

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
SINCLAIR WEEKS, Secretary
WEATHER BUREAU
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CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE

ANNUAL SUMMARY 1956

Volume LX No. 13



WEATHER SUMMARY

GENERAL

Dull moments, or day perhaps, but certainly no dull months appeared in the weather of 1956. Monthly climates ranged from unusually stormy weather in July to abnormally warm, foggy conditions in December. Particularly notable was the long, seasonally cool period from March through September and the absence of oppressive, hot weather in summer except for a very few days.

January was notable for breaking the drought which developed late in 1955. February followed with generous rainfall and was marked with extremely light snowfall, much above average temperatures, and hurricane force winds. Heavy snowfall and cold weather characterized March with April continuing the cold weather. May was outstanding for record low temperatures for so late in the year and a late snowfall, while June brought record high temperatures for so early in the summer. Unprecedented heavy rainfalls, cloudbursts, flash floods, severe electrical storms headlined the weather of July. August passed with light precipitation but considerable lightning. September brought unusually low early fall temperatures and considerable lightning and storm activity. October and November were marked for record-heavy precipitation amounts in portions of the Delmar Peninsula while December turned unusually warm and foggy.

WEATHER EFFECTS

The general termination of the late 1955 drought with rain and snow on January 9th was followed by moderate rains at relatively frequent intervals. Rains early in February were beneficial for grasses and grains and replenishing water supplies, but soils remained generally too wet for farming operations. Cold weather in March retarded plant growth, and wet soil conditions continued to hamper planting and plowing operations in most districts. By mid-April farmers had accomplished some plowing and seeding but, in general, were from one to two weeks behind schedule due to antecedent cold, wet weather. Well-below-freezing temperatures on April 25th resulted in heavy damage to fruits and vegetables on the Delmar Peninsula with peaches frozen quite extensively. The first picking of strawberries was severely damaged, and many plantings of tomatoes were killed. Below freezing temperatures on May 9th, 17th, and 25th caused varying amounts of damage over the two-state area. On the 9th damage was generally limited to strawberries and tomatoes on the lower Delmar Peninsula. The record late spring low temperatures on the 17th were most severe in western and central Maryland fruit and vegetable districts. On the 25th only light scattered damage occurred. Generous rains in most sections from June 17th-18th and 21st-23rd benefited all growing crops but slowed haying, cultivating, spraying activities, and harvesting of grains. Well above average precipitation in July favored

growth of all crops but slowed harvesting of grain and hay crops. Good drying weather in August was favorable for harvesting of grains and curing of hay. Favorable harvesting weather prevailed for most of September. Frost on September 21st did varying amounts of damage over the two-state area. Except for the period of the 7th-15th, wet soils and rains in October slowed or delayed seeding of winter grains and harvesting of corn and soy beans. Heavy rains at the end of October and early in November were very detrimental to soy beans with considerable deterioration of the crop for seed purposes due to the prolonged wet, damp conditions. Considerable erosion and top soil losses occurred from record heavy rains in several counties. In December, unusually foggy weather was a contributing factor in numerous highway accidents with some injuries and fatalities, caused suspension of air traffic and ship movements, and delayed bus and rail traffic.

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures averaged slightly above the long-term mean with February, June, October, November, and December warmer than usual and other months cooler than normal. An unseasonably cold January was followed by an unseasonably warm February. From March through September average temperatures hovered generally from 1 to 2 degrees below the long-term means except for June which was only slightly warmer than normal. The last three months of the year were each warmer than usual with the December average topping the record at Baltimore for December for the 140-year period since 1817. Elsewhere, generally near-record high temperatures resulted in the warmest December since 1931.

PRECIPITATION

Precipitation for the year averaged from about two inches above the long-term mean in Maryland to about four inches above for Delaware. Although precipitation in January ended a serious drought which started late in 1955, it was well below the long-term average for the month. Rainfall in February and March exceeded normal and replenished the deficient ground water supplies to a large extent.

