

Weekly Crop and Weather Report

MD-CW1403

JULY 7, 2003

SMALL GRAINS HARVEST INCREASES

Scattered rain showers and warm temperatures characterized most of last week resulting in **5.0 days suitable for field work** for the week ending July 6, 2003. Air temperatures ranged in the low 90's for highs and 60's for lows. Planting progress was made for soybeans with almost 60 percent. The maturity of the crop is behind normal by about two weeks. In the Western part of Maryland, some farmers are planting sorghum for forage.

The main focus for the week was harvesting **hay** and small grains. **Barley** harvest jumped to 79 percent, a 42 percent increase from last week. **Wheat** harvest is becoming widespread and currently 29 percent of the crop has been harvested. Test weights for both barley and wheat indicate yields will be lower than normal this year. Rain this past weekend delayed barley and wheat harvest. Farmers are on their second cutting of alfalfa and other hay. Quality of hay looks good despite the late harvest.

A small amount of **cucumbers, snap beans, sweet corn, tomatoes, cantaloupes, and potatoes** are being harvested. **Apples** and **peaches** are in mostly fair to good condition since fruit set was good this year. Peaches are beginning to be harvested and apples will follow in the next few weeks.

Pastures are in mostly fair to good condition with 25 percent excellent, 41 percent good, 25 percent fair, 6 percent poor and 3 percent very poor.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 6, 2003 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1998-2002
Planting Progress:				
Soybeans	59	45	93	88
Harvesting Progress:				
Barley	79	37	99	97
Winter Wheat	29	5	85	68
Cucumbers	10	-	29	31
Snap Beans	7	3	44	27
Sweet Corn	6	-	13	12
Alfalfa Hay 2 nd Cutting	33	14	87	68
Other Hay 2 nd Cutting	23	5	35	38

CROP CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 6, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	9	16	34	34	7
Soybeans	7	17	44	25	7
Sorghum	8	8	37	38	9
Tobacco	-	11	53	36	-
Pasture	3	6	25	41	25

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 6, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	-	2	74	24
Topsoil (2002)	36	46	18	-
Subsoil Moisture	-	-	75	25
Subsoil (2002)	33	57	10	-

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Precipitation and Departures From Normal, Through June 30, 2003

County	June 2003		Since April 1, 2003	
	Precipitation	Departure From Normal	Accumulated Precipitation	Accumulated Departure
Maryland				
Allegany	6.3	2.7	16.1	6.7
Anne Arundel	7.4	3.9	15.9	7.4
Baltimore	7.7	4.0	16.2	6.0
Calvert	8.0	4.4	17.2	7.6
Caroline	6.0	2.6	15.8	6.8
Carroll	6.5	2.7	15.6	5.5
Cecil	9.4	5.8	15.3	5.7
Charles	8.2	4.6	18.4	9.0
Dorchester	6.1	2.8	15.8	7.1
Frederick	6.6	2.8	17.5	7.3
Garrett	1/	1/	1/	1/
Harford	9.2	5.4	17.7	7.1
Howard	7.0	3.2	15.3	5.1
Kent	7.5	3.7	15.9	6.0
Montgomery	8.1	4.3	17.9	7.8
Prince George's	8.5	4.9	18.2	8.5
Queen Anne's	6.2	2.6	15.5	6.1
Somerset	3.8	0.5	12.2	3.2
St. Mary's	7.2	3.5	17.0	7.4
Talbot	5.3	1.8	15.7	6.2
Washington	6.8	3.2	13.1	7.3
Wicomico	4.3	0.9	13.5	4.1
Worcester	3.6	0.2	16.9	4.6
Delaware				
New Castle	9.5	6.0	15.8	3.9
Kent	7.1	3.6	19.4	9.9
Sussex	5.0	1.6	14.0	4.9

Source: National Weather Service

1/ Data unavailable