

National Agricultural Statistics Service

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# Hawaii Taro

Annual report of acreage, marketings, farm prices, and farm value.

## Production and farm revenue increase

Hawaii taro production is estimated at 7.0 million pounds for 2000, up 3 percent from 1999 and the highest total since 1978. The combined farm price for poi and Chinese taro averaged 53 cents per pound in 2000, unchanged from the record high achieved in 1998. The boost in production, combined with steady farm prices, enabled taro farmers to post farm revenues of \$3.7 million, up 3 percent from 1999 and a new record high.

### Historical look at taro marketings . . . page 2

*Major events that affected taro marketings from 1946 to 2000.*

### Statistics . . . . . page 3

*Number of farms, acreage, marketings, price, and value by islands, 1991-2000.*

### Month poi taro millings . . . . . page 4

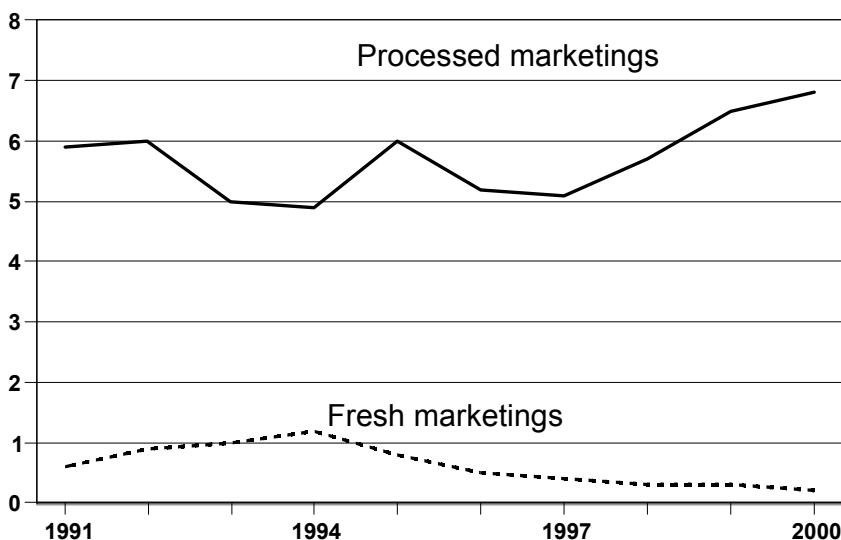
*Monthly totals for 2000 and 1999.*

### Processed taro up for third consecutive year

Taro for processing totaled 6.8 million pounds in 2000, up 5 percent from 1999. Most of the processed taro is made into poi and in 2000 that amount totaled 6.7 million pounds, an 8 percent increase from 1999. Weather conditions were generally favorable for taro growing with mostly sunny skies and adequate water available for most of the year. The absence of any major flooding also helped taro growers. In addition, farmers continued to refine cultural practices to combat the persistent presence of the Taro Pocket Rot disease and the destructive presence of Apple snails.

*Continued on next page...*

**Hawaii taro marketings, by use.  
State of Hawaii, 1991-2000**



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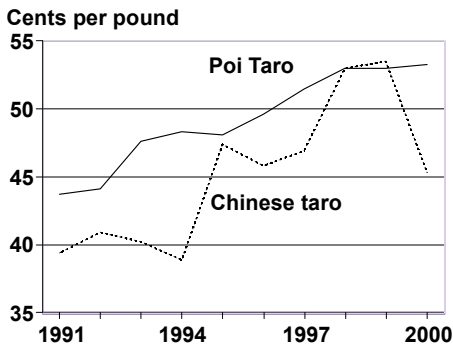
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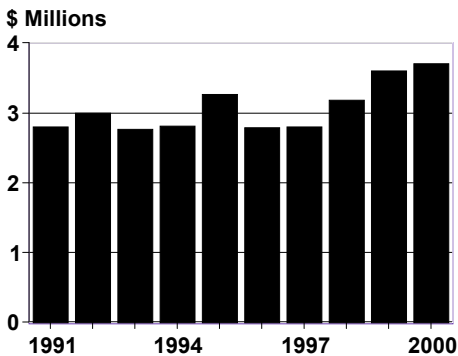
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## Hawaii Taro Farm Prices



## Hawaii Taro Farm Value



Continued from page one...

Acreage in poi taro totaled 430 acres in 2000, up 2 percent from 1999 and the highest level since 1978 when 450 acres were planted in poi taro. Also in 2000, poi taro growers received a record high average of 53.3 cents per pound, up 1 percent from the 53.0 cents per pound average recorded during the two previous years.

