



Maryland

Weekly Crop and Weather Report

MD-CW0506

May 1, 2006

Dry conditions impacting small grain growth

Most weather stations reported just minimal rainfall this week and precipitation totals for the year are 3 to almost 9 inches behind normal. Producers reported **6.0 days suitable** for fieldwork. Small grains are generally in fair to good condition and are heading, but growth has been stunted by the dry conditions. **Winter wheat** is 2 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 64 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. **Barley** is 1 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. **Corn** planting made significant progress this week with 42 percent planted, compared to 28 percent last year and 28 percent average. **Potato** and **green pea** planting are nearing completion and producers are gearing up for soybean seeding. **Vegetable** planting is underway and generally ahead of the five year average because of the dry weather. **Apples, peaches** and **strawberries** are blooming. **Pasture condition** is rated 10 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. This week brought the first reports of first cutting **hay** being made for alfalfa and other hay. **Hay supplies** were rated 9 percent very sort, 14 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 30, 2006 (PERCENT)

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average 2001-2005
Small Grain Development:				
Barley Headed	55	22	21	38
Winter Wheat Headed	25	5	4	10
Planting Progress:				
Cantaloups	20	19	15	17
Corn	42	17	28	28
Cucumbers	33	31	8	11
Green Peas	89	50	71	83
Lima Beans	7	-	-	1
Potatoes	90	49	75	78
Snap Beans	11	10	5	9
Sweet Corn	25	24	24	27
Tomatoes	40	38	30	32
Watermelons	43	42	11	11
Fruit Crops Blooming:				
Apples	53	44	45	67
Peaches	79	56	64	83
Strawberries	57	41	61	64

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 30, 2006 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	2	37	55	6
Topsoil (2005)	-	10	81	9
Five Year Average	1	8	81	10
Subsoil Moisture	9	31	57	3
Subsoil (2005)	-	2	87	11
Five Year Average	4	10	76	10

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 30, 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	0.63	9.58	-3.06	76	36	56	-2
Easton	0.16	9.24	-2.45	75	32	54	3
Frederick	0.38	11.77	-2.78	70	28	51	1
Frostburg	0.32	7.17	-4.34	72	35	53	-3
Hagerstown	0.21	8.08	-6.14	76	34	55	-4
Mechanicsville	0.00	6.94	-5.70	74	39	56	-3
Patuxent River	0.13	6.24	-8.68	72	37	54	-5
Ocean City	0.09	7.59	-6.87	76	31	54	-4
Salisbury	0.27	8.64	-3.05	75	32	53	2
Sharpsburg	0.04	8.51	-4.45	75	38	56	-3
Washington, DC (Reagan National)	0.03	8.86	-2.45	76	44	59	-2
Delaware							
Dover	0.46	8.83	-4.52	70	37	55	-4
Georgetown	0.01	6.78	-7.47	77	37	56	1
Wilmington	0.38	10.50	-2.26	72	35	54	-2

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