

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

# CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE

APRIL 1956

Volume LX No. 4



ASHEVILLE: 1956

## WEATHER SUMMARY

## GENERAL

Unusually damaging cold weather followed within several days by unusually hot weather during the last week was an outstanding feature of the weather in April.

Temperatures were below normal on many days and averaged about one and one-half degrees below the long-term means with the result that heating bills were above normal accordingly. Rain or snow occurred on about ten days over the area but wasn't generally of the much-needed earth-soaking variety for newly-planted lawns and other seedlings. Monthly totals were an inch or more above established long-term means in the extreme east and one to one and one-half inches below long-term means from the mid-Chesapeake area to the central Potomac River Valley. Snowfall as late as the 24th in western Maryland and extending across northern Maryland and down to the central Delmar area further set April off as different from the usual. In general, crops were reported from one to three weeks later than normal.

With the exception of +0.3° at Baltimore WB City, all stations with long-term temperature means showed negative departures. The highest temperature for the Section was 91° on the 29th at Hancock Fruit Lab., Md., while the lowest was 15° on the 1st at Oakland 1 SE, Md. Extreme monthly precipitation totals ranged from 0.47 inch at Ocean City, Md., to 4.71 inches at Snow Hill, Md., while the greatest daily amount of precipitation was 1.70 inches at Princess Anne, Md., on the 7th. The greatest monthly snowfall was 12.0 inches at New Germany, Md.

## WEATHER DETAILS

The month began with an extensive, north-south elongated High overspreading the entire eastern United States. Clear skies and light winds resulted in below-freezing temperatures. As this High moved southeastward over the area, winds shifted to southerly directions early on the 2nd. Cloudiness developed on the 2nd in connection with a warm frontal system to the near south and west of Maryland. Early on the 3rd this frontal system moved northward over the area with scattered rain showers and widely scattered thunderstorms followed by a flow of warm air from the deep South under the circulation of a High centered about 500 miles southeast of Maryland. Cloudiness and light precipitation early on the 4th were associated with the development of a warm frontal system over the area. Much-above-normal temperatures occurred throughout the area. Strong winds occurred on the afternoon of the 4th as a north-south oriented cold front moved rapidly eastward over Maryland and Delaware accompanied by a few thunderstorms. Mild temperatures and light winds on the 5th prevailed as a weak High moved southeastward over the Middle Atlantic States. A Low which developed over Louisiana early on the 6th moved northeastward attended by widespread warm frontal precipitation which reached Maryland and Delaware on the afternoon of the 6th. Precipitation was most intense as this Low passed northeastward over the area late on the 6th and early on the 7th. A well-developed Low which moved south-

eastward from the Great Lakes area to the Maryland-Delaware area was accompanied by a north-south oriented cold front which struck western Maryland about noon on the 7th and moved eastward with rain over the entire area. At Annapolis U. S. Naval Academy, a peak gust of 45 mph from the NNW was recorded at 7:35 p.m. on the 7th. Cool weather from an air mass which originated at higher latitudes, prevailed on the 8th as this Low moved slowly northeastward along the Atlantic coast. Some snow occurred on the 8th as showers developed in the cold air. A cold High extending from Hudson Bay to the Gulf of Mexico overspreading the northern and eastern United States brought more cold weather on the 9th. Cloudiness and easterly winds prevailed on the 11th as a well-developed Low passed eastward over South Carolina and a High moved over the northeastern States. During the afternoon of the 11th, precipitation spread over southern portions of Maryland. Cool weather with northerly winds continued on the 12th as another cold front approached from the west and struck western Maryland early on the 13th followed by more cool weather. Clear skies and low temperatures occurred early on the 14th as a very weak High moved over the area.

A weak front which passed eastward over Maryland on the afternoon of the 13th was followed by clear skies and light winds from a very weak high over the Ohio Valley and Great Lakes. Calm conditions and clear skies favored radiation cooling with lows of 19° reported at Oakland 1 SE and 25° at Bittering 2 NW as this High moved eastward over the Maryland-Delaware area early on the 14th. Southerly winds prevailed as this High moved eastward over the area with some stations in western Maryland reporting above-normal maximum temperatures. Increasing cloudiness late on the 14th and early on the 15th was associated with a weak east-west warm frontal system over North Carolina. As a Low over the Great Lakes region moved eastward on the 15th, cloudiness increased and rain showers occurred over the area late on the 15th and early on the 16th as frontal systems associated with Lows to the northwest and southwest moved eastward and closer to the Maryland-Delaware area.

