

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
SINCLAIR WEEKS, Secretary  
WEATHER BUREAU  
F. W. REICHELDERFER, Chief

# CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE

MAY 1955

Volume LIX No. 5



ASHEVILLE: 1955.

## WEATHER SUMMARY

## GENERAL

Warmth, dryness, and unusually abundant sunshine characterized the month's weather.

Delaware temperatures averaged 1.7° above the long-term figure with every station in the state for which normals are available showing departures above normal. Only one Delaware station failed to attain 90° or higher on at least one day in May. Extremes in the state ranged from 35° at Georgetown 5 SW on the 18th to 93° at Dover, Middletown 2 S, and Wilmington Newcastle WB Airport on the 29th. Maryland temperatures averaged 2.3° above the long-term figure and a nearly similar situation occurred with respect to individual stations, only two having below normal monthly means. Of the 90 Maryland temperature stations, 46 recorded readings of 90° or higher on one or more days with Salisbury Police Brks having 5 such days to lead the heat parade. Extremes in Maryland ranged from 27° at Oakland 1 SE on the 18th to 95° at Frederick Police Brks on the 24th. Although none of the extremes was unusual, this was the seventh warmest May of record in Maryland.

The month was unusually dry, particularly so in Delaware where May has been drier only six times since records began in 1895. Delaware averaged nearly 2 inches below the long-term figure, and every station for which normals are available recorded deficiencies which ranged from -1.64 inches at Dover to -3.12 inches at Newark College Farm. Actual monthly totals in Delaware ranged from 1.15 inches at Wilmington City Hall to 2.62 inches at Georgetown 5 SW.

Precipitation-wise, Maryland fared slightly better but averaged about 1-1/2 inches below the long-term expectancy for the driest May since 1939. Monthly totals ranged from 0.52 inch at Ocean City to 4.07 inches at Denton, the only station of those having normals to report an above average amount. Deficiencies ranged from -0.03 inch at Cumberland to -3.49 inches at Conowingo Dam with nearly 80% of the stations recording deficiencies of more than one inch and 24% having deficiencies of 2.00 inches or more.

According to available records, cloudiness averaged less than usual and sunshine was considerably more than ordinarily expected, ranging from 5% to 13% above normal over the Section.

## WEATHER DETAILS

The month began with seasonable temperatures and a few light showers on the 1st from the effects of a weak offshore Low. A slow-moving High over the Section warmed gradually to much above seasonable levels in most areas during the 3rd to 6th. Moderate cooling followed a cold front passage on the 6th. Another cold front on the 8th, aided by subsequent disturbances, continued the coolness through the 18th with light to moderate showers and a few thunderstorms during the 8th-14th period.

The wettest and warmest period of the month began on the 20th as a nearly stationary front lay across the Section and was followed by a series of fronts and low pressure areas. Most of the rainfall was light to moderate, occurring generally during the 20th-25th and the 29th-31st, being attended by numerous thunderstorms which were violent in some localities. A strong cold front, extending from New England to the Gulf of Mexico, abruptly terminated the warm spell when it crossed into the Atlantic on the 30th.

## WEATHER EFFECTS

Most crops were in fairly good condition despite the increasing dryness of soils which was partially alleviated by rains in the last week of the month.

Small grains were in excellent condition with barley, winter oats and rye ripening in the south. Vegetable planting was completed and crops were in good condition with the harvest of peas started on the Eastern Shore late in the month, and with snap beans nearly ready for picking. The strawberry harvest was heavy and the peak was passed by the end of May. Apples and peaches were sizing well with thinning operations under way.

By the end of the month, corn planting was almost completed, soybeans 70%, and tobacco about 45% planted. Considerable earlier planted corn had to be replanted because of extreme dryness in some areas. Some hay was cut and baled but hay crops and pastures were generally retarded by the shortage of soil moisture.

According to the U. S. Geological Survey, runoff was deficient throughout Maryland; the level of the key well near Colesville was next to the lowest of record for May; and the combined storage in Prettyboy and Lock Raven Reservoirs declined to 54% of capacity - record-low for the month.

## DESTRUCTIVE STORMS

Two deaths and miscellaneous property damages estimated at \$25,000 were attributed to violent weather during the month.

20th: Two persons drowned at South River, Md., when an overloaded boat was capsized by winds.

