

## Weekly Crop and Weather Report

MD-CW2203

September 2, 2003

### Thunderstorms Limit Hay Making

High humidity coupled with scattered evening thunderstorms resulted in 4.6 **days suitable for field work** for the week ending August 31, 2003. Air temperatures ranged from the 70's for lows to the 80's for highs. Most of Maryland was an inch above normal in precipitation for the month of August. Evening thunderstorms made it difficult to make good quality **hay**. A few farmers are starting their fourth cutting of alfalfa and other hay. Rain this summer has adversely affected **watermelon** and **sweet corn** yields.

Almost 70 percent of the **corn** crop is in the dough stage and over 30 percent is in the dent stage. A few fields are mature and will be harvested in a few weeks. Some farmers are chopping **corn** for **silage**. Over 70 percent of **soybeans** have bloomed and over 50 percent are setting pods.

### MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 31, 2003 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1998-2002
<b>Harvesting Progress:</b>				
Apples	11	10	25	23
Cantaloups	75	67	83	88
Corn Silage	8	7	51	30
Cucumbers	66	49	77	82
Lima Beans (Processed)	25	19	38	42
Peaches	86	64	94	90
Potatoes	77	65	97	99
Snap Beans	77	72	84	81
Sweet Corn	85	80	77	87
Tomatoes	69	63	75	80
Watermelons	78	59	77	81
<b>Crop Progress</b>				
Corn, dough	69	60	89	82
Corn, dent	35	24	69	58
Soybeans, bloomed	74	60	94	94
Soybeans, setting pods	52	29	83	83
Tobacco, topped	71	25	97	93
<b>Hay Harvested</b>				
Alfalfa Hay 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cutting	74	63	84	87
Other Hay 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cutting	35	29	59	64

### CROP CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 31, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	4	9	15	51	21
Soybeans	6	15	26	38	15
Tobacco	3	8	25	40	24
Pasture	2	6	20	50	22

### SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 31, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	2	5	75	18
Topsoil (2002)	11	39	48	2
Subsoil Moisture	-	4	83	13
Subsoil (2002)	47	40	13	-

Holly Smith  
Agricultural Statistician

Norman Bennett  
State Statistician

Published by

**The Maryland Agriculture 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