April and May were rather dry and June provided moderate amounts of precipitation, but July was very wet as scattered cloudbursts and intense thunderstorms brought unprecedented rainfalls to some districts. Dry weather in August, slightly above average moisture in September, heavy rainfall in October and November, especially on the Delmar Peninsula, and moderate precipitation in December were among the factors contributing variety to the year's weather.

SNOWFALL

In Maryland, the total snowfall for 1956 was well below average. January brought moderate amounts, but February dropped far

WEATHER SUMMARY (Continued)

below the long-period mean. Only March came through with well-above average totals. October, November, and December received a combined total of only about 20% of the usual amount for this period due primarily to the extremely warm December.

In Delaware, January brought moderately heavy snowfall with the balance of the year following the same general pattern as for Maryland.

Although the heaviest snowfall occurred in March, the greatest depths occurred generally in January as snow accumulated and lay on the ground for a longer period due to the much lower temperatures which prevailed at that time of the year. Oakland 1 SE reported the greatest monthly total snowfall of the two-state area, 25.8 inches, in March. Bittering 2 NW and Sines Deep Creek reported the greatest depths on the ground, 10 inches, on a number of days in January. A depth of 10 inches was also reported in March at Conowingo Police Barracks.

DESTRUCTIVE STORMS

A total of 12 persons were reported killed in Maryland and Delaware in 1956 as a result of severe storms. In Maryland 2 fatalities and 2 injuries occurred from lightning while the score was only 1 and 8, respectively, in Delaware. Strong winds contributed to 4 injuries, and floods, 8 drownings in Maryland. One injury occurred during a severe thunderstorm when a small boat was swamped on the Chesapeake Bay near Annapolis, Maryland. Other fatalities or injuries occurred in connection with automobile accidents due to poor visibilities or slippery highways during bad weather.

January was notable for sleet and freezing rain on several occasions which made highways extremely hazardous, caused traffic tie-ups, closed schools, and resulted in numerous automobile accidents. February brought several widespread occurrences of sleet and glaze but will be best remembered for the hurricane force winds which accompanied a fast moving cold front on the 25th and caused widespread damage. In May frequent electrical storms resulted in injury to 8 persons and considerable damage to property from fire caused by lightning. Hail damaged some orchards in western Mary-

land in June, but the most severe storm activity in this month was confined to Delaware where strong winds and hail were associated with severe thunderstorms on the 1st with a tornado cloud observed over the ocean off Rehoboth, Delaware. Lightning again caused property losses from fire. July was probably the stormiest month of the year as unprecedented, heavy rains, cloudbursts, and severe electrical storms wrought destruction of property and the loss of two lives. Several twisters or tornado-like storms were also reported. Winds and lightning were responsible for scattered property losses in August; however, no injuries or fatalities occurred. In September, severe thunderstorms accompanied by strong winds, hail, and lightning again caused considerable losses to property and one fatality, a fisherman who was struck by lightning near Lewes, Delaware. There were no destructive storms from October to December except for heavy rains in November.

FLOODS

Extensive local flooding, primarily in Washington and Montgomery Counties and the City of Baltimore on July 20th and in Harford, Saint Mary's, and Frederick Counties and the Delmar Peninsula on November 2nd, resulted in considerable losses to public and private property, serious erosion of soils, and the loss of at least seven lives due to drowning in flood waters. Other occurrences of local cloudbursts and extremely heavy rains inflicted heavy local flash flood damage. The most outstanding of these occurrences were in Allegany and Garrett Counties on August 5th-6th and in the Wilmington, Delaware area on October 22nd. On September 27th strong winds from the tropical disturbance, Flossy, caused high tides on the Atlantic coast and portions of the Chesapeake Bay with limited flood damage reported on lower areas in the southern tip of Saint Mary's County.

Details of each month's weather may be found in the monthly issues of this publication.

