

Continued from Crop Digestion.

SEP 27 1901

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

REPORT FOR AUGUST, 1901.

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE SECTION

OF THE

CLIMATE AND CROP SERVICE

OF THE

WEATHER BUREAU.

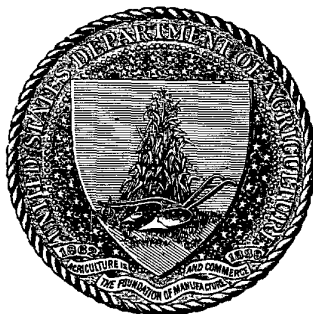
IN COOPERATION WITH THE

MARYLAND STATE WEATHER SERVICE.

PREPARED UNDER DIRECTION OF
WILLIS L. MOORE,
CHIEF OF WEATHER BUREAU.

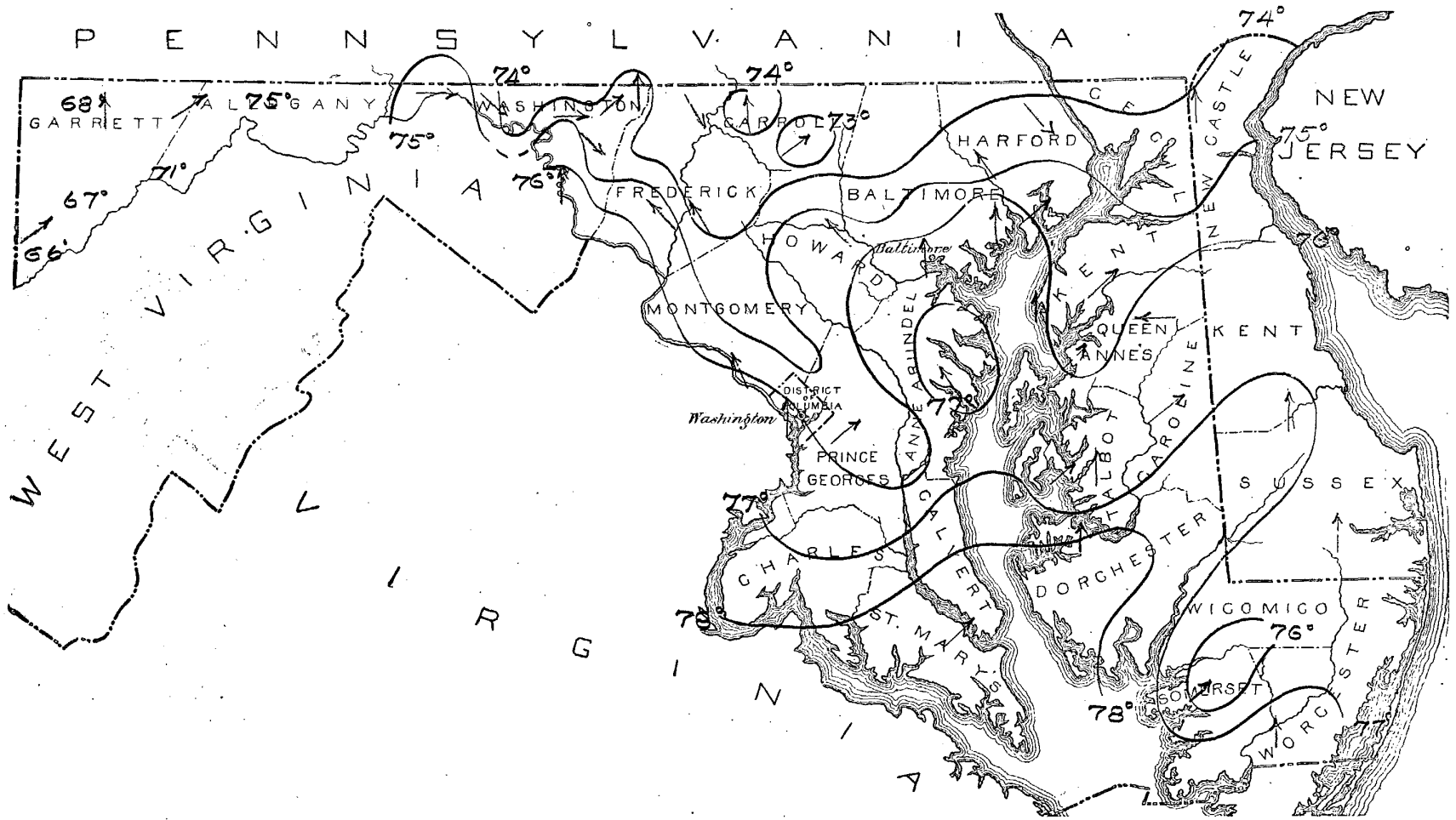
BY

OLIVER L. FASSIG,
SECTION DIRECTOR.



BALTIMORE, MD.:
WEATHER BUREAU OFFICE.
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY.
1901.

MONTHLY MEAN ISOTHERMS AND PREVAILING DIRECTION OF WIND, AUGUST, 1901



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
CLIMATE AND CROP SERVICE

OF THE
WEATHER BUREAU.

CENTRAL OFFICE: WASHINGTON, D. C.

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE SECTION,

OLIVER L. FASSIG, Section Director.

Vol. VI.

BALTIMORE, MD.

No. 8.

Weather and Crop Conditions. The month just past was a trifle warmer than usual, with local mean temperatures ranging from 66° in the mountain regions to 78° in the extreme south and southeast. There were no hot waves. The temperatures were almost continuously above normal from the 15th to 27th, and during much of this period the atmosphere was humid and oppressive, but the excess in heat was not marked; temperatures were also above 90° at many stations from the 9th to 11th, but pleasant breezes at the time prevented discomfort. Days and nights were comparatively cool from the 1st to 8th, 12th to 14th, and towards the close of the month.

