



National Agricultural Statistics Service

Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service
Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Hawaii Vegetables

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Harvested Acreage Expected to Decrease as Mid-summer Nears

The heavy rainstorm that drenched the State in early May was followed by mostly sunny skies that enabled farmers to catch up on field and crop maintenance activities. A few crops continued to linger in poor condition, but most crops have fully recovered and were in good condition by the end of the month.

An overall decline in harvested acreage is expected to occur over the next two months as mid-summer draws near. Shifts in harvested acreage will be relatively small in June with most crops experiencing changes of less than 10 percent. More pronounced decreases in harvested acreage will be apparent in July; many of these by cool-weather crops. Some of the larger declines are projected for **snap beans** (-38%), **Chinese cabbage** (-37%), **mustard cabbage** (-33%), **sweet corn** (-35%), **head lettuce** (-57%), **dry onions** (-15%), and **romaine** (-44%). Harvested acreage of **head cabbage**, another cool-weather crop, is anticipated to decrease 8 percent in July to 46 acres.

Crops that are expected to maintain relatively steady harvested acreage during the next two months are cucumbers, green onions, and semi-head lettuce. Harvested acreage of **cucumbers** is forecast to remain at a steady 40 acres in June and July. **Green onion** farmers will harvest 15 in June and 13 acres in July while **semi-head lettuce** growers will harvest 4 acres in both months. ■

**Harvested
acreage charts page 2**
Acreage charts and crop
condition comments.

**May
review page 3**
Statistics and comments on
selected crops.

**U.S. spring vegetable
acreage update page 4**
Acreage data and comments
regarding spring (April-June)
fresh vegetables.

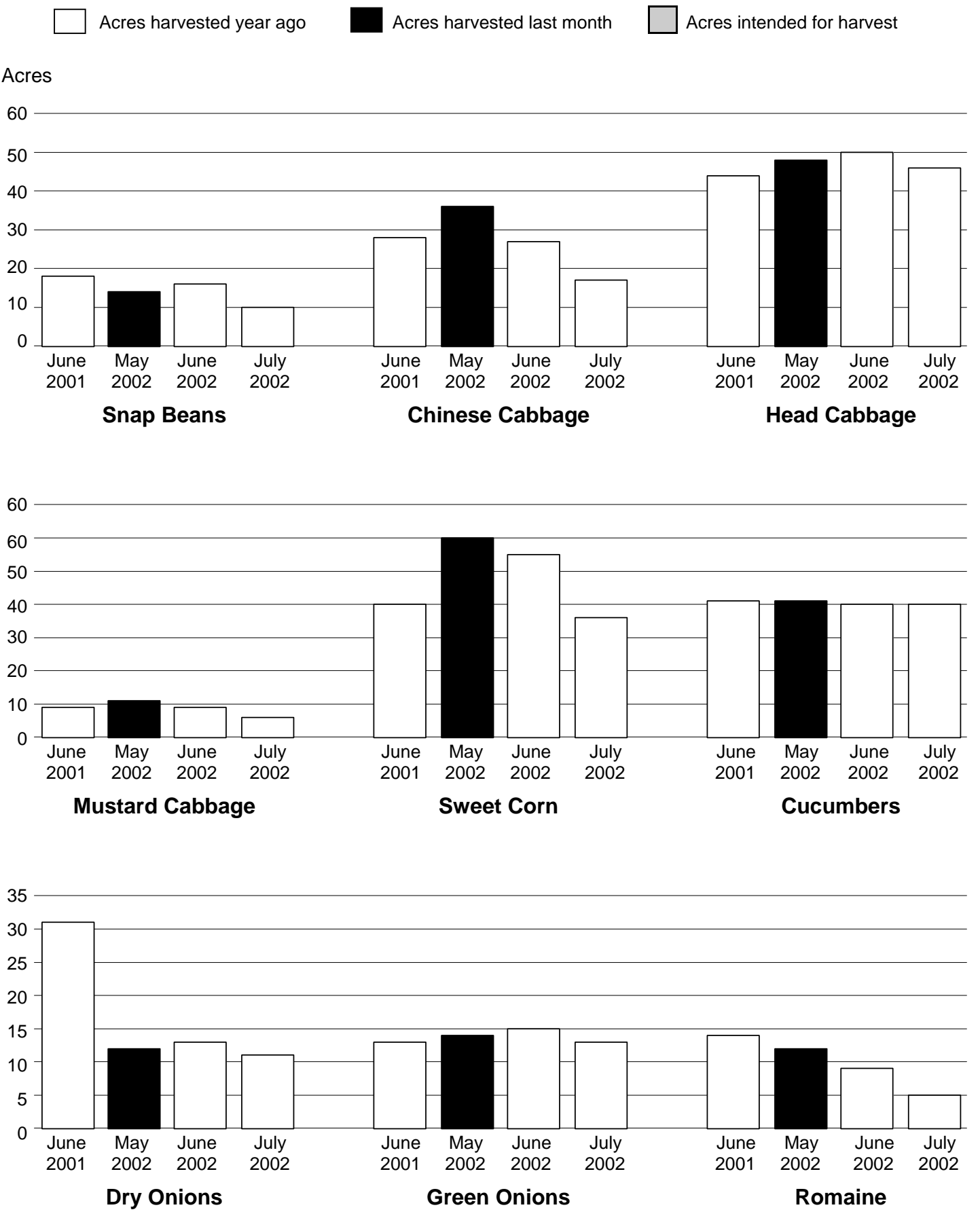
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Acreage

