



KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI

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In Cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pacific Region

Fresh Basil Statistics State of Hawaii, 2022

Hawaii’s fresh basil production reached an estimated 13.1 million pounds, with a record value of \$31.2 million in 2022. This represented a 7% increase in volume and a 6% increase in value compared to the previous crop year. Hawaii basil growers saw a slight expansion in planted acreage, more hired workers, and steady market prices. However, the yield per acre dipped slightly to just under twenty-eight thousand pounds, down 9% from last year. Approximately 472 acres of farmland were dedicated to planting fresh basil, marking an 18% increase from the previous year.

In the winter months when harsh weather conditions make it impossible to grow or harvest basil, there is a strong demand for basil from the U.S. Mainland and Canada. This demand often surpasses Hawaii’s supply of basil for export, leading to an increase in the seasonal export price during this period.

Hawaii primarily cultivates two main types of basil: Sweet (Italian) and Asian (Thai). In 2022, Sweet basil made up the majority with an estimated 7.6 million pounds, accounting for approximately 58% of the total 13.1 million pounds harvested. Nearly all of the locally produced basil or 99.4%, is exported to the U.S Mainland and Canada. In 2022, Sweet and Asian basil fetched \$2.71 and \$1.91 per pound respectively, which remained relatively consistent compared to the previous year. These export prices significantly exceeded local market prices for comparable products.

Table 1: Fresh Basil – Acreage, Yield, Production, Value and Workforce, 2019-2022

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Crop harvested (acres)	466	410	400	472
Yield per acre (pounds)	27,339	24,215	30,660	27,839
Utilized production – all purpose (1,000 pounds)	12,740	9,928	12,264	13,140
Value of production (1,000 dollars)	28,039	22,338	29,360	31,194
Farm workforce (hired workers)	388	113	102	145

Table 2: Fresh Basil – Local and Export Sales and Price, 2019-2022

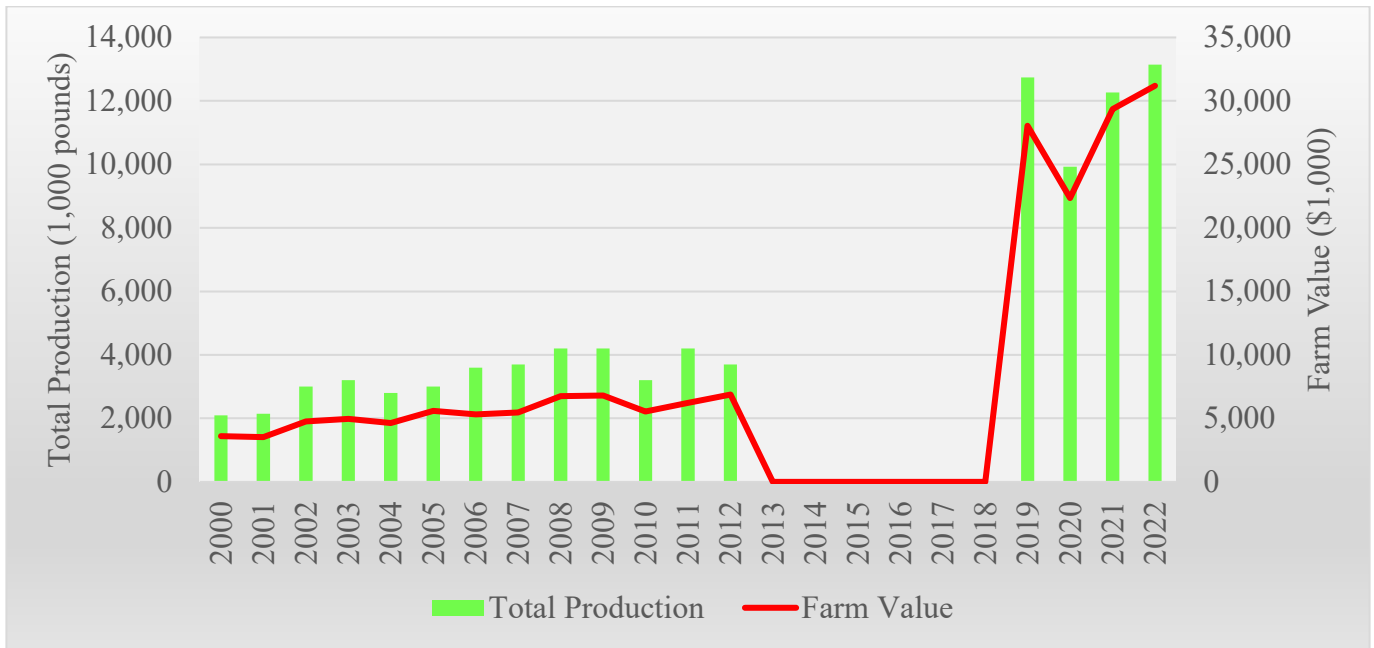
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Local market sales (1,000 pounds)	102	71	84	80
Export market sales (1,000 pounds)	12,638	9,857	12,180	13,060
Local market price – Sweet (dollars per pound)	1.61	2.10	2.20	2.30
Local market price – Asian (dollars per pound)	1.20	1.25	1.40	1.50
Export market price – Sweet (dollars per pound)	2.66	2.61	2.72	2.71
Export market price – Asian (dollars per pound)	1.73	1.71	1.91	1.91

Table 3 Fresh Basil – Production, Price, and Value by Variety, 2000-2022

	Production			Farm Price		Farm Value		
	(1,000 pounds)			(dollars per pound)		(1,000 dollars)		
Crop Year ¹	Sweet	Asian		Sweet	Asian	Sweet	Asian	
	(Italian)	(Thai)	Total	(Italian)	(Thai)	(Italian)	(Thai)	Total
2000	1,600	500	2,100	2.00	0.80	3,200	400	3,600
2001	1,500	650	2,150	2.00	0.80	3,000	520	3,520
2002	2,000	1,000	3,000	1.95	0.85	3,900	850	4,750
2003	2,000	1,200	3,200	2.00	0.80	4,000	960	4,960
2004	1,800	1,000	2,800	2.05	0.95	3,690	950	4,640
2005	1,700	1,300	3,000	2.45	1.10	4,165	1,430	5,595
2006	2,000	1,600	3,600	1.90	0.95	3,800	1,520	5,320
2007	2,100	1,600	3,700	1.65	1.25	3,465	2,000	5,465
2008	2,500	1,700	4,200	1.75	1.40	4,375	2,380	6,755
2009	1,900	2,300	4,200	1.95	1.35	3,705	3,105	6,810
2010	1,200	2,000	3,200	1.95	1.60	2,340	3,200	5,540
2011	1,400	2,800	4,200	1.75	1.35	2,450	3,780	6,230
2012	800	2,900	3,700	2.60	1.65	2,080	4,785	6,865
2013	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
2014	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
2015	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
2016	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
2017	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
2018	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
2019	6,520	6,220	12,740	2.65	1.73	17,278	10,761	28,039
2020	5,958	3,970	9,928	2.61	1.71	15,547	6,791	22,338
2021	7,358	4,906	12,264	2.72	1.91	19,990	9,370	29,360
2022	7,621	5,519	13,140	2.71	1.91	20,653	10,541	31,194

¹ Sourced from USDA-NASS, 2000-2012.² Not available due to reduction-in-force (RIF).³ Weight average of local and export market prices.

Chart 1: Fresh Basil – Total Production and Farm Value, 2000-2022



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