



Maryland

Weekly Crop and Weather Report

MD-CW0106

APRIL 3, 2006

EARLY DRY WEATHER CONCERNS FARMERS

With March ending as one of the driest on record, Maryland farmers have made progress on field preparations for spring planting, but many agriculturalists are concerned. Water tables have dropped to very low levels as there were 7 days suitable for field work last week. On average, Maryland growers received less than 0.25 inches of rainfall over the past week; putting most reporting stations at 2 to 7 inches deficits since January 1, 2006. As of April 2, 2006, **topsoil** moisture was reported as 68 percent very short and 32 percent short while **subsoil** moisture was reported as 21 percent very short, 56 percent short, and 23 percent adequate.

Small grain development has been stunted by the dry conditions. **Wheat** stands are currently reported to be 3 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Maryland **barley** fields are rated as 13 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Some vegetable planting is underway although dry, hard fields have somewhat limited progress. Planting of **green peas, potatoes, sweet corn, tomatoes, and watermelons** was reported. Early plantings of **field corn** may be delayed if moisture levels remain low.

Pasture conditions around the state were reported as 2 percent very poor, 26 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. State **hay** supplies were rates as 13 percent very short, 24 percent short, and 63 percent adequate.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 2, 2006 (PERCENT)

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average 2001-2005
Planting Progress:				
Green Peas	16	-	22	26
Potatoes	16	-	18	13
Sweet Corn	7	-	3	4
Tomatoes	8	-	4	2
Watermelons	5	-	0	0
Fruit Crops Blooming:				
Peaches	12	-	0	7
Strawberries	10	-	11	6

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 2, 2006 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	68	32	-	-
Topsoil (2005)	-	-	-	100
Five Year Average	Not Available			
Subsoil Moisture	21	56	23	-
Subsoil (2005)	-	-	67	33
Five Year Average	Not Available			

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 2, 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	0.01	6.32	-3.43	78	34	54	6
Easton	0.05	6.54	-2.06	76	34	51	8
Frederick	0.21	7.46	-3.03	75	26	46	5
Frostburg	0.06	4.11	-4.26	75	29	52	6
Hagerstown	0.04	4.61	-6.44	79	32	52	3
Mechanicsville	0.00	4.11	-5.61	76	37	54	4
Patuxent River	0.24	4.90	-7.05	73	31	50	0
Ocean City	0.19	4.96	-6.54	76	25	49	1
Salisbury	0.10	5.64	-2.96	77	25	51	7
Sharpsburg	0.00	5.57	-4.33	75	38	54	5
Washington, DC (Reagan National)	0.02	5.77	-3.01	78	38	57	6
Delaware							
Dover	0.07	5.64	-4.45	75	36	53	5
Georgetown	0.12	4.68	-6.37	78	33	53	7
Wilmington	0.03	6.17	-3.42	74	33	53	6

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