Strong, southerly winds accompanied by widely scattered showers occurred as a northeast-southwest oriented cold front passed eastward early on the 16th. The fastest mile of wind speed at Friendship International Airport was 43 mph from the NW. Strong winds bringing warm air from southern states brought well-above-normal temperatures to most stations in central and eastern Maryland ahead of a second cold front which passed eastward during the afternoon of the 16th. Cold weather prevailed on the 17th as an extensive Low centered between James Bay and New England overspread the eastern U. S. and Canada with westerly to northwesterly winds over Maryland and Delaware. This general circulation of cold air from Canada continued on the 18th with strong shifting winds in the afternoon due to a rapidly moving north-south oriented cold front and widely scattered showers over the area.

Cool weather continued on the 19th as this Low over Canada moved slowly eastward and an extensive High moved southward into the United States and overspread the States west of the

## WEATHER SUMMARY (Continued)

Rocky Mountains. Northerly to westerly winds continued as this High moved into the central United States. A small Low which developed over the coastal area in the vicinity of Maryland and Delaware on the morning of the 20th caused some light scattered showers and cloudiness and strong winds in the afternoon. Northwesterly winds from this extensive High located over the lower Mississippi Valley on the 20th kept temperatures below normal in the Maryland-Delaware region. Well-below-freezing temperatures in virtually all places resulted in some damage to fruit buds and other tender vegetation. Minimums as low as 20° occurred at Hancock on the morning of the 21st. As this High elongated with an east-west orientation and overspread the Gulf States from Texas to South Carolina and a well-developed Low moved into the region between James Bay and the Great Lakes, strong westerly winds developed on the afternoon of the 21st. As this east-west oriented High moved eastward, light southerly winds brought warm air from the deep south. A weak east-west oriented cold front moved from north to south over the area on the morning of the 22nd. A Low formed on this front over Virginia on the evening of the 22nd and caused some cloudiness and scattered showers as it passed eastward across southern Maryland early on the 23rd. Snow fell in extreme western Maryland. Strong winds occurred in the afternoon. Lower temperatures on the 23rd resulted from northwesterly winds as an extensive cold air mass overspread the northern portion of the United States. A low which developed over Georgia late on the 23rd moved northeastward and brought cloudiness and very light scattered showers over the area. A snowfall of about 3 1/2 inches occurred at Oakland 1 SE. Snowfall in northern-central Maryland and in the northern and central Delmar areas on the 24th was very unusual for this late in the season. The High which came out of Canada on the 23rd moved over the Maryland area on the night of the 24th. Calm conditions and clear skies resulted in widespread fog over the area and extremely low temperatures for this time of year. A minimum temperature of 20° was reported at Oakland 1 SE and below-freezing temperatures at virtually all stations in the state on the morning of the 25th. Sunshine on the morning of the 25th quickly dispelled the fog as this High moved eastward over Maryland; southerly winds on the 25th brought rising temperatures.

A Low which developed over the lower Mississippi Valley moved east-northeastward on the 26th and brought some light rains on the morning of the 26th. A very weak High and clear skies over the Middle Atlantic coastal area early on the 27th resulted in considerable foginess. Southerly winds on the afternoon of the 27th resulted in warm weather. A weak warm front caused some cloudiness, fog, and light precipitation early on the 28th. Dense fog during the night tied up shipping on the Chesapeake Bay, closed Friendship International

Airport for several hours and slowed motorists. Continued southerly winds bringing air from the deep south resulted in much above-normal temperatures on the 28th and 29th with afternoon readings over 20° above normal and equally warm nights in most places. At Baltimore WB City, the maximum of 90° on the 28th was the highest temperature on record for that date at that station, exceeding the previous record of 85° established in 1938. Strong winds with gusts occurred from about noon on the 29th until late in the evening when some light scattered showers occurred. In the Emmitsburg district, a very local windstorm moving in a northeasterly direction demolished a wagon shed, upturned a chicken house, and blew tin off the roof of a barn at about 4 p.m. Damage occurred on three different farms in a distance of 1/4 mile. Locally heavy precipitation occurred at Emmitsburg. Showers occurred in connection with a weak prefrontal squall line preceding a northeast-southwest oriented cold front and extending from a Low over Vermont early on the 30th.

