

Weekly Crop and Weather Report

MD-CW2903

October 20, 2003

Soybean Harvest Well Underway

Although rain fell on Tuesday last week, conditions dried enough to have an average of 5.7 **days suitable for field work** for the week ending October 20, 2003. Many Maryland farmers took advantage of the dry weather to harvest **soybeans**. Currently, soybeans are 14 percent harvested, 10 percent behind last year and 15 percent behind the five year average. Soybean condition is rated 16 percent excellent, 36 percent good, 23 percent fair, 18 percent poor, and 7 percent very poor. **Corn** harvested for grain progressed 18 percent from the previous week. Corn harvest continues to be behind schedule, running 13 percent behind last year and 5 percent behind the average.

Despite suitable weather, small grain planting remains behind schedule. Farmers were able to complete planting half of the **barley** crop by last week, 34 percent behind last year and 24 percent behind the five-year average. **Wheat** is now 32 percent planted, 8 percent behind last year and 3 percent behind the average. Small grains are in mostly fair to good condition.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 20, 2003 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1998-2002
Harvesting Progress:				
Apples	78	64	80	84
Corn Silage	84	75	100	98
Corn, for grain	69	51	82	74
Sorghum	59	40	34	46
Crop Progress:				
Soybeans, dropping leaves	68	43	86	86
Soybeans, harvested	14	3	24	29
Tobacco, stripped	12	10	9	11
Small Grains Planted:				
Barley	50	24	84	74
Wheat	32	10	40	35
Hay Harvested:				
Alfalfa Hay 4 th Cutting	69	54	87	88
Alfalfa Hay 5 th Cutting	8	5	28	41
Other Hay 4 th Cutting	86	57	73	84

CROP CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 20, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Soybeans	7	18	23	36	16
Barley	5	7	24	57	7
Wheat	4	1	28	61	6
Pasture	3	6	22	48	21

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 20, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	-	5	86	9
Topsoil (2002)	-	11	86	3
Subsoil Moisture	-	2	82	16
Subsoil (2002)	11	53	35	1

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