## Chinese taro acreage falls to 16-year low

Statewide acreage in Chinese taro declined 50 percent in 2000 to 40 acres, the lowest total since 1984. Plantings of Chinese taro peaked in 1992 when there were 245 acres which accounted for 45 percent of all taro acreage. Since then a persistent problems with taro root aphids, dry weather, and relatively low prices have led to a steady decline in Chinese taro acreage.

The average farm price for Chinese taro is estimated at 45.3 cents per pound in 2000, down 15 percent from 1999.

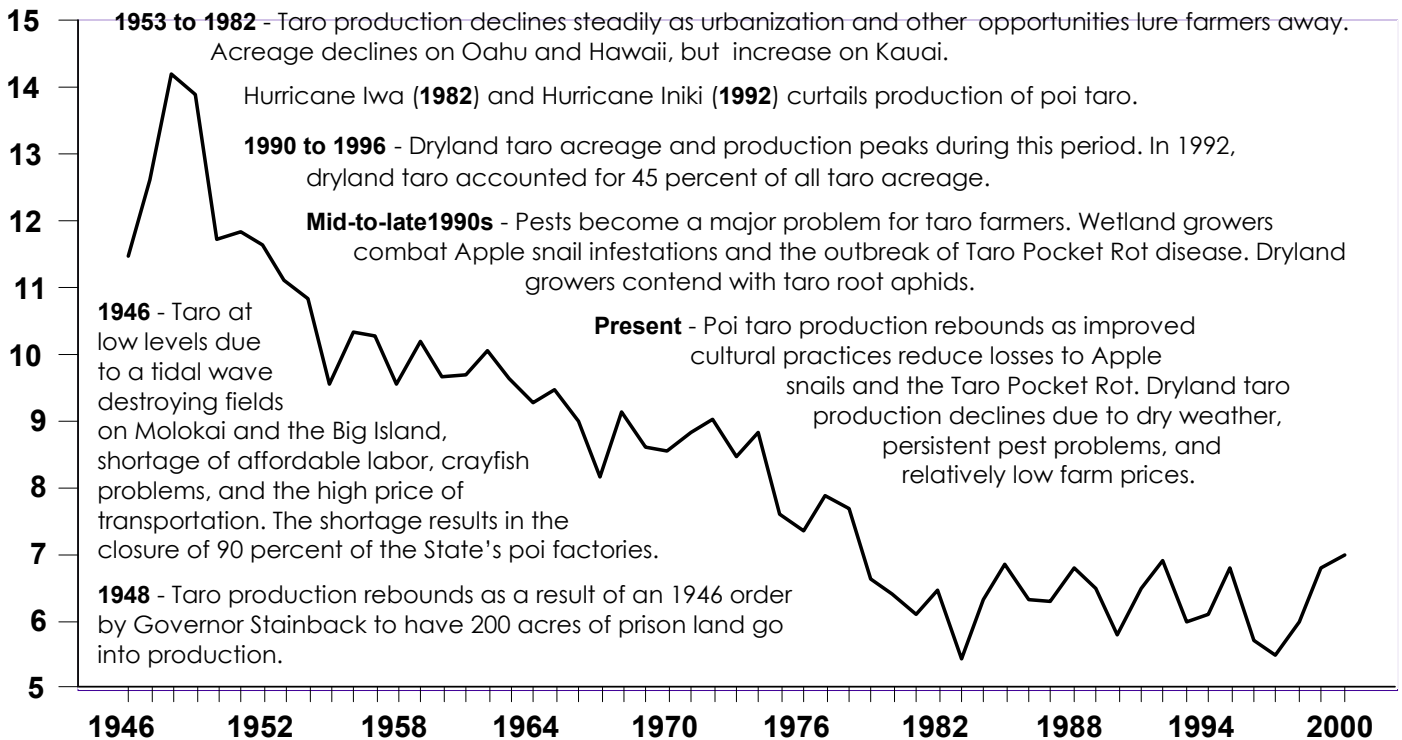
## Total farm value of taro at record high

The farm value of all taro marketings totaled a record high \$3.7 million in 2000, up 3 percent from the previous record high set in 1999. Poi taro growers accounted for all the increase in farm revenues by boosting both production and farm prices.



