

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEATHER BUREAU

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In Cooperation with Maryland State Weather Service

CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA

15 MARYLAND AND DELAWARE SECTION

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GENERAL SUMMARY

April was windy, with mean temperature 1° lower than normal. Monthly precipitation was deficient, except slightly above normal in western Maryland and in Worcester and eastern Sussex Counties. In the Allegheny Mountain region the month was rather wintry, owing to unusual frequency of freezing temperature and snowfall. Most of the precipitation fell during the first decade, which was marked by much cloudiness; the second decade was dry, mild, clear, sunshiny, and very pleasant; occasional rain occurred during the third decade, which was cool. Northeast rain of the 1st was heavy generally. Rain was heavy also on the 22-23d in western Maryland and on the 26th in the Allegheny Mountain region, and moderate to heavy over the eastern portion of the section on the 7th. Snowfall was confined to the Allegheny Mountain region where the monthly totals were four to five times the normal for that division. Monthly amount of sunshine was normal. Relative humidity averaged slightly below normal. Strong winds were unusually frequent, but rarely damaging. There were many forest fires.

The 1st-2d, 5-7th, and 12th were cool, while the 3d-4th and 8-11th were mild. Prolonged mildness prevailed from the 13th to the 22d. Much cooler weather followed to the close of the month.

Monthly precipitation averaged 86 per cent of normal. Totals were between 2 and 3 inches in New Castle County, the western half of the Eastern Shore, north-central Maryland, and District of Columbia; elsewhere they were between 3 and 4 inches generally, except between 4 and 5 inches in the Allegheny Mountain region and southeastern Sussex County.

In the Allegheny Mountain region snowfall was light on the 7th, 23d, 26th, and 27th, and moderate to heavy on the 1st, 6th, and 22d. To the eastward thereof flurries extended on the 6th to the Blue Ridge Mountains and on the 7th to Chesapeake Bay.

Winter grains, pastures, and grasses improved to fair to good and were nicely green; but made little growth and continued backward for the season; fields were spotty. Planting of peas, early potatoes, vegetables, truck, and gardens, and sowing of oats, grass, and clover began during the second decade in the Allegheny Mountain region; elsewhere over the section these crops came up to fair to good stands. Sweet potatoes and tobacco and tomato seed in beds sprouted. Preparation of land for corn planting was in progress. Peach, pear, plum, and cherry buds burst into bloom during the first decade in the southern half of the section and during the second decade in the northern half, except the Allegheny Mountain region. During the third decade wheat was jointing and rye was heading in southern and central counties; pastures were being grazed; planting of corn began in some localities; some tomato plants were set out; apple trees and strawberries were blooming in southern and central counties and beginning to bloom in northern counties, except in the Allegheny Mountain region.

Damage by freeze and frost of the 30th to fruit blossoms was slight generally, except moderate to heavy to pears, peaches, and strawberries in the central portion of the Eastern Shore and locally in Allegany, Anne Arundel, Charles, and Harford Counties, and to cherries in western Maryland. Early potatoes, peas, beans, asparagus, early tomatoes, and other vegetables were also damaged.—J.B., jr.

PRESSURE

The monthly mean sea-level pressure at Washington, D. C., was 30.03; at Baltimore and Aberdeen, 30.02 inches. The highest at Washington, D. C., was 30.56; at Baltimore and Aberdeen, 30.54 inches—all on the 12th. The lowest at Washington and Baltimore, 29.16; at Aberdeen, 29.15 inches—all on the 1st.

TEMPERATURE

The monthly mean for the section, 51.4°, is 1.0° below normal. The highest monthly mean was 54.2° at Washington, D. C.; the lowest, 43.7°, at Sines. The highest temperature, 84°, occurred at Cumberland on the 9th and 13th and at Great Falls on the 10th; the lowest, 18°, at Oakland on the 30th. The greatest local monthly range was 59° at Great Falls; the least, 38°, at Wilmington. The greatest daily range was 51° at Hancock on the 13th.

