



Delaware

Weekly Crop and Weather Report

DE-CW0306

April 17, 2006

Ground Becoming Hard to Work

The continued dry weather conditions have made some soils difficult to work and prepare for planting. Precipitation is more than 5 inches behind normal for the year and temperatures for the week averaged 7 to 9 degrees above normal. By week's end subsoil moisture was reported 30 percent very short, 30 percent short and 40 percent adequate. Topsoil moisture was reported at 77 percent very short or short and 23 percent adequate. Delaware producers reported **6.0 days suitable** for fieldwork. **Pasture** condition was rated 15 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

Wheat condition remained comparable to last week with 51 percent of the wheat rated in good to excellent condition, 28 percent in fair condition, and 21 percent in poor to very poor condition. **Barley** condition was rated 45 percent good to excellent, 32 percent fair and 23 percent poor to very poor. Barley was just beginning to head, on track with last year and the 5 year average. Corn planting was just underway with 8 percent in the ground. There are some concerns that there is not enough moisture for germination.

Apples and **peaches** are in bloom and **vegetable** planting is underway. **Potato** planting is significantly ahead of normal at 77 percent complete, compared to 23 percent last year and 32 percent average.

DELAWARE'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 16, 2006 (PERCENT)

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average 2001-2005
Planting Progress:				
Corn	8	1	6	6
Green Peas	76	66	36	50
Potatoes	77	58	23	32
Sweet Corn	8	3	16	9
Fruit Crops Blooming:				
Apples	33	21	6	21
Peaches	57	45	73	51
Strawberries	33	21	5	11

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 16, 2006 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	37	40	23	-
Topsoil (2005)	-	-	78	22
Five Year Average	1	3	52	44
Subsoil Moisture	30	30	40	-
Subsoil (2005)	-	-	93	7
Five Year Average	8	9	51	32

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Delaware Agricultural Statistics cooperating.

For more information call: Delaware Agricultural Statistics , 2320 South DuPont Hwy., Dover DE 19901, 302-698-4537 or 800-282-8685

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 16, 2006

Weather Station	Precipitation			Temperatures			
	Total this week	Total Since Jan 1	Departure from Normal Since Jan 1	High	Low	Average	Departure from Normal
Maryland							
Baltimore/Washington Airport	0.05	7.93	-3.22	82	33	60	8
Easton	0.06	7.75	-2.35	79	30	58	11
Frederick	0.34	8.65	-3.80	73	26	54	9
Frostburg	0.28	5.57	-4.34	75	35	59	8
Hagerstown	0.00	5.87	-6.75	85	31	59	6
Mechanicsville	00.1	5.12	-6.02	83	36	60	7
Patuxent River	0.02	5.11	-8.39	84	31	57	4
Ocean City	0.01	5.41	-7.61	83	25	57	5
Salisbury	0.13	6.89	-3.21	79	26	56	9
Sharpsburg	0.16	6.73	-4.68	81	39	59	6
Washington, DC (Reagan National)	0.00	7.02	-2.99	83	39	63	7
Delaware							
Dover	0.12	6.77	-4.93	81	39	59	7
Georgetown	0.42	5.40	-7.30	83	32	60	9
Wilmington	0.09	7.76	-3.37	80	35	58	7

Weather Data is provided by the Agricultural Weather Information Service, Auburn, Alabama and is considered preliminary.