## Hawaii Taro Marketings, 1946-2000

### Millions of pounds



**TARO: Number of farms, acreage, marketings, price, and value, by islands, 1991-2000**

Year	Farms	Acreage in crop <sup>1</sup>			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>
<b>STATE</b>											
1991	180	310	240	550	600	5,900	6,500	43.7	39.4	43.0	2,795
1992	175	305	245	550	900	6,000	6,900	44.1	40.9	43.5	3,002
1993	190	295	215	510	1,000	5,000	6,000	47.6	40.2	46.0	2,760
1994	180	310	180	490	1,200	4,900	6,100	48.3	38.9	46.0	2,806
1995	190	350	200	550	800	6,000	6,800	48.1	47.4	48.0	3,264
1996	180	350	180	530	500	5,200	5,700	49.6	45.8	49.0	2,793
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
<b>2000</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>3,710</b>
<b>HAWAII</b>											
1991	100	40	170	210	570	850	1,420	42.3	39.6	40.5	575
1992	100	45	190	235	840	770	1,610	43.1	42.6	42.8	689
1993	110	45	180	225	960	830	1,790	44.9	40.3	41.8	748
1994	105	45	170	215	1,200	760	1,960	44.8	38.9	40.3	790
1995	109	65	190	255	790	610	1,400	46.2	47.2	46.9	657
1996	100	60	170	230	490	910	1,400	56.0	44.7	49.2	689
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
<b>2000</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>61.6</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>506</b>
<b>KAUAI</b>											
1991	50	200	<sup>2</sup>	200	*	4,000	4,000	43.6	<sup>3</sup>	43.6	1,744
1992	50	200	<sup>2</sup>	200	*	4,250	4,250	44.0	<sup>3</sup>	44.0	1,870
1993	52	195	<sup>2</sup>	195	*	3,330	3,330	47.0	<sup>3</sup>	47.0	1,565
1994	50	200	<sup>2</sup>	200	*	3,160	3,160	47.9	<sup>3</sup>	47.9	1,514
1995	52	210	<sup>2</sup>	210	*	4,160	4,160	48.0	<sup>3</sup>	48.0	1,997
1996	54	210	5	215	*	3,200	3,200	48.0	<sup>3</sup>	48.0	1,536
1997	50	210	5	215	*	3,300	3,300	50.1	<sup>3</sup>	50.2	1,657
1998	55	230	5	235	*	3,800	3,800	52.0	<sup>3</sup>	52.0	1,976
1999	65	230	*	230	*	4,300	4,300	52.0	<sup>3</sup>	52.0	2,236
<b>2000</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>250</b>	*	<b>250</b>	*	<b>4,800</b>	<b>4,800</b>	<b>52.5</b>	<sup>3</sup>	<b>52.5</b>	<b>2,520</b>
<b>MAUI/MOLOKAI/OAHU <sup>4</sup></b>											
1991	30	70	70	140	30	1,050	1,080	44.6	37.7	44.1	476
1992	25	60	55	115	60	980	1,040	45.3	30.7	42.6	443
1993	28	55	35	90	40	840	880	50.8	38.9	50.8	447
1994	25	65	10	75	*	980	980	51.3	40.0	51.2	502
1995	29	75	10	85	10	1,230	1,240	49.1	64.0	49.2	610
1996	26	80	5	85	10	1,090	1,100	51.1	61.2	51.6	568
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
<b>2000</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	*	<b>100</b>	*	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<sup>3</sup>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>684</b>

<sup>1</sup> Survey conducted in November of each year. Does not include acreage used primarily for leaf production. <sup>2</sup> Kauai combined with Maui, Molokai, and Oahu to avoid disclosure of individual operations. <sup>3</sup> Not shown separately but accounted for in State average. <sup>4</sup> Oahu combined with Maui and Molokai to avoid disclosure of individual operations. \* = Less than 5,000 pounds or 5 acres.

## Monthly Taro for Poi Millings

The Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service estimates poi millers utilized 6.7 million pounds of taro during 2000, up 8 percent from 1999. Poi taro production got a boost in 2000 due to generally favorable weather conditions and improved cultural practices that have curbed losses from the Taro Pocket Rot disease.

### Monthly Taro for Poi Millings, State of Hawaii, 1995-99 average, 1999, and 2000.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>												
5-year average <sup>1</sup> .....	463	427	455	422	413	424	450	469	475	483	470	509	5,460
1999 .....	480	450	500	450	480	500	560	600	580	520	530	550	6,200
<b>2000</b> .....	<b>565</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>6,700</b>
	<i>Percent</i>												
<u>Percent changes:</u>													
2000/5-year .....	122	141	138	130	139	136	118	118	105	114	113	106	
2000/1999 .....	118	133	126	122	120	115	95	93	86	106	100	98	

<sup>1</sup> Years: 1995-99.

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