27th: At Cumberland, Md., wind, water, and lightning associated with a thunderstorm caused reported damage of \$2,000.

29th: Thunderstorms over Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia caused widespread miscellaneous damages totaling about \$23,000, the largest being \$9,000 in the Baltimore, Md., area and \$5,000 in the Washington, D. C., area.

## FLOODS

None were reported during the month.

J. E. Stork

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE  
MAY 1955

Station	Wind direction		Wind speed m. p. h.			Relative humidity averages - percent				Number of days with precipitation						Percent of possible sunshine	Average sky cover sunrise to sunset		
	Prevailing	Percent of time from prevailing	Average	Fastest mile	Direction of fastest mile	Date of fastest mile	1:30 a EST	7:30 a EST	1:30 p EST	7:30 p EST	Trace	01-09	10-49	50-99	100-199			200 and over	Total
ABERDEEN PHILLIPS FIELD, MD.	-	-	-	-	-	-	71	70	46	61	5	1	5	1	0	0	12	-	-
ANNAPOLIS USN ACADEMY, MD.	-	-	-	-	-	-	73	71	55	84	5	7	5	0	0	0	17	-	-
BALTIMORE WB AP, MD.	WNW	10	12.3	65	SW	29	76	74	50	61	3	6	3	2	0	0	14	73	5.3
FREDERICK WB AP, MD.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	2	2	0	0	11	-	-
WASHINGTON WB CITY, D. C.	SSW†	13†	10.5†	34	SW	29	71†	68†	49†	56†	5	3	2	3	0	0	13	63†	5.5†
WILMINGTON WB AP, DEL.	S	12	8.2	-	-	-	76	71	45	62	4	7	1	1	0	0	13	-	5.6

