

## Weekly Crop and Weather Report

MD-CW2303

September 8, 2003

### HARVESTING PROGRESS SLOWS

Cloudy days with continued rain showers resulted in 3.1 **days suitable for field work** for the week ending September 7, 2003. Air temperatures ranged in the 80's for highs and the 70's for lows. Maryland farmers received an average of 1.4 inches of rain last week with the Lower Eastern Shore and parts of Western Maryland receiving in excess of 2 inches.

**Corn** is beginning to dry down as half of the crop is now in the dent stage of development. Over 10 percent of the **corn silage** has been harvested. This is 59 percent behind last year and 30 percent behind the five-year average. **Soybeans** are filling pods and will start to turn color in the next few weeks. Weeds are becoming a problem in **hay** fields and insect and disease pressure on **vegetable** crops is becoming high, especially for lima beans.

### MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 7, 2003 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1998-2002
Harvesting Progress:				
Apples	17	11	26	25
Cantaloups	82	75	87	92
Corn Silage	11	8	69	40
Cucumbers	71	66	82	85
Lima Beans (Processed)	35	25	43	50
Peaches	93	86	98	96
Potatoes	85	77	100	100
Snap Beans	90	77	87	86
Sweet Corn	89	85	82	90
Tobacco	35	15	66	65
Tomatoes	80	69	79	86
Watermelons	85	78	81	88
Crop Progress				
Corn, dough	78	69	96	92
Corn, dent	49	35	81	74
Corn, mature	9	4	62	42
Soybeans, setting pods	63	52	91	93
Hay Harvested				
Alfalfa Hay 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cutting	79	74	89	92
Other Hay 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cutting	40	35	77	73

### CROP CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 7, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	5	9	16	48	22
Soybeans	6	14	26	38	16
Tobacco	3	-	22	42	33
Pasture	2	4	23	47	24

### SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 7, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	-	3	64	33
Topsoil (2002)	7	41	50	2
Subsoil Moisture	-	2	69	29
Subsoil (2002)	33	48	19	-

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**Precipitation and Departures From Normal, Through August 31, 2003**

County	August 2003		Since April 1, 2003	
	Precipitation	Departure From Normal	Accumulated Precipitation	Accumulated Departure
<b>Maryland</b>				
Allegany	2.5	0.7	21.2	7.8
Anne Arundel	3.2	1.1	23.4	10.5
Baltimore	3.4	1.4	22.9	8.2
Calvert	5.3	3.2	27.0	12.8
Caroline	4.6	2.2	24.0	10.0
Carroll	3.6	1.7	21.6	7.2
Cecil	5.2	3.2	22.4	8.4
Charles	2.8	0.6	24.9	10.8
Dorchester	5.6	3.2	24.7	11.1
Frederick	4.7	2.8	24.1	9.6
Garrett	1/	1/	1/	1/
Harford	5.3	3.2	26.3	10.9
Howard	2.3	0.3	20.1	5.7
Kent	5.2	3.1	24.5	10.1
Montgomery	2.3	0.3	24.6	10.2
Prince George's	3.5	1.4	26.0	11.7
Queen Anne's	5.0	2.7	24.6	10.4
Somerset	2.9	0.3	18.5	4.3
St. Mary's	5.4	3.3	26.2	12.0
Talbot	4.2	1.9	24.2	9.8
Washington	3.3	1.5	21.4	7.8
Wicomico	2.9	0.2	20.4	6.2
Worcester	2.2	-0.4	18.4	4.3
<b>Delaware</b>				
New Castle	4.9	3.0	23.0	9.8
Kent	4.3	1.9	28.0	11.4
Sussex	3.8	1.2	20.5	7.1

Source: National Weather Service

<sup>1/</sup> Data is unavailable