The rainfall for the entire section was more than 2 inches above normal. The greatest totals, from 8 to over 12 inches, fell over the upper portions of the northern central counties, in southeastern Maryland, and in northeastern Delaware. Lighter falls, from 4 to 6 inches, occurred in the extreme west and in the counties lying on either side of the Bay. There were large variances in the total monthly amounts at stations near to each other in parts of the interior, but the areas having less than the normal measure of precipitation were quite limited. Practically no rain fell from the 1st to 4th, but the rainfall was heavy and general on the 6th and 7th. Showers fell in the west on the 10th, and a general rainy period, with variable amounts, prevailed from the 11th to 19th. Rains were heavy and general on the 23d and 24th, dry weather followed from the 26th to 30th, and the month ended with general showers. Thunderstorms occurred within the sectional limits on 22 days, those of the 6th, 12th, 15th, 17th to 19th, 23d, 30th, and 31st being most severe and general. These storms were accompanied by high winds at several places on the 6th and 15th, and some loss of property was occasioned by lightning on the 31st. There was more or less fogginess in the section on the 8th, 12th, 13th, and 20th to 26th.

The weather conditions were especially favorable to corn, pastures, young grasses, the late hay crop, buckwheat, and many kinds of garden products, but were not suitable for tobacco, fruit, potatoes, tomatoes, and melons, or for the thrashing of harvested grain. Slight damage was done by high winds on the 6th, and by washing rains on days of heavy precipitation, but the loss was local. Wheat thrashing was completed in some districts by the 10th, but the frequent rains interfered with the work to such an extent that it was

