

HAWAII GINGER ROOT

Annual Summary

RELEASED: August 12, 1997

Record output

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The Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service (HASS) estimates Statewide production of ginger root at a record 12.1 million pounds for the 1996/97 season, up 29 percent from the previous season and 1 percent more than the previous record-high of 12.0 million pounds.

Increased acreage offsets lower yield

Ginger root farmers harvested 275 acres during the 1996/97 season, up 38 percent from the previous season and the highest total in the past four seasons. While harvested acreage increased, yield decreased 6 percent to an average of 44,000 pounds per acre. Fair weather and, to a lesser extent, disease hampered yields. Still, the average yield of the 1996/97 harvest was the second best in the last six seasons.

Weather conditions in the eastern half of the Big Island, the major growing area for ginger root, were generally less than ideal for crop development. Young plantings progressed well during most of 1996, but three consecutive months of dry weather beginning with December eventually adversely affected yields. Only once during that three-month period did ginger root plantings receive the 3 inches of weekly rainfall it needs for optimal growth.

Overall, disease was not a major problem for the 1996/97 crop. However, isolated infections caused some farmers to suffer varying degrees of loss. Bacterial blight, Fusarium, and red-rot were the major diseases reported by farmers.

Continued on next page. . .



HAWAII AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Fact finding for agriculture

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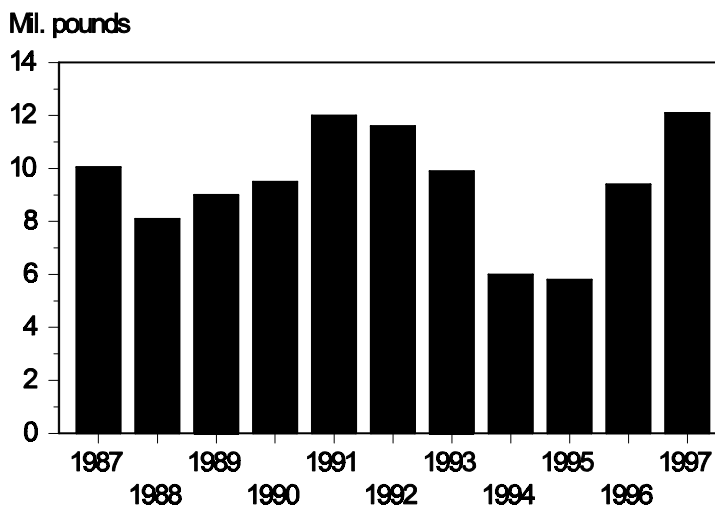
Llewellyn Suzuki - Hawaii

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Fresh Ginger Root Production State of Hawaii, 1987 - 1996



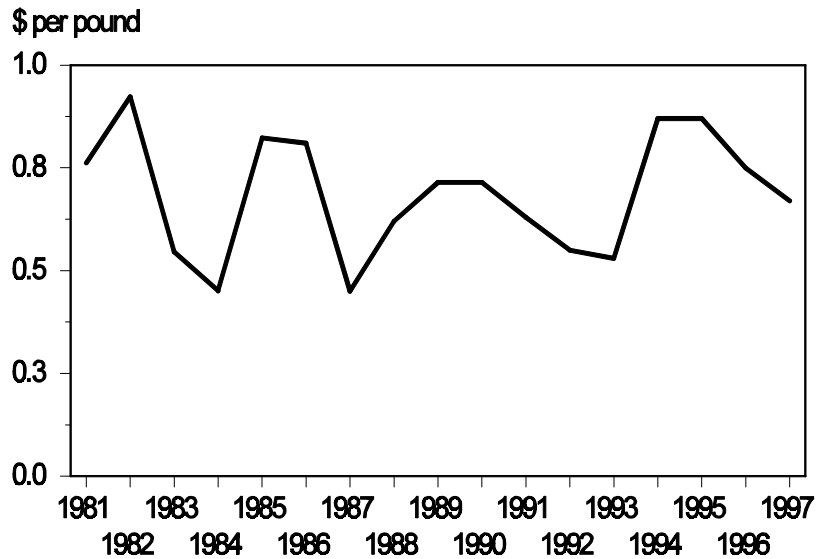
Finally, some farmers reported that a late start in planting resulted in smaller-sized ginger at harvest.

Farm price declines

Gingerroot growers received an average of 67.0 cents per pound during the 1996/97 season, down 11 percent from the previous season and the lowest farm return in the past four seasons.

On the strength of a record-high output, total farm revenues climbed to a record high \$8.1 million during the 1996/97 season, up 15 percent from the previous season.

