

MD-CW1703

JULY 28, 2003

### Topsoil Moisture Begins to Decline

The lack of precipitation this week has started to affect the amount of topsoil moisture and subsoil moisture. Topsoil moisture is about 14 percent short or very short and subsoil moisture is 5 percent short. This is the first time all season where moisture conditions have fallen more than 5 percent into short and very short categories. Sunny skies with a few showers resulted in **6.2 days suitable for field work** for the week ending July 27, 2003.

Corn growth and development is slightly behind normal. A few **corn** fields are beginning the dough stage and some fields of **sorghum** have headed. Full-season **soybeans** are starting to bloom and will be setting pods in a few weeks. **Tobacco** is in mostly fair condition with a few fields blooming. Warm temperatures allowed farmers to finish wheat harvest and harvest more **alfalfa** and **other hay**. Some farmers are starting on their third cutting of alfalfa hay. Vegetable harvest is getting into full swing with **snap beans**, **sweet corn** and **potatoes** increasing by at least 10 percent.

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

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1998-2002
Harvesting Progress:				
Winter Wheat	91	76	100	98
Cantaloups	14	11	43	38
Cucumbers	30	20	55	52
Peaches	13	7	24	27
Snap Beans	34	24	62	50
Sweet Corn	32	15	51	44
Tomatoes	21	8	20	25
Watermelons	9	6	14	19
Crop Progress				
Corn, silked	50	38	73	71
Corn, dough	6	-	29	27
Soybeans, bloomed	5	2	39	38
Tobacco, bloomed	12	8	39	48
Hay Harvested				
Alfalfa Hay 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cutting	73	63	99	96
Alfalfa Hay 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cutting	13	-	49	38
Other Hay 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cutting	60	40	76	76

### CROP CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 27, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	8	12	24	41	15
Soybeans	7	18	27	39	9
Sorghum	18	9	39	20	14
Tobacco	3	22	42	26	7
Pasture	-	5	27	49	19

### SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 27, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	3	11	74	12
Topsoil (2002)	32	43	25	-
Subsoil Moisture	-	5	87	8
Subsoil (2002)	52	37	11	-

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