† Airport Data

COMPARATIVE DATA

MAY

Table 1

Year	Temperature			Precipitation		Year	Temperature			Precipitation		Year	Temperature			Precipitation	
	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Average snowfall		Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Average snowfall		Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Average snowfall
MARYLAND						MARYLAND						MARYLAND					
1895	61.7	101	20	3.27	0.3	1917	57.3	93	27	3.02	0.1	1939	65.0	98	25	1.14	T
1896	67.5	96	31	3.13	0	1918	67.7	98	27	3.79	T	1940	62.1	93	23	4.45	0
1897	61.1	86	27	5.18	0.1	1919	62.8	97	31	5.33	0	1941	64.2	100	20	2.39	0
1898	63.0	96	25	4.50	0	1920	58.5	91	22	1.94	T	1942	66.2	97	33	4.17	0
1899	63.6	96	31	3.72	0	1921	61.3	93	27	5.47	T	1943	64.6	95	17	4.65	T
1900	63.1	99	23	2.40	0	1922	64.7	93	25	3.21	0	1944	68.4	96	30	2.32	0
1901	61.3	95	25	4.55	0	1923	61.1	94	23	1.96	0.2	1945	60.2	95	21	4.38	0.1
1902	63.9	98	22	2.10	T	1924	58.7	94	26	6.60	0	1946	63.1	91	32	6.44	0
1903	64.0	95	24	2.64	T	1925	58.8	100	25	1.98	0.1	1947	62.7	95	18	5.17	T
1904	64.2	102	26	2.61	T	1926	62.0	94	25	1.98	0	1948	62.7	94	30	6.57	0
1905	64.7	97	25	2.97	0	1927	61.7	95	28	3.00	T	1949	63.5	96	28	4.85	0
1906	63.3	96	22	2.64	T	1928	60.5	96	23	2.48	0	1950	62.2	95	26	4.72	T
1907	58.1	91	23	4.54	0	1929	62.0	96	26	3.21	T	1951	62.7	92	28	2.84	T
1908	63.4	95	28	6.18	0.1	1930	64.8	96	27	2.11	0	1952	61.9	88	26	5.16	T
1909	62.2	98	22	3.56	T	1931	62.2	95	23	4.54	T	1953	67.3	95	33	6.10	T
1910	60.0	90	16	2.99	T	1932	61.9	94	25	5.30	0	1954	60.6	90	25	2.86	T
1911	67.6	100	19	1.11	T	1933	64.8	94	34	5.45	0	1955	65.2	95	27	2.25	T
1912	64.1	92	29	4.12	T	1934	63.9	97	28	4.64	0						
1913	62.6	94	16	4.31	0	1935	59.4	92	28	3.64	T						
1914	65.1	100	18	2.06	0	1936	64.9	95	27	2.17	0						
1915	60.7	90	25	3.82	0	1937	63.1	95	27	3.42	0	All Years	62.9			3.70	T
1916	64.6	97	30	3.61	T	1938	61.3	96	23	4.34	0						
DELAWARE						DELAWARE						DELAWARE					
1895	61.7	98	37	3.65	0	1917	56.9	92	34	3.10	0	1939	64.8	96	32	0.58	0
1896	67.3	96	35	3.73	0	1918	67.4	95	38	3.43	0	1940	61.7	91	33	5.44	0
1897	62.2	85	40	4.01	0	1919	63.9	91	38	5.92	0	1941	65.1	99	32	1.52	0
1898	61.7	96	37	4.80	0	1920	58.5	87	30	2.30	0	1942	66.6	98	40	2.21	0
1899	63.2	96	38	2.47	0	1921	61.7	90	38	3.74	0	1943	64.9	94	26	4.84	0
1900	64.0	96	31	3.10	0	1922	65.0	88	32	2.09	0	1944	67.7	92	40	2.18	0
1901	61.2	86	38	3.65	0	1923	61.8	91	32	1.32	0	1945	60.7	88	34	4.66	0
1902	63.8	94	37	1.88	0	1924	59.5	88	37	5.26	0	1946	63.0	89	33	6.11	0
1903	64.1	95	31	2.03	0	1925	59.9	100	32	1.20	0	1947	62.8	92	28	6.63	0
1904	64.3	95	38	1.90	0	1926	62.0	91	33	2.84	0	1948	62.6	92	35	8.93	0
1905	64.4	92	35	3.13	0	1927	61.6	88	38	3.39	0	1949	63.6	93	37	4.15	0
1906	64.0	97	30	3.29	0	1928	61.0	91	32	2.17	0	1950	60.8	91	32	4.30	0
1907	58.1	87	32	6.39	0	1929	62.6	93	35	1.98	0	1951	62.7	90	35	3.63	T
1908	65.0	94	36	6.64	0	1930	65.6	95	40	3.16	0	1952	61.8	85	33	4.82	0
1909	63.4	93	34	3.96	0	1931	62.8	92	33	4.24	0	1953	66.5	90	40	5.39	T
1910	62.0	90	35	2.30	0	1932	62.9	90	37	5.18	0	1954	61.0	89	35	2.85	T
1911	67.2	96	33	0.69	0	1933	66.2	93	37	5.33	0	1955	64.9	93	35	1.73	0
1912	64.7	91	38	4.27	0	1934	64.6	95	38	6.74	0						
1913	63.8	93	32	4.42	0	1935	60.0	87	37	3.60	0						
1914	65.8	98	31	2.00	0	1936	65.5	94	33	1.62	0						
1915	62.3	88	37	3.90	0	1937	63.9	92	32	3.61	0	All Years	63.2			3.66	T
1916	65.2	94	39	4.33	0	1938	61.4	85	37	4.28	0						