### WEATHER EFFECTS

By midmonth, Maryland and Delaware farmers had accomplished some plowing and seeding but in general were from one to two weeks behind schedule due to antecedent cold weather and rain. The Maryland-Delaware Crop Reporting Service reported that only about one-fourth of the ground was plowed for corn by midmonth as compared with about 55% a year ago; however, barley, wheat, and rye were making good growth under warmer weather and plenty of moisture. Weather delayed potatoes in Maryland with only about half of the crop planted as compared with 85% a year ago. Cold weather delayed tobacco; however, plants were coming up after a period of slow germination.

During the latter half of the month, strong winds and only a few light rain showers permitted drying of soils and considerable pick-up in farm work. Well-below-freezing temperatures on the 25th resulted in heavy damage to fruits and vegetables on the Delaware Peninsula. Peaches were frozen quite extensively. Early apples also in the blooming stage sustained heavy damage, too. The first picking of strawberries was severely damaged, and many plantings of tomatoes were killed. Top soils were rather dry in many districts by the end of the month.

### DESTRUCTIVE STORMS

Strong winds occurred on the 4th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 23rd, 29th, and 30th; however, the only instance of property damage was reported at Emmitsburg on the 29th.

### FLOODS

None.

Howard H. Engelbrecht





DAILY PRECIPITATION

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE APRIL 1956

Table 3

Table with 31 columns for days of the month and rows for various stations in Maryland and Delaware, showing precipitation amounts in inches.

See Reference Notes Following Station Index

DAILY TEMPERATURES

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE APRIL 1956

Table 5

Table with columns for Station, Day Of Month (1-31), and Average. Rows include MARYLAND and various locations like ABERDEEN PHILLIPS FLD, ANNAPOLIS U S N ACADEMY, etc.







Table 7

# SNOWFALL AND SNOW ON GROUND

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE  
APRIL 1956

Station	Day of month																														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
MARYLAND																															
ABERDEEN PHILLIPS FIELD							.1																								
BENTLEY SPRINGS 1 WNW								T																T							
BITTINGER 2 NW							T	2.2							T	.5	2.6								1.3						
CENTREVILLE										T														T							
CHESTERTOWN											T													T							
CHEWSVILLE BRIDGEPORT						T			T						T		T		T					.8							
CLEAR SPRING									T							T								.2							
CONOWINGO POLICE BRKS									T																						
CRISFIELD																								T							
CUMBERLAND										T									T		T			2.0	.5						
CUMBERLAND POLICE BRKS																								T							
DENTON																								.5							
DUNDALK									T															T							
EASTON										T														T							
FROSTBURG																			2.5					1.0							
GLENN DALE BELL STA																			T												
HANCOCK FRUIT LAB																								1.0							
KEEDYSVILLE																								.5							
LEONARDTOWN 4 SSW										T														T							
MILLINGTON																															
NEW GERMANY															T	.8	2.0	2.0	2.2	1.0	1.0			1.5	1.5						
OAKLAND 1 SE							.3	2.0							T	1	2	2	2	1	1			1	1	T					
PARKTON 2 SW								T	T																						
PICARDY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PRESTON 1 S																								2.0							
ROYAL OAK																								T							
SALISBURY																								T							
SNOW HILL									T		T													T							
SOLOMONS																								T							
TAKOMA PARK MISS AVE											T													T							
UNIONVILLE																			T	T				T							
WESTERN PORT									T	T																					
WESTMINSTER																									T	T					
WOODSTOCK																									T						
DELAWARE																															
BRIDGEVILLE 1 NW																								1.0							
DOVER										T														T							
LEWES																									1.9						

See reference notes following Station Index.

# SNOWFALL AND SNOW ON GROUND

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE  
APRIL 1956

Station		Day of month																																				
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
SELBYVILLE	SNOWFALL SN ON GND																																					1.0
WILMINGTON NCASTLE WB AP	SNOWFALL SN ON GND WTR EQUIV							T	T																	T												

See reference notes following Station Index.

