Review, January 31, 2005, California Agricultural Statistics Service.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2/</sup> Includes fresh market and processing.