Howard H. Engelbrecht,
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U. S. Weather Bureau
Baltimore, Maryland

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES AND DEPARTURES FROM LONG-TERM MEANS

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE
1956

Table 1-Continued

Station	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December		Annual		
	Temperature	Departure	Temperature	Departure	Temperature	Departure	Temperature	Departure	Temperature	Departure	Temperature	Departure	Temperature	Departure	Temperature	Departure	Temperature	Departure	Temperature	Departure	Temperature	Departure	Temperature	Departure	Temperature	Departure	
DELAWARE																											
BRIDGEVILLE 1 NW	32.7	- 4.4	40.3	3.3	41.7	- 2.5	51.7	- 1.5	62.3	- 1.3	72.0	- .1	75.8M	- .4	74.4	- .0	67.2	- 1.1	59.6		47.5	- .2	45.4	7.0	59.9		.1
DOVER	33.2	- 3.6	40.5	3.8	42.9	- 2.0	52.8	- 1.6	63.4	- 1.0	73.4	.3	79.4	- 1.8	74.9	- 1.1	67.9	- 1.4	59.8M		45.9M	- 1.9	44.9	7.0	56.0		.3
GEDRGETOWN 5 SW	33.0		40.9		42.5		51.6		62.3		72.3		79.8		74.7		67.3		59.7		48.6		46.4		56.3		
LEWES	32.9		40.1		41.3		50.2		61.0		71.2		74.3		74.3		66.7		59.3		48.8M		46.6		56.8		
MIDDLETOWN 2 S	31.3		39.3		41.4		50.9		62.4		72.6		74.9		73.8		66.8				47.4		45.1M		59.3		
MILFORD	32.6		39.7		42.6		51.8		62.6M		71.9M		75.2		74.8		67.2		59.6		48.7		45.9		56.0		
NEWARK COLLEGE FARM	30.9		37.3		39.3		48.7M		60.7		71.2		73.3		72.8		65.1		57.0M		46.1		42.0		53.7		
SELBYVILLE	34.1		41.5		43.1		50.8		61.3		72.1		75.1		74.1		66.9		59.7		49.2		47.6		56.3		
WILMINGTON NCASTLE WB AP	31.8	- 1.3	37.5	3.8	38.6	- 3.9	49.9	- 1.9	59.9	- 2.9	71.7	- .1	73.4	- 2.3	73.6	- .4	64.6	- 3.4	56.8		45.2	- .3	41.3	8.2	53.7		.8
WILMINGTON PORTER RESV	31.1		36.8		38.0		48.9		59.1		71.2		72.7		73.2		64.2		57.1		45.3		41.4		53.2		

TOTAL PRECIPITATION AND DEPARTURES FROM LONG-TERM MEANS

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE
1956

Table 2-Continued

Station	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December		Annual		
	Precipitation	Departure	Precipitation	Departure	Precipitation	Departure	Precipitation	Departure	Precipitation	Departure	Precipitation	Departure	Precipitation	Departure	Precipitation	Departure	Precipitation	Departure	Precipitation	Departure	Precipitation	Departure	Precipitation	Departure	Precipitation	Departure	
DELAWARE																											
BRIDGEVILLE 1 NW	2.68	-1.05	3.36	.57	3.06	-.04	2.13	-1.41	3.11	-.89	4.13	-.71	6.99	2.30	2.06	-3.59	3.62	-.43	4.99	1.84	3.89	.64	3.51	.58	44.31	-.477	
DOVER	2.18	-1.70	3.46	.48	3.88	-.33	2.98	-.98	2.31	-2.08	3.86	-.03	5.05	.55	4.64	-1.11	4.20	.50	5.90	2.73	6.81	3.02	3.87	.75	48.11	1.71	
GEORGETOWN 3 SW	2.42		3.23		4.66		2.10		2.94		4.76		5.77		1.72		3.91		7.40		3.23		3.69		66.83		
LEVES	3.27		3.01		4.22		2.22		2.92		4.46		10.35		2.49		5.84		8.24		3.62		4.51		55.35		
MIDDLETOWN 2 S	2.06		3.92		4.25		2.74		2.09		3.11		3.84		4.15		3.38		4.61		5.51		3.67		64.33		
MILFORD	2.89		2.90		3.93		2.01		2.64		4.74		7.42		2.47		2.29		5.78		4.94		3.68		64.71		
NEWARK COLLEGE FARM	2.61		3.21		4.72		2.70		1.83		4.99		8.80		4.04		3.28		3.86		4.73		3.69		48.25		
SELBYVILLE	3.81		3.89		3.16		2.72		2.77		3.86		10.01		4.08		3.03		7.73		2.72		3.20		51.38		
WILMINGTON NCASTLE WB AP	2.61	-.95	4.21	1.23	5.16	1.87	2.80	-.784	2.12	-1.69	3.58	-.44	7.36	2.90	3.58	-1.70	2.77	-1.03	3.58	.59	5.94	2.61	4.09	1.10	47.85	3.33	
WILMINGTON CITY HALL	2.33	-1.33	3.02	1.08	5.36	1.20	3.19	-.36	2.51	-1.79	3.75	-.20	7.91	4.07	3.03	-2.34	2.49	-.69	4.56	1.63	5.27	1.67	3.15	.07	47.59	3.03	
WILMINGTON PORTER RESV	2.40	-1.23	4.11	1.40	4.47	.38	3.45	-.28	2.80	-1.47	3.28	-.74	7.21	2.92	2.78	-2.74	2.91	-.27	4.70	1.74	5.74	2.03	3.94	.49	47.39	2.15	