See reference notes following Station Index



# CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE  
MAY 1955

TABLE 2 - CONTINUED

Station	Temperature										Precipitation													
	Average Maximum	Average Minimum	Average	Departure From Normal	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date	Degree Days	No. of Days				Total	Departure From Normal	Greatest Day	Date	Snow, Sleet, Hail			No. of Days			
										90° or Above	32° or Below	32° or Below	32° or Below					Total	Max. Depth on Ground	Date	.18 or More°	50 or More	1.00 or More	
																								Max.
STEVENSVILLE 1 W	76.7	55.9	66.3		90	29	44	2+	65	1	0	0	0	2.26		.55	30	.0	0	0	6	2	0	
TAKOMA PARK MISS AVE	77.2	54.6	65.9	1.3	89	29	41	7+	64	0	0	0	0	2.30	-1.90	.94	14	.0	0	0	6	1	0	
TONOLOWAY	78.2	49.2	63.7	2.6	89	4+	32	18	113	0	0	1	0	1.92	-1.70	.81	29	.0	0	0	5	2	0	
TOWSON	79.0	51.9	65.5	2.3	90	29	34	18	77	1	0	0	0	2.22	-1.37	1.09	30	.0	0	0	5	2	1	
UNIONVILLE	76.5	49.6	63.1	1.6	90	29	32	18	120	1	0	1	0	2.62	-2.23	1.18	30	.0	0	0	4	2	1	
VIENNA	77.4	53.5	65.5		90	5	37	18	81	1	0	0	0	1.44		.59	14	.0	0	0	3	2	0	
VIERS MILL	80.7M	52.8M	66.8M		89	24+	35	18	42	0	0	0	0	1.89		.39	20	.0	0	0	6	0	0	
WALDORF POLICE BRKS	79.7	51.7	65.7		92	24	33	18	78	3	0	0	0	2.40		.96	14	.0	0	0	6	1	0	
WATERLOO POLICE BRKS	78.9	51.0	65.0		89	24+	36	7	77	3	0	0	0	2.79		.88	14	.0	0	0	7	2	0	
WESTERN PORT	79.9	50.7	65.3	3.2	92	4	35	18	70	3	0	0	0	3.16	-.51	.95	13	.0	0	0	7	3	0	
WESTMINSTER	74.3	52.0	63.2	.4	89	24	35	18	83	0	0	0	0	2.17	-1.59	1.23	30	.0	0	0	4	2	1	
WOODSTOCK	78.1	51.2	64.7	1.7	90	29	35	7+	83	1	0	0	0	1.99	-1.73	.62	14	.0	0	0	4	2	0	
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA																								
DALECARLIA RESERVOIR DC	79.5	55.2M	67.4M		89	29	40	18	47	0	0	0	0	2.48		1.15	14	.0	0	0	4	2	1	
NATIONAL ARBORETUM D C	80.1	56.5	68.3		90	29	42	18	41	1	0	0	0	2.64		1.02	14	.0	0	0	6	3	1	
U S SOLDIERS HOME D C	78.0	55.3	66.7		90	25	44	2+	56	1	0	0	0	3.40		.99	14	.0	0	0	6	3	0	
WASHINGTON WB CITY DC	77.9	58.0	68.0	2.8	89	5+	45	18	34	0	0	0	0	2.90	-1.01	.83	29	.0	0	0	9	3	0	
MARYLAND AND D C																								
DELAWARE																								
BRIDGEVILLE 1 NW	77.3	53.7	65.5	2.2	92	29	37	18	93	3	0	0	0	1.94	-1.78	.90	14	.0	0	0	3	2	0	
DOVER	78.1	55.1	66.6	2.9	93	29	40	18	63	3	0	0	0	2.17	-1.64	1.22	30	.0	0	0	4	1	1	
GEORGETOWN 5 SW	78.0	52.5	65.3		92	29	35	18	96	3	0	0	0	2.62		1.25	14	.0	0	0	4	2	1	
LEWES	74.0	53.4	63.7		92	5+	37	18	116	3	0	0	0	1.79		.82	30	.0	0	0	4	1	0	
MIDDLETOWN 2 S	77.6	49.9	63.8		93	29	38	7	98	2	0	0	0	1.20		.41	30	.0	0	0	4	0	0	
MILFORD	78.4	53.8	66.1	2.0	92	24+	38	18	75	3	0	0	0	1.82	-2.03	.65	26	.0	0	0	3	2	0	
NEWARK COLLEGE FARM	78.3	51.5	64.9	2.8	91	29	37	7	85	2	0	0	0	1.19	-3.12	.76	30	.0	0	0	3	1	0	
SELBYVILLE	76.1	52.9	64.5		91	5+	37	18	111	3	0	0	0	2.04		1.00	14	.0	0	0	5	1	1	
WILMINGTON NEWSTL WB AP	76.4	53.1	64.8	2.0	93	29	42	2+	83	2	0	0	0	1.18	-2.63	.75	29	.0	0	0	2	1	0	
WILMINGTON PORTER RESVR	74.5	53.2	63.9	.9	89	29	40	7	95	0	0	0	0	1.33	-2.45	.80	29	.0	0	0	3	1	0	
STATE			64.9	1.7										1.73	-1.93			.0						
SECTION			65.2	2.3										2.19	-1.51			T						











