

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEATHER BUREAU

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In Cooperation with Maryland State Weather Service

CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE SECTION

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GENERAL SUMMARY

April was cool; as cool as in 1926, but with an average precipitation two and three-fourths times as great. This was the first wet April since 1924. The month was very wet over the section from the Allegheny Mountain region eastward to Chesapeake Bay. Precipitation was unusually frequent, the average number of such days being the greatest of record since 1889. Monthly sunshine was slightly below normal, and monthly relative humidity averaged slightly above. There were no severe cold waves, destructive frosts, or damaging windstorms.

Persistence of cool weather throughout the month was interrupted by mild temperatures on the 6th and 12th and by a warm spell from the 16th to 21st. The 20th was summerlike, with highest temperatures close to, at, or slightly above 90° in north-central and southern Maryland and on the Eastern Shore. The cold periods were 2d-5th, 8-12th, and 23d-25th, and were marked by freezing temperatures and frosts. Highest temperatures ranged from 79° at Grantsville to 94° at Millsboro, and lowest temperatures from 18° at Oakland to 34° at Baltimore and Solomons.

Monthly precipitation averaged one and two-fifths times the normal. It was unevenly distributed over the section. Monthly amounts were between 5 and 7 inches generally in western and north-central Maryland, District of Columbia, and the northern portion of southern Maryland, being between one and one-half times to twice the normal. In the southern portion of southern Maryland and on the Eastern Shore, monthly totals were between 3 and 4 inches generally; they were slightly above normal, except 0.3 to 0.6 inch below normal in Delaware and in the eastern portions of the counties in Maryland adjoining on the west. Rainfall was heavy in the eastern portion of the Allegheny Mountain region and on the Atlantic coast of Maryland on the 9th; locally in north-central and southern Maryland during the night of the 20th-21st; in north-central and southern Maryland and the extreme northern portion of the Eastern Shore on the 21st-22d; and in western Maryland on the 30th.

High water resulted in all streams between the Blue Ridge Mountains and Chesapeake Bay on the 22d.

Monthly snowfall averaged one and one-third times the normal, the greatest in April since 1924. Light snow fell over the northern portion of the section at night of the 2d; in western Maryland and the northern Blue Ridge Mountain region in the early morning of the 4th; over the entire section during the daytime of the 9th; and in the Allegheny Mountain highlands on the 22d, 23d, and 24th. The snow disappeared quickly.

Crops.—The cool weather of the month retarded plant growth, while the frequent rains interfered with plowing and other farming operations. Wheat, rye, and grasses improved and were in good to excellent condition. In the southern counties wheat was jointing and rye was heading during the third decade. Oats, early potatoes, and peas came up to a good stand in the eastern and central portions of the section. Tomato seeds in beds came up. Tobacco plants in beds did well. Sowing of oats had not begun in the Allegheny Mountain region and was unfinished over the northern portion of the section thence eastward to Chesapeake Bay. Planting of corn began in the southern counties during the third decade.

Fruits.—Peach, pear, and apple trees bloomed during the second and third decades. Strawberries were somewhat backward. They came into bloom in the eastern and central portions of the section during the second decade, and in western Maryland, except the Allegheny Mountain region,

during the third decade. During the closing week strawberries were fruiting on the southern Eastern Shore. Cherry blossoms in the Cumberland Valley and early strawberry blossoms on the southern Eastern Shore were damaged by freezing temperatures and frosts of the 10-12th. In the northern portion of the section some damage was caused to tree fruit and strawberry blossoms by the freezing temperatures and frosts of the 23d-25th. Peach blossoms suffered most.—J. B., jr.

PRESSURE

The monthly mean sea-level pressure at Washington and Baltimore was 30.09; at Aberdeen, 30.10 inches. The highest at Washington was 30.53; at Baltimore, 30.57; at Aberdeen, 30.54 inches—all on the 15th. The lowest at Washington was 29.37; at Baltimore, 29.34; at Aberdeen, 29.38 inches—all on the 27th.

TEMPERATURE

The monthly mean for the section, 50.0°, is 2.5° below normal. The highest monthly mean was 52.3° at Crisfield; the lowest, 44.8°, at Grantsville. The highest temperature, 94°, occurred at Millsboro on the 20th; the lowest, 18°, at Oakland on the 11th. The greatest local monthly range was 68° at Great Falls; the least, 50°, at Crisfield. The greatest daily range was 52° at Hancock on the 12th.

PRECIPITATION

The monthly average for the section, 4.71 inches, is 1.35 inches above normal. The greatest monthly amount was 7.30 inches at Lutherville; the least, 2.87 inches, at Crisfield. The greatest 24-hour amount was 3.61 inches at Lutherville on the 21st-22d. The monthly average snowfall for the section, 1.6 inches, is 0.4 inch above normal. The greatest monthly snowfall was 7.0 inches at Frostburg; the least, a trace, at Washington, D. C. The average number of days with 0.01 inch or more of precipitation, 14, is 4 above normal.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

The average percentages were: Washington, D. C., 8 a. m., 70; 12 noon, 56; 8 p. m., 61. Baltimore, Md., 8 a. m., 66; 12 noon, 55; 8 p. m., 62. Aberdeen, Md., 8 a. m., 70; 4 p. m., 53. Philadelphia, Pa., 8 a. m., 77; 12 noon, 71; 8 p. m., 71.

WIND

The prevailing wind direction for the section was northwest. The total movement at Washington was 5,173; at Baltimore, 7,733; at Aberdeen, 5,886 miles. The maximum velocity at Washington was 38 miles from the north; at Baltimore, 42 miles from the northwest; at Aberdeen, 32 miles from the north—all on the 27th.

SUNSHINE AND CLOUDINESS

At Washington 56 per cent of the possible sunshine was recorded; at Baltimore and Aberdeen, 52 per cent. For the whole section the average number of clear days was 12; partly cloudy, 6; cloudy, 12.

MISCELLANEOUS PHENOMENA (WITH DATES)

Hail, light.—Western and north-central Maryland, District of Columbia, and northern portion of southern Maryland, 21; eastern half of section, 27.

Hail, moderate.—Crisfield, Pocomoke City, and Ridgely, 27.

Hail, heavy.—Vicinity of Mechanicsville, St. Marys County, 4 p. m., 21st, northwest to southeast; path 1 mile wide and 3 or 4 miles long; stones size of marbles and larger; depth of 3 inches on ground; no damage. 27th; Chaptico, St. Marys County. Many window panes broken. Solomons;

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