



# Maryland Agriculture Data

## Weekly Crop and Weather Report



MD-CW0104

April 5, 2004

### SPRING PLANTING HAS BEGUN

Planting of **potatoes** and **green peas** has begun. **Peaches** and **strawberries** are beginning to bloom. **Field corn** planting will begin in three weeks and small amounts of **snap beans**, **sweet corn**, and **tomatoes** are being planted.

Air temperatures over the past week were in the 40's and most areas received over an inch of rain making topsoil and subsoil moisture mostly adequate to surplus. Farmers had **2.1 days suitable for field work** for the week ending April 4, 2004.

Small grains are in mostly fair to good condition and will start to form heads soon assuming the weather remains favorable. The condition of **winter wheat** is 8 percent excellent, 63 percent good, 22 percent fair, and 7 percent poor. **Barley** condition was 10 percent excellent, 59 percent good, 24 percent fair, 5 percent poor, and 2 percent very poor.

**Pastures** are in mostly good to excellent condition with 21 percent excellent, 50 percent good, 19 percent fair, 7 percent poor and 3 percent very poor. **Hay supplies** are 58 percent adequate, 19 percent short, and 23 percent very short. Good quality hay is in short supply.

#### MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 4, 2004 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1999-2003
Planting Progress:				
Green Peas	50	-	41	34
Potatoes	25	-	14	20
Fruit Crops Blooming:				
Peaches	17	-	18	25
Strawberries	10	-	3	11

#### SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 4, 2004 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	-	-	48	52
Topsoil (2003)	-	1	48	51
Five Year Avg	1	14	64	21
Subsoil Moisture	-	-	57	43
Subsoil (2003)	-	1	72	27
Five Year Avg	8	17	64	11

Holly Smith  
Agricultural Statistician

Norman Bennett  
State Statistician

Published by

**The Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service**

50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(410) 841-5740 Fax (410) 841-5755

*a cooperative service of*

**The Maryland Department of Agriculture, the National Agricultural Statistics Service,  
and the University of Maryland Extension System**

**Precipitation and Departures From Normal, Through March 31, 2004**

County	March 2004		Since January 1, 2004	
	Precipitation	Departure From Normal	Accumulated Precipitation	Accumulated Departure
<b>Maryland</b>				
Allegany	2.9	-0.6	6.0	-0.4
Anne Arundel	2.7	-1.1	5.0	-3.6
Baltimore	3.0	-0.7	6.0	-2.3
Calvert	2.4	-1.3	4.6	-3.1
Caroline	2.4	-1.4	4.4	-3.6
Carroll	2.5	-1.2	5.6	-2.2
Cecil	3.2	-0.5	6.1	-1.9
Charles	2.3	-1.5	4.7	-3.6
Dorchester	2.2	-1.7	4.1	-3.8
Frederick	2.4	-1.3	5.5	-1.9
Garrett	3.5	-0.4	6.3	-0.6
Harford	3.5	-0.5	6.6	-1.7
Howard	2.6	-1.2	5.5	-2.9
Kent	3.0	-0.8	5.6	-2.7
Montgomery	2.4	1.2	4.9	-0.5
Prince George's	2.6	-1.0	5.1	-2.6
Queen Anne's	2.7	-1.0	5.0	-3.4
Somerset	2.2	-2.0	4.5	-4.1
St. Mary's	2.1	-1.8	4.2	-3.3
Talbot	2.5	-1.5	4.6	-3.7
Washington	2.1	-1.3	5.4	-1.4
Wicomico	2.3	-1.8	4.8	-3.6
Worcester	2.5	-1.8	4.6	-4.3
<b>Delaware</b>				
New Castle	2.9	-0.9	5.4	-2.8
Kent	2.6	-1.3	4.6	-3.8
Sussex	2.4	-1.7	4.4	-4.3

Source: National Weather Service