



Maryland

Weekly Crop and Weather Report

MD-CW0206

APRIL 10, 2006

Soil Moisture Conditions Still Dry Despite Weekend Rains

While rain this weekend, ranging from under a quarter of an inch to over an inch and a half, was welcome, soil moisture conditions remain very dry and rainfall is several inches below normal for the year to date. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 34 percent very short, 34 percent short and 32 percent adequate. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 17 percent very short, 47 percent short and 36 percent adequate. Temperatures were generally several degrees above normal for the week, though a light frost was reported on the Eastern Shore. Producers reported **6 days suitable** for fieldwork. Growers are finishing up manure spreading and getting fields ready to plant corn.

Small grain development remains stunted by the dry conditions though the rain certainly helped green up the fields. **Wheat** is rated 3 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 44 percent good and 2 percent excellent. **Barley** condition is 12 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Peach trees are at 25 percent bloomed, compared to 8 percent last year and 19 percent average. Strawberries are on schedule with 15 percent bloomed, equal to the 5 year average. Vegetable planting is in full swing with green peas 34 percent planted compared to 31 percent last year and 41 percent average. Sweet corn is 13 percent planted, compared to 4 percent last year and 6 percent average. Potato planting is 35 percent complete compared to 33 percent last year and 27 percent average. Watermelon and cantaloup planting is just underway with 6 percent and 7 percent complete, respectively. Hay supplies improved from last week to 71 percent adequate and 29 percent short or very short.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 9, 2006 (PERCENT)

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average 2001-2005
Planting Progress:				
Cantaloups	7	1	4	3
Green Peas	34	16	31	41
Potatoes	35	16	33	27
Sweet Corn	13	7	4	6
Tomatoes	19	8	11	7
Watermelons	6	5	3	2
Fruit Crops Blooming:				
Peaches	25	12	8	19
Strawberries	15	10	16	15

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 9, 2006 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	34	34	32	-
Topsoil (2005)	-	-	48	52
Five Year Average	1	10	53	36
Subsoil Moisture	17	47	36	-
Subsoil (2005)	-	-	58	42
Five Year Average	7	11	58	24

Beverly Clark
Agricultural Statistician

Norman Bennett
Director

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 9, 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	1.56	7.88	-2.57	77	35	54	4
Easton	1.15	7.69	-1.64	74	30	51	6
Frederick	0.85	8.31	-3.16	72	25	44	-1
Frostburg	1.18	5.29	-3.85	73	29	51	3
Hagerstown	1.26	5.87	-5.98	82	32	55	4
Mechanicsville	0.91	5.02	-5.42	81	39	56	4
Patuxent River	0.19	5.09	-7.66	69	35	53	3
Ocean City	0.44	5.40	-6.88	79	31	53	3
Salisbury	1.12	6.76	-2.57	77	26	52	7
Sharpsburg	1.00	6.57	-4.10	75	33	53	3
Washington, DC (Reagan National)	1.25	7.02	-2.39	80	34	56	3
Delaware							
Dover	1.01	6.65	-4.28	75	36	53	2
Georgetown	0.30	4.98	-6.91	80	38	55	6
Wilmington	1.50	7.67	-2.69	69	33	51	3

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