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

Crop	Acres planted		Acres harvested		Acres for harvest	
	Apr 2002	May 2002	Apr 2002	May 2002	Jun 2002	Jul 2002
Beans, snap	17	12	16	14	16	10
Cabbage, Chinese	33	27	29	36	27	17
Cabbage, head	51	44	46	48	50	46
Cabbage, mustard	11	9	13	11	9	6
Corn, sweet	62	48	48	60	55	36
Cucumbers	38	40	40	41	40	40
Lettuce, head	9	7	5	8	7	3
Lettuce, semi-head	4	4	5	4	4	4
Onions, dry	15	13	13	12	13	11
Onions, green	13	13	13	14	15	13
Romaine	13	8	14	12	9	5

Harvested acreage charts



May review

Rainstorm Adversely Affected May Production

BUSH BEAN production totaled 70,000 pounds in May, down 26 percent from April. The decline in production was due to a drop in acreage as well as damage from the heavy rains that occurred early in the month.

CHINESE CABBAGE production totaled 525,000 pounds in May, down 13 percent from April and the lowest monthly total this year. Harvested acreage increased in May, but yields declined as the heavy rains resulted in losses that lasted for weeks.

HEAD CABBAGE production totaled 1.1 million pounds in May, up 13 percent from April and the second highest total this year.

SWEET CORN production is estimated at 220,000 pounds for May, up 11 percent from April and highest monthly total this year. Field conditions varied from fair to good.

CUCUMBER production totaled 443,000 pounds in May, down 2 percent from April. Some fields were still in poor condition from the

rainstorm.

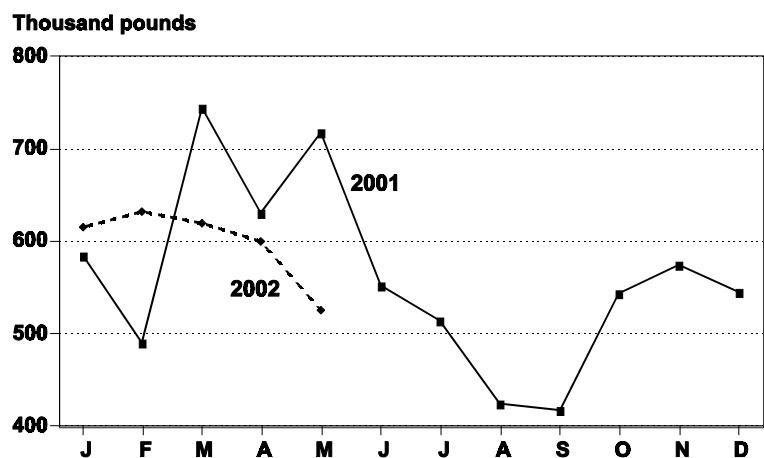
DRY ONION production totaled 116,000 pounds in May, down 31 percent from April. The heavy rains in early May adversely affected the grade-out quality of this rain-sensitive crop.

GREEN PEPPER production totaled

268,000 pounds in May, up 1 percent from April.

TOMATO production totaled 1.5 million pounds in May, up 4 percent from April and the second highest monthly total this year. Compared to a year ago tomato production was 1 percent higher this May. O

**Hawaii Fresh Chinese Cabbage:
Monthly production, 2001 and 2002**



Acreage, average yield, sales, and average farm price, May 2002, State of Hawaii.