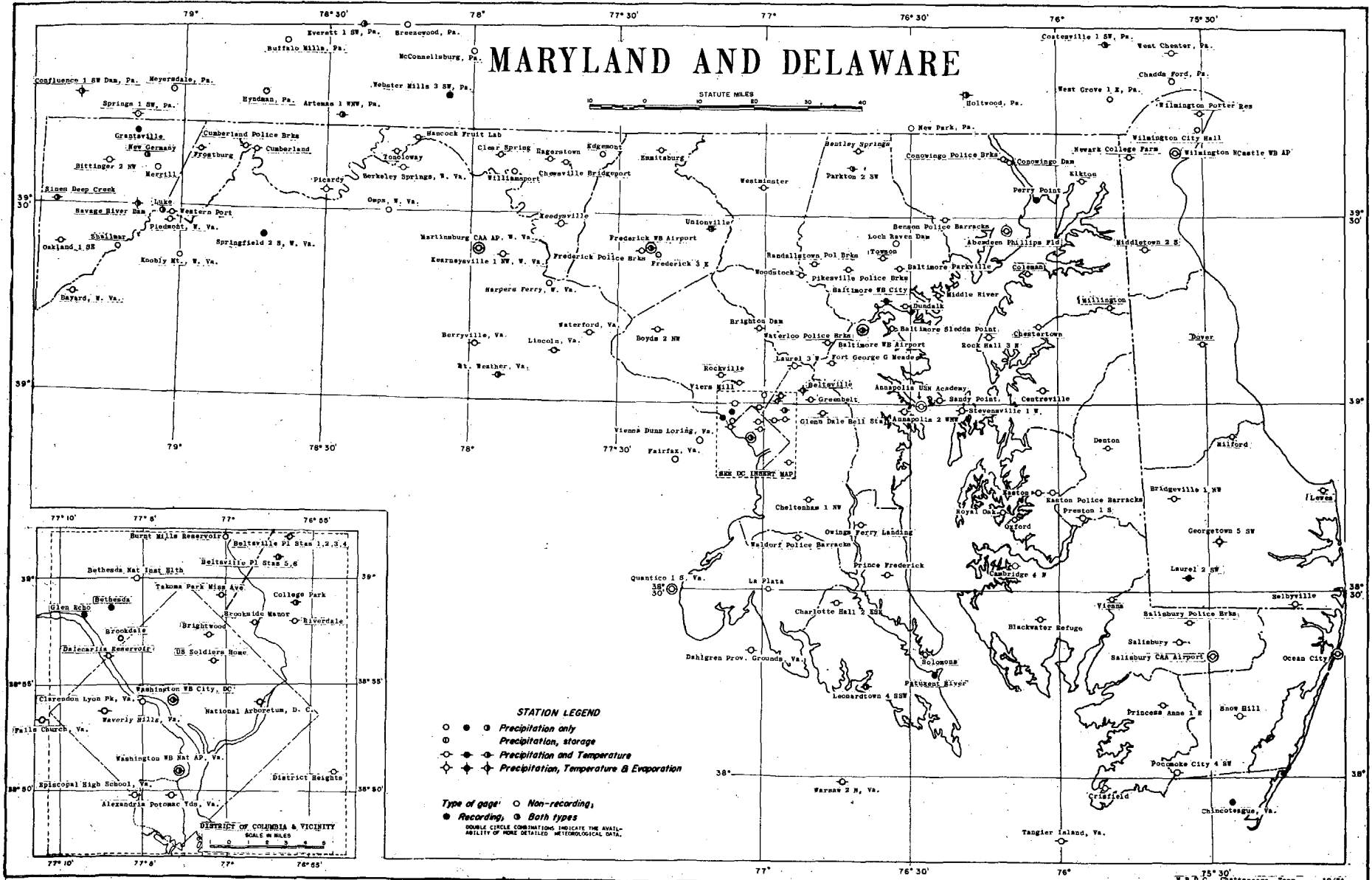
# STATION INDEX

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE  
MAY 1955

MARYLAND										DELAWARE											
Station	Index No.	County	Drainage	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation	Temp.	Precip.	Observer	Refer to tables	Station	Index No.	County	Drainage	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation	Temp.	Precip.	Observer	Refer to tables
<p style="text-align: center;">1-CHEESAPEAKE; 2-COASTAL; 3-PATAPSCO; 4-PATUXENT; 5-POTOMAC; 6-SUSQUEHANNA; 7-YOUGHOGENY</p>																					
<p style="text-align: center;">REFERENCE NOTES</p>																					
<p>The four digit identification numbers in the index number column of the Station Index are assigned on a state basis. There will be no duplication of numbers within a state.</p>																					
<p>Figures and letters following the station name, such as 12 SW, indicate distance in miles and direction from the post office.</p>																					
<p>Observation times given in the Station Index are in local standard time.</p>																					
<p>Delayed data and corrections will be carried only in the June and December issues of this bulletin.</p>																					
<p>Monthly and seasonal snowfall and heating degree days for the preceding 12 months will be carried in the June issue of this bulletin.</p>																					
<p>Stations appearing in the Index, but for which data are not listed in the tables, are either missing or received too late to be included in this issue.</p>																					
<p>Unless otherwise indicated, dimensional units used in this bulletin are: temperature in °F., precipitation and evaporation in inches, and wind movement in miles. Degree days are based on a daily average of 65° F.</p>																					
<p>Evaporation is measured in the standard Weather Bureau type pan of 4 foot diameter unless otherwise shown by footnote following Table 6.</p>																					
<p>Sleet and hail were included in snowfall averages in Table 1, beginning with July 1948.</p>																					
<p>Amounts in Table 3 are from non-recording gages, unless otherwise indicated.</p>																					
<p>Data in Tables 3, 5 and 6 and Snowfall in Table 7 are for the 24 hours ending at time of observation. See the Station Index for observation time.</p>																					
<p>Snow on ground in Table 7 is at observation time for all except Weather Bureau and CMA stations. For these stations snow on ground values are at 7:30 A.M. E.S.T. WTR EQUIV in Table 7 means the water equivalent of snow on the ground. It is measured at selected stations when the depth of snow on the ground is two inches or more. Water equivalent samples are necessarily taken from different points for successive observations; consequently occasional drifting and other causes of local variability in the snowpack result in apparent inconsistencies in the records.</p>																					