PRECIPITATION

The monthly average for the section, 3.08 inches, is 0.49 inch below normal. The greatest monthly amount was 4.52 inches at Oakland; the least, 1.95 inches, at Coleman. The greatest 24-hour amount was 2.02 inches at Frederick on March 31-April 1. The average monthly snowfall for the section, 1.4 inches, is 0.1 inch above normal. The greatest monthly snowfall was 20.1 inches at Grantsville. Stations east of Chesapeake Bay did not report any snowfall. The number of days with 0.01 inch or more of precipitation, 9, is 1 below normal.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

The average percentages were: Washington, D. C., 8 a. m., 66; 12 noon, 46; 8 p. m., 48. Baltimore, Md., 8 a. m., 64; 12 noon, 53; 8 p. m., 56. Aberdeen, Md., 8 a. m., 75; 4 p. m., 54. Philadelphia, Pa., 8 a. m., 61; 12 noon, 44; 8 p. m., 50.

WIND

(By 3-cup anemometer, except 4-cup at Aberdeen, Md.)

The prevailing direction for the section was northwest. The total movement at Washington, D. C., was 5,122; at Baltimore, 7,962; at Aberdeen, 6,855 miles. The maximum velocity at Washington, D. C., was 32 miles from the northwest; at Baltimore, 42 miles from the west—both on the 26th; at Aberdeen, 48 miles from the northeast on the 1st.

SUNSHINE AND CLOUDINESS

At Washington, D. C., 57 per cent of the possible sunshine was recorded; at Baltimore, 61 per cent; at Aberdeen, 60 per cent. For the whole section the average number of clear days was 15; partly cloudy, 6; cloudy, 9.

MISCELLANEOUS PHENOMENA (WITH DATES)

Damage by wind.—On 1st, at Chestertown, porch roof of new apartment house was torn off, demolishing a chimney.

Fogs, dense.—Grantsville, 4; La Plata, 16, 26; Princess Anne, 16, 20; on the coast, 20.

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Climatological Data for April, 1931

Table with columns: Stations, Counties, Elevation, Length of record, Temperature (Mean, Departure from normal, Highest, Date, Lowest, Date, Greatest daily range), Precipitation (Total, Departure from normal, Greatest in 24 hours, Total snowfall), Number of days (With precip., Clear, Partly cloudy, Cloudy), Prevailing direction of wind, Observers.

The departures from normal temperature and precipitation are computed only for such stations as have 10 or more years of record, but all complete reports are used in determining section or division means. Data in italics determined from surrounding sections. T. Precipitation is less than 0.01 inch rain or melted snow. Reference letters, a, b, c, appearing in the table indicate number of days missing: For example, b represents two days, etc. † Post office addresses of these stations are as follows: Of Bell, Glendale; of Coleman, Worton; of Fallston, Bagley; of Ferry Landing, Owings; of Great Falls, Bethesda; of Pleasant Hill, Owings Mills; of Public Landing, Snow Hill. † Also on other dates. * Custom House, Gay and Water Streets. ** Weather Bureau Building, 24th and M Streets;

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Freezing temperatures.—Allegheny Mountain region, 1 to 9, 12 to 14, 16, 17, 19, 22 to 30; Allegheny and Washington Counties, 1, 3, 5, 8, 12, 13, 24, 30; locally in central and eastern divisions, 3, 16; locally in central division, 7, 24; north-central Maryland, 12; central and eastern divisions, 13, 30. Frogs, first heard.—Grantsville, 9. Gales.—Northeast: Eastern portion of section, 1; on coast, 1, 6. Westerly: Northern portion of section, 26. Phoebe, first (usually heralds close of sugar season).—Grantsville, 8.

Sleet, light.—Western Maryland, 1; entire section, except southern Eastern Shore, 7. Thunder (a peal or two).—Locally in eastern portion of section, 1. Thunderstorms.—Allegheny Mountain region, night of 3; La Plata, 4; District of Columbia and southern Maryland, night 17; Keedysville, La Plata, and Mechanicsville, 22; Cecil and New Castle Counties, 26. Whippoorwill, first of season.—Friendsville, 30. Winds, high.—Northeast, 1, 6 (Eastern Shore); westerly, 2, 7, 11, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29; southeast and south, 10, 22.

Daily Temperatures for April, 1931

Table with columns for Stations, days 1-31, and Mean. Rows list various Maryland and Delaware locations such as Aberdeen, Annapolis, Baltimore, etc., with their respective daily temperature ranges.

a, b, c, etc., indicate, respectively, 1, 2, 3, etc., days missing from record. Instruments are read in morning; maximum temperature then read is charged to preceding day, in which it almost always occurs. Temperatures at Aberdeen, Baltimore, Sines, and Washington are from midnight to midnight; other stations, except Cumberland and Takoma, are for 24-hour period ending late in afternoon, near sunset. Data in italics determined from surrounding stations. (WB-3-831-900)