Crop	Total acres on Jun 1 st	May 2002				January-to-date sales		
		Acres harvested	Average yield ^{1/}	Total sales	Average farm price	2001 ^{2/}	2002	Change
----- 1,000 lbs. ----- Cents per lb. ----- 1,000 lbs ----- Percent								
Beans, snap	25	14	5.0	70	89.0	479	253	-47
Cabbage, Chinese	43	36	14.6	525	18.2	3,170	2,992	-6
Cabbage, head	99	48	22.2	1,066	18.6	5,247	5,172	-1
Cabbage, mustard	13	11	10.1	111	48.0	665	618	-7
Corn, sweet	104	60	3.7	220	48.4	638	892	40
Cucumbers	62	41	10.8	443	41.1	2,356	2,025	-14
Lettuce, head	10	8	8.8	70	54.1	400	353	-12
Lettuce, semi-head	7	4	9.3	37	72.6	134	165	23
Onions, dry	41	12	9.7	116	87.9	3,107	649	-79
Onions, green	32	14	7.2	101	88.3	629	520	-17
Peppers, green	3/	18	14.9	268	62.6	1,287	1,317	2
Romaine	13	12	14.0	168	46.3	1,103	883	-20
Tomatoes	3/	72	20.3	1,465	59.9	6,988	7,226	3

^{1/} Total sales divided by acres harvested. ^{2/} Revised. ^{3/} Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

U.S. Fresh Vegetable and Melon Spring Area Down 2 Percent

This spring (largely April to June), U.S. fresh vegetable and melon growers are expected to harvest 2 percent fewer acres than a year ago. Area declined in Texas (down 12 percent), California (3 percent), and Georgia (2 percent) while Florida growers plan to harvest slightly more acreage (up less than 1 percent). Although shipping-point prices last spring were 6 percent higher than the previous year, growers and shippers (along with their financiers) will likely remain conservative until clear evidence of improving domestic export demand appears.

Despite limited recovery in average prices last year, area devoted to the three leading melon crops was again reduced this spring. Melon area dropped 4 percent after being cut 11 percent last spring. The weak economy of the past year is likely the source of pessimism in melon markets. However, over the last decade a combination of improved per acre yields and import pressure at the beginning and end of the domestic season have likely restrained price gains and acreage growth. This is especially true for cantaloup and watermelon. Watermelon yields are up 56 percent since 1992 while 35 percent of cantaloup consumption now comes from imports, compared with 23 percent in 1989-91.

Area for harvest of 11 selected fresh vegetables fell 1 percent this spring. Gains of 4 percent for tomatoes and bell peppers were outweighed by reduced area for broccoli, carrots, cucumbers, and cabbage. In addition to lower acreage, spring shipment volume could also be trimmed as a result of brief cold snaps in Florida, Georgia, and Texas. Reports of wind-caused bloom drop and uneven plant growth due to earlier temperature extremes (cold and hot) may lead to sporadic spring shipment volume and price fluctuations well into May.

Tighter supplies of most fresh-market vegetables raised grower and retail prices during the first quarter of 2002. Fresh market shipments (including imports) were 1 percent below a year earlier, with March volume down 11 percent. As a result, grower prices averaged 53 percent higher for the quarter and retail prices (excluding potatoes) averaged 8

percent above a year earlier. Head lettuce, second only to potatoes in fresh-market consumption, was the main upward force among first quarter prices rises with a 202 percent increase. Prices for broccoli (up 63 percent) and cauliflower (up 68 percent) were also up due mostly to reduced acreage. In contrast, tomato prices, which jumped 70 percent in the first quarter a year ago, declined 19 percent during the initial quarter of 2002.

U.S. Spring-season fresh-market vegetable area ^{1/}

Item	2000	2001	2002	Change 2001-02
--- Acres ---				
Snap beans	24,500	23,500	24,000	2
Broccoli	34,000	35,000	33,000	-6
Cabbage	9,300	11,200	10,600	-5
Carrots	19,700	20,800	19,700	-5
Cauliflower	9,000	10,000	9,500	-5
Celery	4,800	5,300	5,200	-2
Sweet corn	36,800	36,600	37,000	1
Cucumbers	5,600	5,200	4,900	-6
Head lettuce	36,700	41,000	40,400	-1
Bell pepper	7,100	7,200	7,500	4
Tomatoes	22,600	27,200	28,300	4
Vegetables	210,100	223,000	220,100	-1
Cantaloup	33,100	31,300	30,000	-4
Honeydew	7,400	6,300	6,100	-3
Watermelon	58,100	50,500	48,200	-5
Melons	98,600	88,100	84,300	-4
Total	308,700	311,100	304,400	-2

^{1/} Selected crops for harvest largely during April - June.

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA, *Vegetables and Melons Outlook*, April 18, 2002.