<p>- No record in Tables 3, 5, 6, 7 and the Station Index. No record in Tables 2 and 5 is indicated by a dash.</p>																					
<p>* And also on a later date or dates.</p>																					
<p>† Amount included in following measurement, time distribution unknown.</p>																					
<p>‡ Data in the column formerly headed No. of Days .01 or more have been changed to No. of Days .10 or more effective January 1, 1954.</p>																					
<p>§ Thermometers are generally exposed in a shelter located a few feet above and covered ground; however, the reference indicates that the thermometers are exposed in a shelter located on the roof of a building.</p>																					
<p>¶ Gage is equipped with a windshield.</p>																					
<p>AM Data based on observational day ending before noon.</p>																					
<p>B Adjusted to a full month.</p>																					
<p>C In the "Refer to Tables" column in the Station Index the letter "C" indicates recorder stations. These stations are processed for special purposes and are published later in Monthly Precipitation Data.</p>																					
<p>E Factor equivalent of snowfall wholly or partly estimated, using a ratio of 1 inch water equivalent to every 10 inches of new snowfall.</p>																					
<p>F One or more days of record missing; see Table 5 for detailed daily record. Degree day data, if carried for this station, have been adjusted to represent the value for a full month.</p>																					
<p>H Amounts from recording gage (These amounts are essentially accurate but may vary slightly from the amounts to be published later in Monthly Precipitation Data).</p>																					
<p>G Storage pan station. Precipitation measurements, made at irregular intervals, will be published in the July or August or delayed data December issues of this publication.</p>																					
<p>T Trace, an amount too small to measure.</p>																					
<p>V Includes total for previous month.</p>																					
<p>Additional information regarding the climate of Maryland and Delaware may be obtained by writing to any Weather Bureau Office or to the State Climatologist at Weather Bureau Airport Station, Friendship International Airport, Baltimore, Maryland.</p>																					
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# MARYLAND AND DELAWARE

STATUTE MILES  
0 10 20 30 40



**STATION LEGEND**

- ● ● ● ● Precipitation only
- ○ ○ ○ ○ Precipitation, storage
- ● ● ● ● Precipitation and Temperature
- ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ Precipitation, Temperature & Evaporation

**Type of gage:** ○ Non-recording,  
● Recording, ● Both types

DOUBLE CIRCLE COMBINATIONS INDICATE THE AVAILABILITY OF MORE DETAILED METEOROLOGICAL DATA.