

## Weekly Crop and Weather Report

MD-CW1603

JULY 21, 2003

### Small Grain Harvest Nears Completion

Mostly sunny skies with a few scattered showers resulted in 5.8 days **suitable for field work** for the week ending July 20, 2003. The largest rainfall was on the Lower Eastern Shore. Wicomico county received 1.1 inches, followed by Somerset with 0.9 inches and Worcester with 0.8 inches. Air temperatures averaged 3 to 5 degrees below normal, with highs ranging in the upper 70's to low 80's.

**Barley** harvest is nearing completion with 98 percent harvested and **wheat** harvest is more than 75 percent complete. Vegetable harvest increased for **watermelons, cucumbers, snap beans, cantaloupe, and sweet corn**. The second cutting of hay is more than 40 percent complete and farmers are expecting better quality hay than the first cutting.

**Corn** is almost 40 percent tasseled and the condition is mostly good to fair. Some double cropped **soybeans** are still being planted and farmers may try to plant them up until August first. **Tobacco** is beginning to bloom with 8 percent bloomed.

#### MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 20, 2003 (PERCENT)

| ITEM                                | THIS WEEK | LAST WEEK | LAST YEAR | AVERAGE 1998-2002 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
| Harvesting Progress:                |           |           |           |                   |
| Barley                              | 98        | 93        | 100       | 100               |
| Winter Wheat                        | 76        | 66        | 97        | 96                |
| Cantaloupe                          | 11        | 5         | 31        | 26                |
| Cucumbers                           | 20        | 15        | 39        | 44                |
| Peaches                             | 7         | 4         | 19        | 23                |
| Snap Beans                          | 24        | 14        | 58        | 42                |
| Sweet Corn                          | 15        | 10        | 43        | 32                |
| Tomatoes                            | 8         | 5         | 17        | 18                |
| Watermelons                         | 6         | 2         | 11        | 11                |
| Crop Progress                       |           |           |           |                   |
| Corn Silked                         | 38        | 15        | 61        | 58                |
| Tobacco Bloomed                     | 8         | 2         | 22        | 32                |
| Hay Harvested                       |           |           |           |                   |
| Alfalfa Hay 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cutting | 63        | 53        | 95        | 91                |
| Other Hay 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cutting   | 40        | 34        | 59        | 67                |

#### CROP CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 20, 2003 (PERCENT)

| Condition | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|-----------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Corn      | 9         | 14   | 26   | 37   | 14        |
| Soybeans  | 7         | 18   | 28   | 41   | 6         |
| Sorghum   | 19        | 9    | 38   | 21   | 13        |
| Tobacco   | 3         | 13   | 51   | 28   | 5         |
| Pasture   | -         | 4    | 21   | 50   | 25        |

#### SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 20, 2003 (PERCENT)

| Condition        | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|------------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| Topsoil Moisture | -          | 4     | 76       | 20      |
| Topsoil (2002)   | 43         | 42    | 15       | -       |
| Subsoil Moisture | -          | -     | 76       | 24      |
| Subsoil (2002)   | 54         | 38    | 8        | -       |

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**

Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service  
50 Harry S Truman Parkway  
Suite 202  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300