

Weekly Crop and Weather Report

MD-CW2503

September 22, 2003

Hurricane Isabel Blows into Town

Hurricane Isabel arrived in Maryland on Thursday which resulted in 3.5 days suitable for field work for the week ending September 21, 2003. Winds gusted up to 55 miles per hour on Thursday night resulting in damage to corn, fruit trees, farm buildings and some soybean fields. Flooding occurred in parts of Maryland, especially in low lying areas and shore lines. Most areas had up to 3 inches of rain from Hurricane Isabel.

Corn condition slightly decreased this week from hurricane damage. Many corn fields have broken stalks, but ear stands are still good and harvest should not be too much of a problem. Some farmers were able to harvest mature corn for grain before the storm hit. **Corn** for **silage** harvest increased early last week, with the threat of the storm, to 38 percent harvested. **Soybeans** fared pretty well with little change in condition. A few soybean fields were knocked down but are expected to recover. Almost all the **vegetable** crops finished their harvesting season before the storm arrived. A small amount of **hay** was cut in advance of the storm.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 21, 2003 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1998-2002
Harvesting Progress:				
Apples	28	21	48	38
Corn Silage	38	23	91	69
Corn for grain	9	2	43	29
Cucumbers	81	76	100	97
Lima Beans (Processed)	67	55	59	65
Snap Beans	95	92	93	94
Sweet Corn	96	93	95	97
Tobacco	65	48	92	89
Tomatoes	90	86	95	97
Watermelons	91	90	98	98
Crop Progress				
Corn, dent	72	65	94	92
Corn, mature	44	31	87	70
Soybeans, turned	10	3	70	43
Hay Harvested				
Alfalfa Hay 3 rd Cutting	90	87	99	99
Alfalfa Hay 4 th Cutting	14	11	65	61
Other Hay 3 rd Cutting	53	43	83	86
Other Hay 4 th Cutting	5	3	11	42

CROP CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 21, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	7	12	20	44	17
Soybeans	6	14	26	37	17
Pasture	2	5	22	48	23

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 21, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	-	-	43	57
Topsoil (2002)	18	58	24	-
Subsoil Moisture	-	-	55	45
Subsoil (2002)	37	48	15	-

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