

MD-CW0203

APRIL 14, 2003

### Rain Hinders Spring Planting Season

Cool temperatures, rain and drizzle soaked most of the region last week with most locations having over two inches of rain. Farmers had **1.6 days suitable for field work** last week. A few farmers were able to get into their fields to topdress small grains. Spring planting is one to two weeks behind normal this year, which will make for a compressed planting season. Fruit crops are starting to bloom with 30 percent of peaches and 27 percent of strawberries already flowered.

The rain last week did not impact the condition of small grains. They are in fair to good condition with **winter wheat** at 5 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. **Barley** condition is 2 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

Pastures remain in fair to good condition due to the rain received last week. **Pasture** condition is 9 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. **Hay supplies** continue to be in short supply. Hay supplies are 27 percent very short, 33 percent short, and 40 percent adequate.

The wet weather last week increased the soil moisture levels from adequate to mostly surplus. **Topsoil moisture** is 37 percent adequate, and 63 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** is 1 percent short, 71 percent adequate, and 28 percent surplus.

#### MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 13, 2003 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1998-2002
Planting Progress:				
Potatoes	20	20	50	59
Green Peas	58	58	57	51
Sweet Corn	7	5	13	12
Fruit Crops Blooming:				
Apples	9	4	21	25
Peaches	30	25	63	56
Strawberries	27	4	29	27

#### SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 13, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	-	-	37	63
Topsoil (2002)	4	13	82	1
Subsoil Moisture	-	1	72	27
Subsoil (2002)	47	36	17	0

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**