



Hawaii Taro

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

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In cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture
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Taro production increases 5 percent

Hawaii taro production is estimated at 4.5 million pounds in 2006, up 5 percent from 2005's revised estimate of 4.3 million pounds. Farm prices increased 6 percent to an average of 57 cents per pound, and value of sales was estimated at \$2.6 million, up 10 percent from 2005.

Weather and pests continue to hamper growers

Taro production was once again hampered by a combination of wet weather and pests during 2006. The year began drier than normal, but quickly turned very wet. Heavy rains started to saturate parts of the State by the second half of January. The northern islands recorded heavy rainfall during February with record amounts and flooding affecting most the State during March. The beginning of April finally marked the end of six weeks of heavy rainfall. The remainder of the year was a mix of drier than normal weather and occasional periods of heavy rains. Pests also continued to pose a problem for taro growers. Reports of apple snail (*Pomacea canaliculata*) infestations and losses varied from light to heavy. Taro Pocket Rot (TPR), a disease that forms pockets of rotting tissue in the corm, also continued to result in some losses. ■

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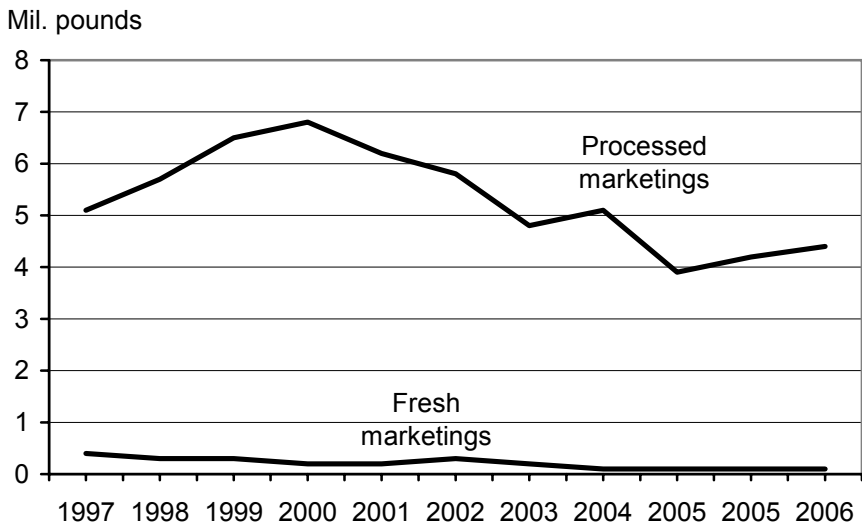
Number of farms, acreage, marketings, farm price and value by County, State of Hawaii, 1997 - 2006

Monthly Taro for

Poi Millings page 4

Monthly totals for 2005, 2006, and 5-year monthly average, State of Hawaii.

Hawaii Taro Marketings, by use, State of Hawaii, 1997-2006



Processed taro totals

4.4 million pounds

Taro for processing totaled 4.4 million pounds in 2006, up 5 percent from 2005. The bulk of all processed taro, and taro in general, is made into poi. Other processed uses for taro include a traditional Hawaiian desert called *Kulolo* (a mixture of taro and coconut cream and/or shredded coconut meat) and chips. Taro sold for fresh use is estimated at 100,000 pounds, unchanged from 2005. Chinese taro is the main source of fresh taro sales.

Kauai County accounts for 73 percent of State's taro marketings

Kauai County remained the State's largest producer of taro with 2006 production set at 3.3 million pounds, up 6 percent from 2005. Honolulu and Maui counties combined for total taro marketings of 910,000 pounds in 2006, up 1 percent from 2005. Hawaii County was the only areas to record a decrease as taro marketing going from 300,000 in 2005 to 290,000 pounds in 2006, a 3 percent decrease.