**Fresh Hawaii Ginger Root
Average Farm Price, 1981-97**



Fresh Ginger Root Statistics

**Acres harvested, yield, production, farm price and value.
State of Hawaii, 1983-1996**

Year ^{1/}	Acres harvested	Yield per harvested acre	Production	Average farm price	Farm value
		----- 1,000 pounds -----		Cents per pound	\$1,000
1983	160	32.1	5,140	54.6	2,806
1984	135	37.4	5,050	45.1	2,280
1985	125	43.4	5,425	82.3	4,465
1986	145	40.7	5,900	81.0	4,779
1987	215	46.7	10,050	45.0	4,523
1988	165	49.1	8,100	62.0	5,022
1989	180	50.0	9,000	71.5	6,435
1990	190	50.0	9,500	71.5	6,792
1991	250	48.0	12,000	63.0	7,560
1992	290	40.0	11,600	55.0	6,380
1993	360	27.5	9,900	53.0	5,247
1994	150	40.0	6,000	87.0	5,220
1995	135	43.0	5,800	87.0	5,046
1996	200	47.0	9,400	75.0	7,050
1997	275	44.0	12,100	67.0	8,107

^{1/} Harvesting normally begins in December then continues into the year shown.

OUTLOOK

Acres Planted for the 1997-98 Season

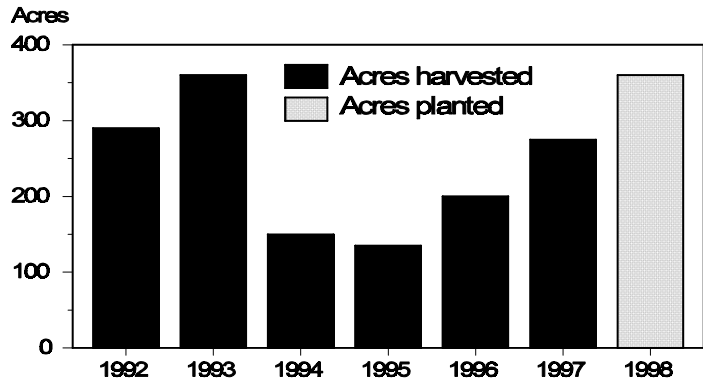
Ginger root growers are expected to plant 360 acres for harvest during the 1997-98 season, up 31 percent from the 275 acres harvested this past season. Farmers surveyed by HASS reported that plantings were 90 percent complete at the end of April.

Based on the most recent 3-year average yield of 44,800 pounds per acre, the 1997-98 crop is forecast at a record 16.1 million pounds, up 33 percent from the 1996-97 harvest.

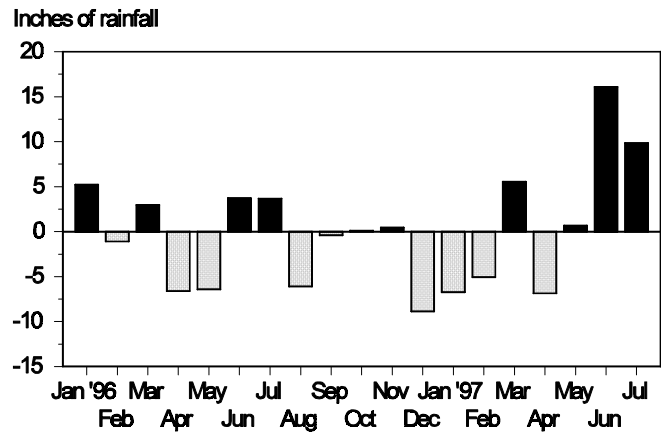
Currently, ginger root plantings in the eastern half of the Big Island were making fair to good growth. Diseases have emerged in some fields due to excessively wet weather in June and July. The National Weather Service's station at Hilo airport recorded over 22 inches of rain in June (16 inches more than the long-term monthly median) and over 19 inches of rain in July (nearly 10 inches more than the long-term monthly median).

The eventual size of next season's crop will ultimately depend on future weather conditions, the success of farmers in controlling disease, and how much additional acreage is planted after April. Harvesting of next season's crop is expected to begin this November or December.

**Expected Ginger Root for Harvest with Acres Harvested in Previous Seasons
State of Hawaii**



**Monthly Precipitation Departures From Median
Hilo Airport, Island of Hawaii**



**Expected ginger root acreage for harvest during 1997-98
with acres harvested in previous seasons.**

State of Hawaii

Island	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Hawaii.....	360	150	135	200	275	350
Kauai\Mauai\Molokai\Oahu...	*	*	*	*	*	10
Total.....	360	150	135	200	275	360

* = Less than 5 acres.

1996 U.S. Ginger Root Imports

Summary and Statistics

Ginger root imports of all types totaled 34.4 million pounds in 1996, down 6 percent from 1995.

Unground ginger root made up the majority of imports with 30.4 million pounds, down 10 percent from 1995. Unground ginger root accounted for 88 percent of the total amount imported.

Imported ground, not candied, ginger recorded the largest increase by more than doubling to 1.2 million pounds in 1996. This is the most ground ginger imported since 1991.

GINGER ROOT: U.S. imports by product type, 1994-96

Product form	1994	1995	1996
	<i>1,000 pounds</i>		
Unground.....	31,967	33,737	30,362
Candied, glace,	1,016	1,065	1,060
Ground, not candied.....	631	514	1,219
Sweet ginger, prep.,	1,660	1,349	1,806
Total.....	35,274	36,665	34,447

Source: *Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States*, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service.

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