TEMPERATURE EXTREMES AND FREEZE DATA

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE
1956

Table 3—Continued

Station	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date	Last spring minimum of										First fall minimum of										Number of days between dates				
					16° or below		20° or below		24° or below		28° or below		32° or below		32° or below		28° or below		24° or below		20° or below		16° or below		16° or below	20° or below	24° or below	28° or below	32° or below
					Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.					
					Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.					
WASHINGTON WB CITY D C	97	6-13+	18	1-28	None		2-22	20	3-20	24	3-25	25	4- 1	32	11-22	32	11-23	25	11-24	21	None	None	-	-	249	243	235		
WATERLOO POLICE BRKS	96	6-13+	9	1-25	2-24	14	3-20	17	4-21	24	4-25	27	5-20	32	10-11	28	10-11	28	11-11	23	11-24	15	11-24	15	274	249	204	169	144
WESTERN PORT	97	6-13+	-	-	2-24	14	3-25	20	4- 1	23	4-25	28	5-25	32	9-21	30	11-11	27	11-19	23	11-23	20	11-24	11	274	243	232	200	119
WESTMINSTER	95	6-13+	9	1-28	2-24	15	3-25	19	4- 1	24	4-25	28	5-17	30	9-21	30	11-11	25	11-23	20	11-23	20	11-24	13	274	243	236	200	127
WOODSTOCK	96	6-17	2	1-28	3- 1	14	3-22	17	4- 1	21	4-25	26	5-25	31	9-21	32	10-11	28	11-11	21	11-24	13	11-24	13	268	247	224	169	119
DELAWARE																													
BRIDGEVILLE 1 NW	98	6-14	15	1-28	2-24	16	3- 1	19	3-27	24	4-25	28	5- 9	32	9-21	32	11-11	25	11-24	17	11-24	17	None	None	-	268	242	200	135
DOVER	96	6-14	13	1- 1+	1- 2	13	3- 1	20	3-25	23	3-25	23	4-21	32	11-11	26	11-11	26	11-24	19	11-24	19	None	None	-	268	244	231	204
GEORGETOWN 5 SW	97	6-14	12	1-28	2-24	13	3-25	20	4- 1	24	4-25	27	5-17	32	9-21	32	11-11	25	11-23	24	11-24	15	11-24	15	274	244	236	200	127
LEWES	97	6-13+	15	1- 1+	1-28	15	3- 1	20	3-25	24	4- 1	28	4-25	31	11-11	27	11-11	27	11-23	19	11-23	19	None	None	-	267	243	224	200
MIDDLETOWN 2 S	95	6-13+	6	1-28	3-20	15	3-21	20	3-25	24	4- 1	25	5-17	32	11-10	28	11-10	28	11-25	19	11-25	19	None	None	-	249	245	223	177
MILFORD	96	6-14	13	1-28	2-24	16	3-20	20	3-25	23	3-27	27	4-25	30	11-11	26	11-11	26	11-24	16	11-24	16	11-24	16	274	249	244	229	200
NEWARK COLLEGE FARM	95	6-14	5	1-25	2-24	14	3-20	20	3-25	22	4-21	28	5-17	31	10-12	32	11-11	22	11-11	22	11-24	16	11-24	16	274	249	231	204	148
SELSBYVILLE	95	6-14+	16	1-28	None		3- 1	20	3-25	22	4- 1	28	5- 9	31	11-11	26	11-11	26	11-24	18	11-24	18	None	None	-	268	244	224	186
WILMINGTON NCASTLE WB AP	96	6-13+	14	1-25+	1-28	14	3-20	20	3-25	22	3-25	22	4-21	31	11-10	29	11-11	27	11-23	20	11-23	20	11-24	16	301	248	243	231	203
WILMINGTON PORTER RESVR	94	6-14+	13	1-27	2-22	16	3- 1	19	3-25	21	3-25	21	5-17	32	11-10	28	11-10	28	11-23	22	11-24	18	None	None	-	268	243	230	177

