

Weekly Crop and Weather Report

MD-CW2403

September 15, 2003

A Good Week for Corn and Soybean Development

Sunshine and mild air temperatures allowed farmers 5.0 **days suitable for field work** for the week ending September 14, 2003. Air temperatures ranged in the 70's for highs and the 60's for lows. A majority of the **corn** is drying down and over 30 percent of the crop is mature. Some fields are being harvested for grain, but a majority of the corn will not be harvested for at least another two to three weeks. Corn silage harvest is slowly progressing with only 23 percent harvested compared with 79 percent last year and 53 percent for the five-year average. Over 75 percent of the **soybeans** are filling pods compared with 95 percent last year and 97 percent for the five-year average. Soybeans are at least three to four weeks away from harvest. Vegetable harvest is almost complete for **cantaloups, cucumbers, potatoes, snap beans, sweet corn, tomatoes, and watermelons**. **Peach** harvest is complete and **apples** are over 20 percent harvested. Rain showers toward the end of last week limited hay production. Most farmers are on their third cutting of **alfalfa** and **other hay**. Hay supplies was rated 57 percent adequate, 27 percent short and 16 percent very short.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 14, 2003 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1998-2002
Harvesting Progress:				
Apples	21	17	43	32
Cantaloups	89	82	98	97
Corn Silage	23	11	79	53
Cucumbers	76	71	98	92
Lima Beans (Processed)	55	35	49	55
Peaches	99	93	99	99
Potatoes	97	85	100	100
Snap Beans	92	90	90	90
Sweet Corn	93	89	90	94
Tobacco	48	35	87	81
Tomatoes	86	80	89	93
Watermelons	90	85	86	92
Crop Progress				
Corn, dough	86	78	98	97
Corn, dent	65	49	88	84
Corn, mature	31	9	75	55
Soybeans, setting pods	78	63	95	97
Hay Harvested				
Alfalfa Hay 3 rd Cutting	87	79	92	95
Alfalfa Hay 4 th Cutting	11	6	49	53
Other Hay 3 rd Cutting	43	40	82	80

CROP CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 14, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	4	9	17	47	23
Soybeans	5	13	27	38	17
Pasture	2	6	22	46	24

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 14, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	-	2	60	38
Topsoil (2002)	19	42	38	1
Subsoil Moisture	-	2	73	25
Subsoil (2002)	37	45	18	-

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