

MD-CW1704

July 26, 2004

Pleasant Weather Relieves Farmers

Maryland farmers were blessed with decent weather for the week. There were **5.0 days suitable for field work** for the week ending July 25, 2004. Air temperatures were cooler and supplied a break from the heat along with a few showers. Overall crops are looking good and many are still ahead of schedule. Farmers were able to advance with **hay** last week after the previous week's weather set back. **Alfalfa** hay third cutting was 35% complete compared to 21% the previous week. **Tobacco** was in mostly good to excellent condition with 62% bloomed and 33% topped. Harvesting of **tobacco** may begin as early as next week.

Fruits and vegetables are in the midst of harvest. **Peaches** were 22% harvested, **watermelons** were 19% harvested and **sweet corn** was 67% harvested. **Top soil moisture** was 9% short, 79% adequate and 12% surplus.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 25, 2004 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1999-2003
Harvesting Progress:				
Apples	8	-	1	-
Cantaloups	37	28	13	29
Cucumbers	42	34	27	46
Lima Beans (Processed)	48	28	4	16
Peaches	22	18	11	20
Potatoes	19	14	15	47
Snap Beans	47	43	31	44
Sweet Corn	67	38	27	37
Tomatoes	33	24	17	22
Watermelons	19	8	8	13
Crop Progress:				
Corn Silked	95	90	47	63
Soybeans Blooming	52	50	4	29
Hay Harvested:				
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	35	21	9	31
Other Hay 2nd Cutting	67	63	54	70
Other Hay 3rd Cutting	12	7	-	23

CROP CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 25, 2004 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	3	3	17	38	39
Pasture	3	4	20	43	30
Soybeans	2	5	16	59	18
Sorghum	-	19	19	62	-
Tobacco	3	7	11	44	35

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 25, 2004 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	-	9	79	12
Topsoil (2003)	2	9	75	14
Five Year Avg	15	27	50	8
Subsoil Moisture	1	7	84	8
Subsoil (2003)	-	4	83	13
Five Year Avg	19	24	52	5

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**CLIMATE
REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING 7/25/2004**

Maryland	County	Temperature			Departure from Normal
		Max	Min	Avg	
		Degrees F			
FROSTBURG 2	Garrett	81*	53*	67.6*	-1.4
MC HENRY 2 NW	Garrett	-	-	-	-
CUMBERLAND 2	Allegany	89	58	72.9	-2.1
SMITHSBURG 2 NW	Washington	89*	60*	72.9*	-
SHARPSBURG 5 S	Washington	89*	60*	73.1*	-
BALTIMORE/WASH ARPT	Baltimore	90	65	75.4	-1.6
CONOWINGO DAM	Harford	-	-	-	-
SALISBURY AIRPORT	Wicomico	88	59	73.9	-4.1
MECHANICSVILLE 5 NE	St. Marys	86	63	73.4	-3.6
EASTON POLICE BRKS	Talbot	82*	67*	74.5*	-
Delaware					
WILMINGTON AIRPORT	New Castle	88	65	74.9	-2.1
WILMINGTON PORTER RSV	New Castle	86	64	73.8	-2.7
GREENWOOD 2 NE	Sussex	88	64	74.6	-1.4

Maryland	County	Growing Degree Days	Departure From Normal	Precipitation (Inches)	Departure From Normal
FROSTBURG 2	Garrett	108*	-26	0.13*	-0.78
MCHENRY 2 NW	Garrett	-	-	0.05*	-1.18
CUMBERLAND 2	Allegany	159	-11	1.01	0.24
SMITHSBURG 2 NW	Washington	113*	-	0.41*	-
SHARPSBURG 5 S	Washington	91*	-	0.32*	-
BALTIMORE/WASH ARPT	Baltimore	177	-6	0.99	0.09
CONOWINGO DAM	Harford	-	-	0.99	0.04
SALISBURY AIRPORT	Wicomico	167	-17	0.84	-0.23
MECHANICSVILLE 5 NE	St. Marys	165	-14	0.47	-0.51
EASTON POLICE BRKS	Talbot	74*	-	1.26*	-
Delaware					
WILMINGTON AIRPORT Castle	New Castle	175	-8	0.07	-0.91
WILMINGTON PORTER RSV	New Castle	168	-11	2.09	1.02
GREENWOOD 2 NE	Sussex	173	-9	0.26	-0.86

* indicates incomplete weekly value

This report was prepared by the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University, <<http://www.nrcc.cornell.edu>>.