TOTAL EVAPORATION AND WIND MOVEMENT

Table 4

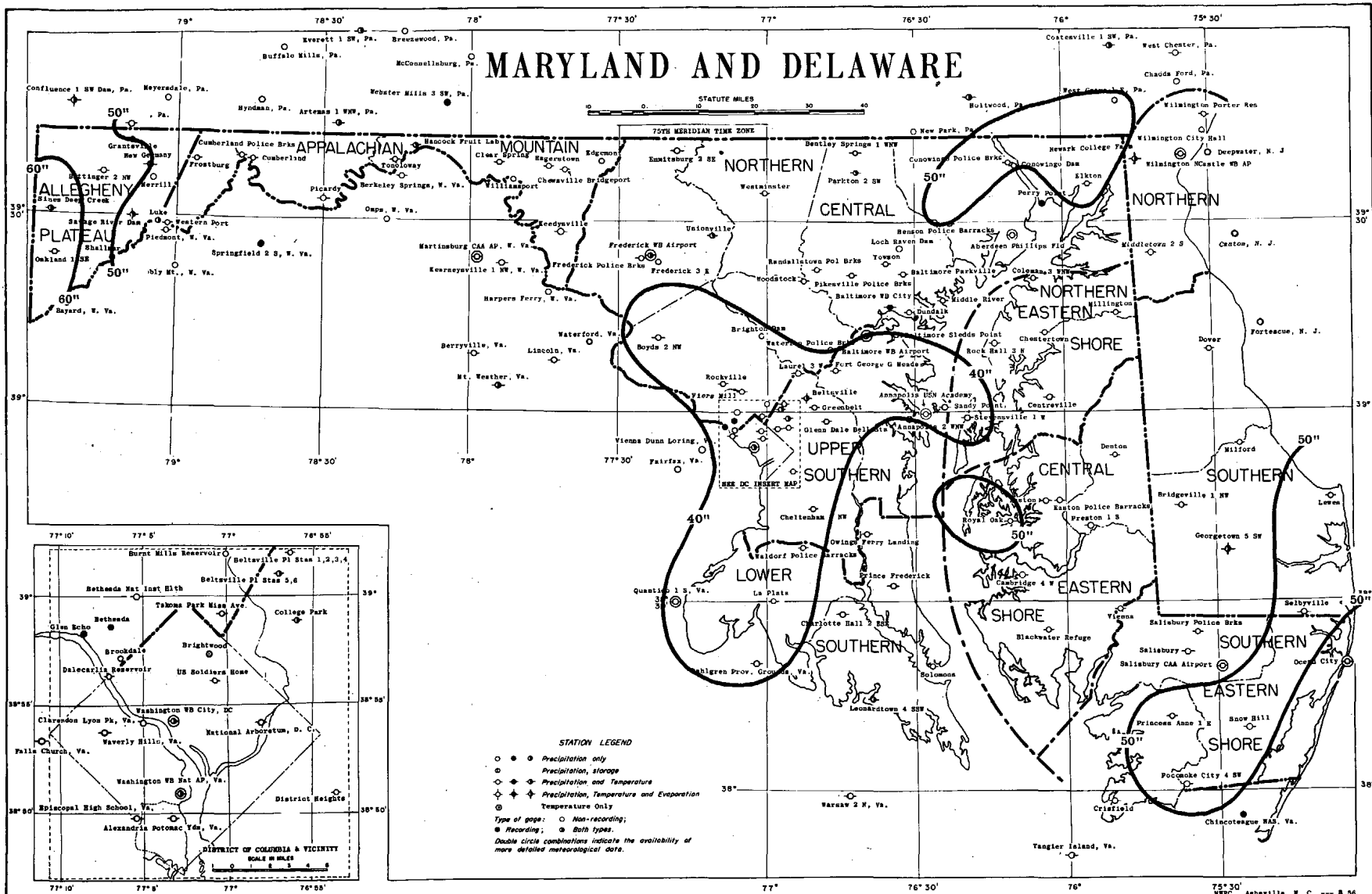
Station	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
BELTSVILLE, MD.	EVAP	-	-	-	-	B6.32	B7.54	B7.22	5.51	B5.09	2.68	B3.38	-
	DEP	-	-	-	-	1.08	08	-	88	35	61	1.25	-
	WIND	-	-	-	2369	1363	576	782	548	952	1111	B1460	-
	MAX	-	-	-	-	-	78.3	79.5	79.5	-	64.8	57.7	-
	MIN	-	-	-	-	-	63.0	66.9	-	-	53.6	48.3	-
SAVAGE RIVER DAM, MD.	EVAP	-	-	-	-	-	5.62	B5.05	B3.71	B2.83	-	-	-
	DEP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	WIND	-	-	-	-	-	1312	1122	855	359	1717	-	-
	MAX	-	-	-	-	-	85.9	85.2	87.5	74.2	64.5	-	-
	MIN	-	-	-	-	-	61.1	61.6	59.8	51.9	46.6	-	-
GEORGETOWN 5 SW, DEL.	EVAP	-	-	-	B4.63	6.12	6.50	B6.16	B6.02	B4.55	B2.92	-	-
	DEP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	WIND	-	-	-	B2266	1546	943	989	1047	1193	1429	-	-
NEWARK COLLEGE FARM, DEL.	EVAP	-	-	-	-	-	-	B6.84	B3.79	B2.31	-	-	-
	DEP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	WIND	-	-	-	-	-	-	B 795	828	B 868	-	-	-

† CHANGES IN STATION NAMES

<u>NEW NAME</u>	<u>OLD NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>
LA PLATA 1 W, MD.	LA PLATA, MD.	September 1956