not entirely over by the end of the month. The yields were for the most part light, and the grain of inferior quality. In the extreme west the returns were poor; in the northern central counties they were poor to fair, with an occasional report of a full crop; short yields were the rule in the southeastern counties; the returns were slightly below average in the upper counties of the Eastern Shore; and in most of the southeastern counties the crop was very short. The yields of rye were generally placed at from an average crop to only fair. The harvesting of oats was finished between the 15th and 20th, when the last of the crop was gathered in the extreme west. The returns were poor in all districts. The late hay harvest continued until the middle of the month, improving towards the close in both yield and quality, and was followed by the cutting of the second clover crop. Pastures and young grasses remained in excellent condition throughout the entire month. Buckwheat came into bloom in the extreme west early in the month, and some was cut during the final week, with returns ranging from fair to very good. Fall plowing made satisfactory advance, although frequently interrupted by rains, and some seeding was accomplished in Garrett County before the first of September. The corn crop, which promises to be the best raised in Maryland for a number of years, was continually favored by the weather conditions. Some fodder was being saved at the close of the month in the southern and southeastern counties, but none of the crop had been cut in the northern counties. Many of the corn fields were quite grassy—a condition which will increase labor when the time comes to sow corn land in winter wheat. Growing tobacco was hurt to some extent by the surplus moisture, and the curing of the matured and harvested crop was very unfavorably affected by the humid and foggy weather of the latter portion of the month. The cutting of the early crop began about the 10th, and has progressed slowly but steadily since that time. Peaches have given poor to good returns, dependent on locality, and while the crop was more or less faulty owing to loss and damage by rotting, much good fruit was marketed. Apples are scarce on the trees and the fall has been light in most orchards, in consequence of which the amount of cider made thus far has been much less than usual. Caterpillars appeared in enormous numbers during the latter part of the month, and in many districts not only stripped fruit trees of their foliage but attacked forest trees as well. Potatoes ran largely to vines, but the tubers have not developed well, and the crop thus far has been a light one. Tomatoes and melons likewise had a thrifty vine but not much fruit, and the yields of both were disappointing. Other minor products of the truck patch and garden gave good returns.

* *

The Milwaukee Convention. One of the most pleasant events in the history of the Weather Bureau was the meeting of officials at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on August 27th to 29th. More than one hundred members were in attendance, comprising the Chief and his scientific staff, representatives of the station force from every part of the country, and a number of invited guests whose

professional pursuits or scientific tastes had led them into close and congenial relations with the work of the service.

The session of three days that followed was given to a careful review of the educational, scientific, and practical operations of the Bureau, while the methods which are now being used in meteorological investigations, weather forecasting, and the collecting and publishing of crop reports, were thoroughly discussed from the standpoint of the individual and general experiences that have accumulated since the holding of a similar convention at Omaha, Nebraska, three years before.

Many interesting and important papers were read and discussed. Some were descriptive of results reached in recent special lines of research work, others dealt with the daily problems of executive routine, and all converged towards the central idea of enlarging, wherever possible, the usefulness of the Weather Bureau to the general public. It is not possible within limited space to give even a condensed summary of the proceedings; this is not necessary, however, as a bulletin will be published soon, giving a full account of the convention and its work, and copies will be distributed among the voluntary observers and correspondents of the Bureau.

Among the guests that participated in the discussions were Rev. Father F. L. Odenbach, S. J., of St. Iguatius College, Cleveland, Ohio; Mr. H. Helm Clayton, of the Blue Hill (Mass.) Meteorological Observatory; Mr. Charles B. Murray, editor of the "Price Current;" Mr. H. M. Watts, of the "Philadelphia Press;" and Assistant Postmaster General Machen, of Washington, D. C. The remarks of these gentlemen were listened to with extreme interest, and their kindly criticisms of the methods of the Bureau, as well as their frequent complimentary references to its personnel, were accepted with an appreciation as unreserved as was the manner in which the expressions were delivered. Mr. Machen spoke of the work of the rural free delivery system, and in the course of his remarks referred in an interesting way to the original experiments made in West Virginia, and from that passed to a description of the first complete county system that was established, namely, in Carroll County, Maryland, and the extremely satisfactory results that have followed. He gave assurances of a continuance of the hearty cooperation that already exists between his branch of the Postoffice Department and the Weather Bureau, and promises that the latter will be aided in every possible way in its efforts to extend the forecast and crop service work into the rural districts. The Honorable Secretary of Agriculture was in attendance at the close of the convention, and met with a most cordial reception. He spoke briefly in the afternoon, and at night addressed the members at some length, touching upon the work of the Bureau from an administrative point of view, and furnished them with object lessons of what may be accomplished by earnest and systematic efforts in his account of what has recently been done in other branches of his Department.

