

MD-CW0503

MAY 5, 2003

### Fruits in Full Bloom

Warm days followed by cool nights, mingled with a few showers provided farmers with 5.8 **days suitable for field work** for the week ending May 4, 2003. Corn planted doubled from last week and a small amount of soybeans and sorghum were planted.

**Peaches, apples and strawberries** benefitted from the warm weather last week with peaches at 97 percent, apples 84 percent, and strawberries 84 percent.

**Barley** is beginning to head while **winter wheat** is about a week behind. Small grains are in fair to good condition with winter wheat rated 7 percent excellent, 48 percent good, 31 percent fair, 9 percent poor and 5 percent very poor. Barley condition is 3 percent excellent, 57 percent good, 27 percent fair, 9 percent poor and 4 percent very poor.

Farmers are in the process of cutting hay for the first time this season. **Hay supplies** is mostly short to adequate. **Pasture** condition is 18 percent excellent, 49 percent good, 29 percent fair, and 4 percent poor.

### MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 4, 2003 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1998-2002
Small Grain Development:				
Barley Headed	27	16	89	80
Planting Progress:				
Cantaloupes	21	6	22	26
Corn	26	11	50	38
Cucumbers	8	4	15	16
Green Peas	90	81	94	92
Potatoes	82	65	82	95
Snap Beans	11	7	18	15
Sweet Corn	30	17	48	39
Tomatoes	35	22	38	39
Watermelons	13	6	21	20
Fruit Crops Blooming:				
Apples	84	45	95	86
Peaches	97	61	96	95
Strawberries	84	60	82	73
Hay Harvested:				
Alfalfa Hay	10	2	9	6
Other Hay	9	4	12	8

### SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 4, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	-	3	85	12
Topsoil (2002)	-	3	89	8
Subsoil Moisture	-	-	88	12
Subsoil (2002)	14	38	44	4

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Published by

**The Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service**

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

**Precipitation and Departures From Normal, Through April 30, 2003**

County	April 2003		Since January 1, 2003	
	Precipitation	Departure From Normal	Accumulated Precipitation	Accumulated Departure
<b>Maryland</b>				
Allegany	2.6	0.6	13.2	2.4
Anne Arundel	1.9	0.9	15.2	3.9
Baltimore	2.1	-0.1	15.1	2.8
Calvert	2.4	0.4	17.2	5.3
Caroline	3.0	1.0	15.5	3.1
Carroll	2.0	-0.2	13.8	2.0
Cecil	1.8	-0.4	13.8	1.7
Charles	2.2	0.2	16.9	5.0
Dorchester	2.8	0.8	15.9	3.2
Frederick	2.4	0.2	14.4	2.7
Garrett	2.2	-0.4	<sup>1/</sup>	<sup>1/</sup>
Harford	2.2	-0.2	14.6	1.9
Howard	1.7	-0.5	14.5	2.3
Kent	2.4	0.3	15.0	2.7
Montgomery	2.3	0.2	15.9	4.2
Prince George's	2.2	0.1	17.1	5.5
Queen Anne's	2.6	0.6	15.4	3.3
Somerset	3.9	1.8	16.8	3.6
St. Mary's	2.6	0.7	17.3	5.4
Talbot	2.8	0.7	16.5	3.8
Washington	2.3	0.2	13.3	2.3
Wicomico	3.6	1.5	17.0	3.6
Worcester	4.6	2.6	18.3	4.9
<b>Delaware</b>				
New Castle	2.2	0.0	14.6	2.8
Kent	3.6	1.5	15.7	3.3
Sussex	3.3	1.2	14.9	1.9

Source: National Weather Service

<sup>1/</sup> Data is unavailable