RELOCATION AND CHANGES OF EQUIPMENT

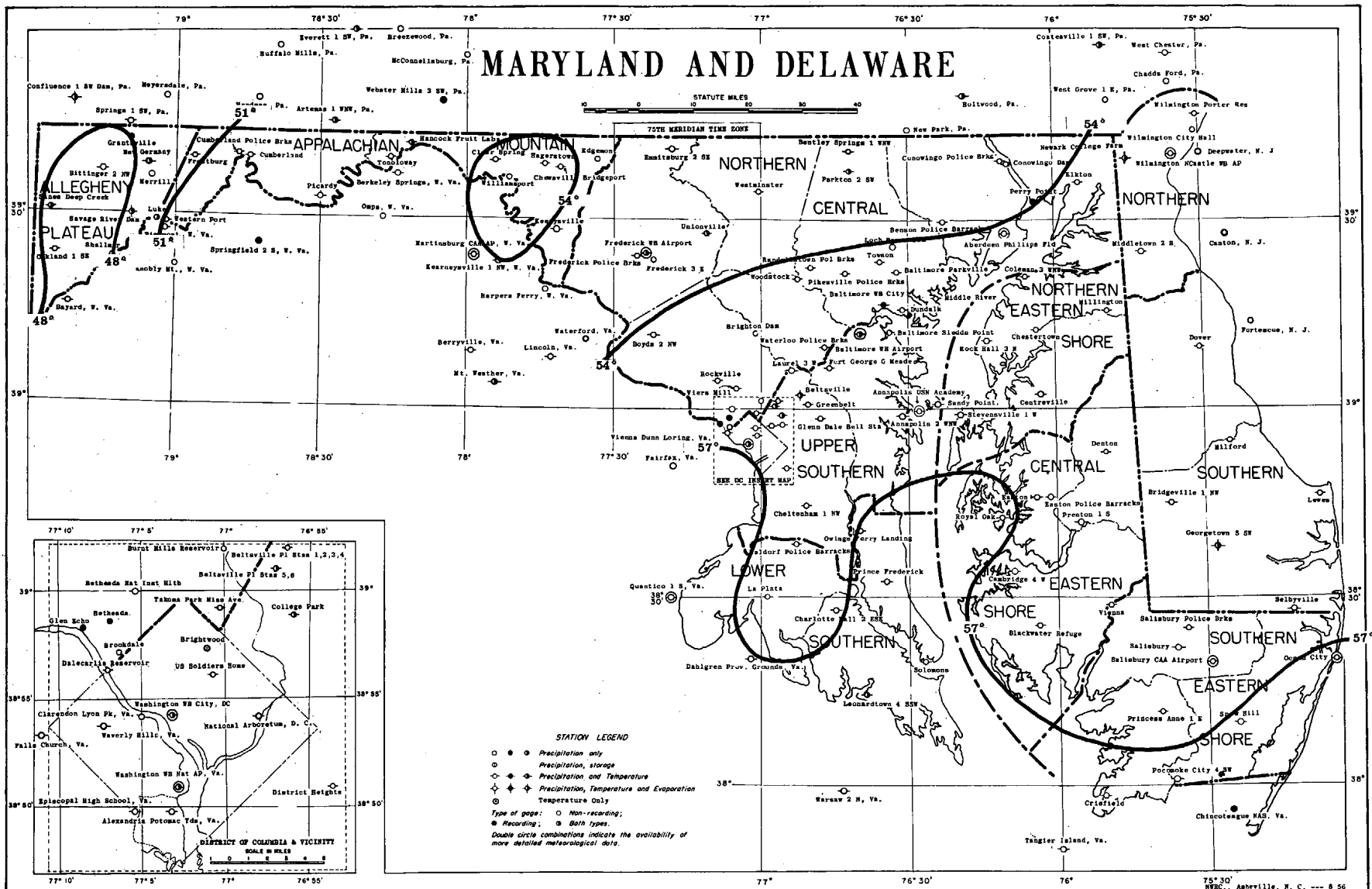
CUMBERLAND POLICE BRKS, MD.	All equipment moved 1.0 mile SW	May 1, 1956
EMMITSBURG 2 SE, MD.	All equipment moved 185 feet SW	October 9, 1956
LUKE, MD.	All equipment moved 1000 feet W	March 7, 1956
LA PLATA 1 W, MD.	All equipment moved 1.3 miles W	September 10, 1956
ROCKVILLE, MD.	All equipment moved 150 feet E	July 30, 1956
TOWSON, MD.	All equipment moved 200 feet NNE	March 21, 1956
NEWARK COLLEGE FARM, DEL.	All equipment moved 150 feet N	August 1, 1956
WILMINGTON NCASTLE WB AP, DEL.	All equipment moved 7/8 mile SE	July 16, 1956



TOTAL PRECIPITATION

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE
1956

Isohyals are drawn through points of approximately equal values. Hourly precipitation data from recorder substations will be available in the publication 'Hourly Precipitation Data'.



AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE
1955

Iso-lines are drawn through points of approximately equal values. Hourly precipitation data from recorder substations will be available in the publication 'Hourly Precipitation Data'.