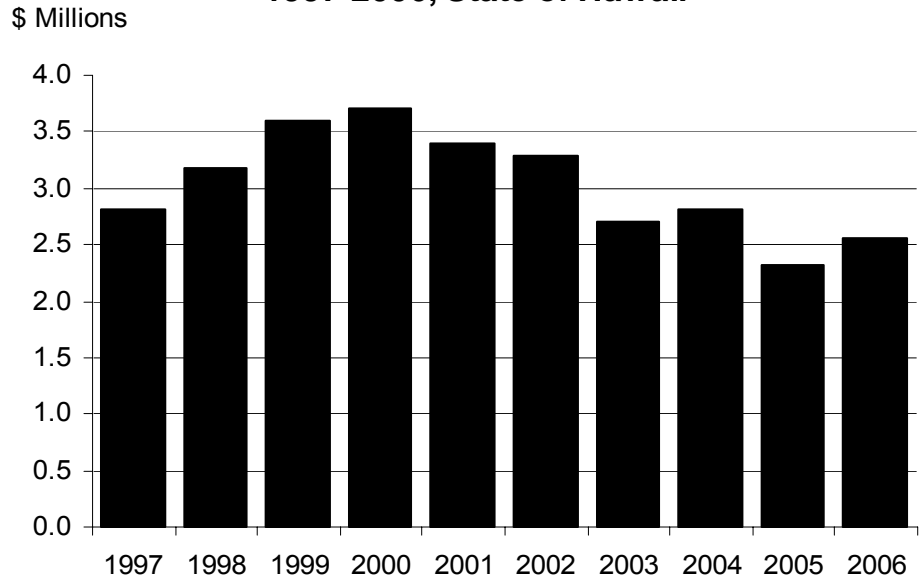
Farm prices increase to record high

The overall farm price for poi and Chinese taro increased to a record high average of 57.0 cents per pound in 2006, up 6 percent from 2005. This was first overall increase in the farm price for taro since 2002. Poi taro farm prices averaged 56.8 cents per pound, up 5 percent from 2005. Chinese taro farmers received an average of 65.5 cents per pound in 2006, up 21 percent from 2005.

Farm value rebounds

The farm value of all types of taro marketings totaled \$2.6 million in 2006, up 10 percent from 2005's revised total of \$2.3 million. Kauai

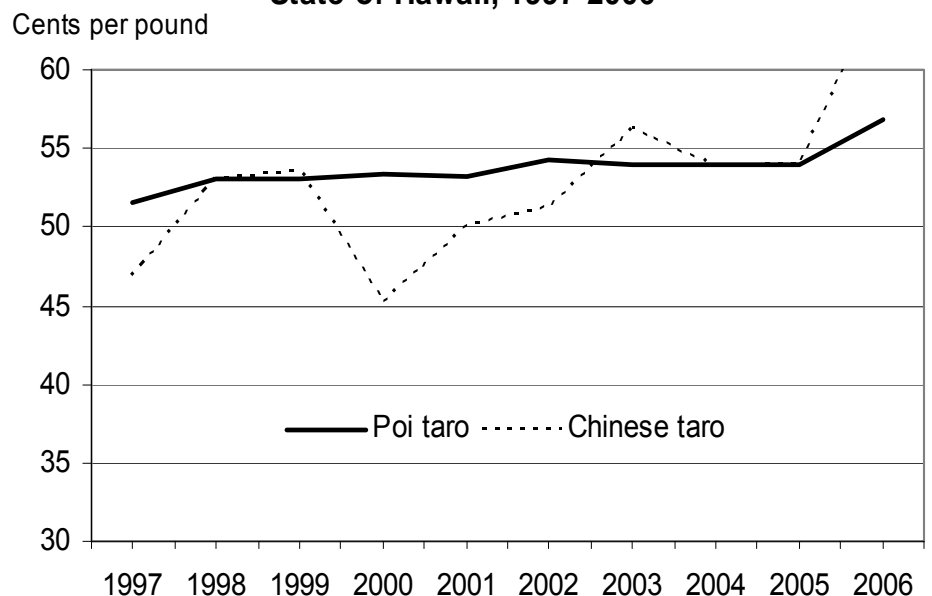
Hawaii Taro: Farm Value of Sales 1997-2006, State of Hawaii



County generated the most farm revenues in the State with a 2006 total of \$1.8 million, up 10 percent from 2005. The combined total of Honolulu and Maui counties was second with \$570,000 in farm revenues, up 12 percent from 2005. Hawaii County saw taro farm

revenues increase 7 percent to \$180,000 in 2006. The farm value increased on the Big Island despite a drop in production because higher farm prices for both poi and Chinese taro more than offset the lower output. ■

Average Taro Farm Prices State of Hawaii, 1997-2006



Hawaii Taro Statistics

TARO: Number of farms, acreage, marketing, price, and value, by counties, 1997-2006

