

MD-CW0403

APRIL 28, 2003

SPRING PLANTINGS PROGRESS

Warm, sunny weather improved field conditions over the past week and allowed more farmers to begin the planting process. The number of **days suitable for field work** increased this week to 5.5 for the week ending April 27th, the best week so far this season.

Planting of green peas and tomatoes are on schedule while sweet corn, watermelons, and cantaloupes are behind schedule by a week. Fruit crops are in full bloom with strawberries at 60 percent, peaches at 61 percent and apples at 45 percent. Corn planting has begun with 11 percent planted; well behind last year's progress and the five year average. Small amounts of cucumbers and lima beans have been planted.

Hay supplies continue to be mostly adequate with 40 percent reported as adequate, 32 percent short, and 28 percent very short. The cool, wet spring left **pastures** in mostly good condition with 17 percent rated excellent, 52 percent good, 25 percent fair, 5 percent poor and 1 percent very poor.

Over the next one to two weeks, small grains will begin to head and turn. **Winter wheat** is in fair to good condition with 7 percent excellent, 48 percent good, 31 percent fair, 9 percent poor and 5 percent very poor. **Barley** condition is 6 percent excellent, 56 percent good, 29 percent fair, 7 percent poor, and 2 percent very poor.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 27, 2003 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1998-2002
Planting Progress:				
Cantaloupes	6	2	15	14
Corn	11	4	37	20
Green Peas	81	60	85	83
Potatoes	65	30	72	87
Snap Beans	7	1	11	9
Sweet Corn	17	11	33	27
Tomatoes	22	3	32	25
Watermelons	6	-	17	11
Fruit Crops Blooming:				
Apples	45	30	78	65
Peaches	61	48	94	88
Strawberries	60	38	60	55

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 27, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	-	-	77	23
Topsoil (2002)	1	23	70	6
Subsoil Moisture	-	-	76	24
Subsoil (2002)	19	46	34	1

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