Year	Farms	Acreage in crop ^{1/}			Marketings			Farm price			Value of sales
		Poi taro	Chinese taro	Total	Fresh	Processed	Total	Poi taro	Chinese taro	All	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>----- Acres -----</i>			<i>----- 1,000 pounds -----</i>			<i>----- Cents per pound -----</i>			<i>\$1,000</i>
STATE											
1997	160	370	80	450	400	5,100	5,500	51.5	46.9	51.0	2,805
1998	180	400	90	490	300	5,700	6,000	53.0	53.0	53.0	3,180
1999	190	420	80	500	300	6,500	6,800	53.0	53.5	53.0	3,604
2000	185	430	40	470	200	6,800	7,000	53.3	45.3	53.0	3,710
2001	170	420	20	440	200	6,200	6,400	53.2	50.0	53.0	3,392
2002	150	400	30	430	300	5,800	6,100	54.2	51.2	54.0	3,294
2003	150	390	30	420	200	4,800	5,000	53.9	56.3	54.0	2,700
2004	130	360	10	370	100	5,100	5,200	54.0	53.8	54.0	2,808
2005	110	350	10	360	100	4,200	4,300	54.0	54.0	54.0	2,322
2006	115	360	20	380	100	4,400	4,500	56.8	65.5	57.0	2,565
Counties:											
Hawaii											
1997	85	80	70	150	390	910	1,300	60.0	46.1	53.7	698
1998	100	90	70	160	250	850	1,100	61.0	53.0	57.0	627
1999	100	100	80	180	200	900	1,100	61.0	53.2	57.5	632
2000	85	80	40	120	200	700	900	61.6	45.3	56.2	506
2001	60	70	20	90	150	650	800	60.4	48.9	51.5	443
2002	50	60	20	80	200	550	750	61.4	48.4	55.3	415
2003	40	55	15	70	130	450	580	59.7	54.9	57.8	335
2004	30	50	10	60	100	400	500	60.0	53.1	57.5	288
2005	30	40	10	50	60	240	300	57.6	50.0	56.1	168
2006	25	55	10	65	70	220	290	61.0	65.5	62.1	180
Honolulu/Maui ^{2/}											
1997	25	80	5	85	10	890	900	49.5	90.0	50.0	450
1998	25	80	15	95	50	1,050	1,100	52.4	53.5	52.5	577
1999	25	90	*	90	100	1,300	1,400	52.4	54.9	52.6	736
2000	30	100	*	100	*	1,300	1,300	52.6	^{3/}	52.6	684
2001	40	100	*	100	50	1,250	1,300	53.0	57.3	53.0	691
2002	35	90	10	100	60	1,190	1,250	54.6	67.2	55.2	690
2003	40	85	15	100	50	1,050	1,100	54.7	61.6	55.0	605
2004	35	75	*	75	*	800	800	55.1	^{3/}	55.1	441
2005	30	75	*	75	40	860	900	56.6	60.0	56.8	511
2006	35	80	10	90	30	880	910	62.5	65.5	62.6	570
Kauai											
1997	50	210	5	215	*	3,300	3,300	50.1	^{3/}	50.2	1,657
1998	55	230	5	235	*	3,800	3,800	52.0	^{3/}	52.0	1,976
1999	65	230	*	230	*	4,300	4,300	52.0	^{3/}	52.0	2,236
2000	70	250	*	250	*	4,800	4,800	52.5	^{3/}	52.5	2,520
2001	70	250	*	250	*	4,300	4,300	52.5	^{3/}	52.5	2,258
2002	65	250	*	250	40	4,060	4,100	53.4	^{3/}	53.4	2,189
2003	70	250	*	250	20	3,300	3,320	53.0	^{3/}	53.0	1,760
2004	65	235	*	235	*	3,900	3,900	53.3	^{3/}	53.3	2,079
2005	50	235	*	235	*	3,100	3,100	53.0	^{3/}	53.0	1,643
2006	45	225	*	225	*	3,300	3,300	55.0	^{3/}	55.0	1,815

^{1/} Survey conducted in November of each year. Does not include acreage used primarily for leaf production. ^{2/} County of Honolulu combined with Maui to avoid disclosure of individual operations. ^{3/} Not shown separately, but accounted for in State average. *=Less than 5,000 pounds or 5 acres.

Monthly Taro for Poi Millings

Monthly Taro for Poi Millings, State of Hawaii, 5-year average, 2005, and 2006.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>												
5-year average ¹	418	399	422	391	398	408	436	453	441	452	429	462	5,110
2005.....	335	330	355	290	290	305	320	395	360	400	385	435	4,200
2006 ²	380	365	365	300	355	315	350	395	385	405	390	395	4,400
<u>Percent changes:</u>	<i>Percent</i>												
2006/5-year.....	91	91	86	77	89	77	80	87	87	90	91	85	
2006/2005.....	113	111	103	103	122	103	109	100	107	101	101	91	

¹ Years: 2001-2005.

² Revised.