The social features of the convention were perfect in every respect. The citizens of Milwaukee gave the visitors a most hospitable welcome, and cared in every possible manner for their comfort and entertainment. Dr. Wilson, the local Weather Bureau official, was unremitting in his efforts to make the convention a success, and it is safe to say that he was satisfied with the results. The banquet on Thursday night, tendered by the Press Club and business organizations of Milwaukee, was a fitting culmination of the meeting. It was presided over by the Chief of the Bureau, who spoke in pleasant strain, and introduced the other speakers. In the

toasts and responses there was a happy mingling of earnestness, eloquence, and humor, and the evening passed quickly away. Most of the members left on the following day, carrying with them lasting memories of the occasion, and of Milwaukee hospitality.

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CLIMATOLOGY OF THE MONTH.

ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE.

Monthly mean at Washington, D. C., 30.02 inches; at Baltimore, 30.02 inches; average, 30.02 inches; highest, 30.19 inches, at Baltimore, on the 28th; lowest, 29.84 inches, at Baltimore, on the 3d.

TEMPERATURE.

The monthly mean (entire territory), 75.0°, is 0.7° above the normal.

The highest monthly mean was 79.0°, at Sharpsburg.

The lowest monthly mean was 66.0°, at Sunnyside.

The highest temperature recorded during the month was 98°, at Sharpsburg, on the 21st, and at Denton on the 23d.

The lowest temperature recorded during the month was 42°, at Sunnyside, on the 11th.

The greatest local monthly range was 48°, at Sunnyside.

The least local monthly range was 30°, at Newark, Del., Takoma Park, and Woodstock College.

The greatest daily range was 41°, at Sunnyside, on the 11th.

The least daily range was 3°, at Denton, on the 24th.

PRECIPITATION, in inches and hundredths.

The monthly average (entire territory) 5.85, was 2.17 above the normal.

The greatest amount was 12.05, at Princess Anne.

The least amount was 2.70, at Coleman.

The greatest amount in twenty-four hours was 3.40, at Bachman's Valley, on the 18th.

The average number of rainy days, 10.

WIND.

The prevailing direction was from the southwest.

The total movement was 3,162 miles, at Baltimore, and 3,746 miles, at Washington, D. C.

The maximum wind velocity was 21 miles per hour from the northeast, at Baltimore, on the 6th.

MISCELLANEOUS PHENOMENA.

Thunderstorms.—Annapolis, 6, 12, 14, 15, 18, 31; Bachman's Valley, 15, 31; Baltimore, 6, 12, 19; Boettcherville, 12, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 30, 31; Boonsboro, 15, 23, 30, 31; Cheltenham, 23, 31; Chestertown, 12, 31; Chewsville, 15, 17, 23, 30, 31; Clear Spring, 10, 15, 17, 19, 30; Fallston, 12, 18, 19, 23; Frederick, 15, 17, 23, 31; Frostburg, 16, 17, 23, 31; Grantsville, 10, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 30, 31; Green Spring Furnace, 15, 17, 19, 31; Hagerstown, 31; Hancock, 19; Harney, 15, 31; Jewell, 6, 12, 15, 23, 24, 31; Laurel, 19, 23, 31; Longwoods, 6; Millsboro, 1, 11, 12, 18, 24; Newark, 15, 18, 19, 23; New Market, 31; Pocomoke City, 11; Princess Anne, 4, 6, 11, 12, 24, 25; Queenstown, 15, 18, 31; Seaford, 11; Sharpsburg, 15, 17, 23, 30; Smithsburg, 15, 17, 23, 31; Solomons, 6, 11, 16, 18, 24, 31; Sunnyside, 10, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 30, 31; Taneytown, 10, 12, 15, 17, 18, 19, 23, 30, 31; Woodstock, 19, 31.

Fog.—Baltimore, 23, 26; Smithsburg, 12, 25; Sunnyside, 8, 13, 20, 21; Woodstock, 8, 13.

High Winds.—Baltimore, 6; Queenstown, 15.

High Tide.—Longwoods, 3, 7, 8; Queenstown, 2, 3, 15.

Low Tide.—Queenstown, 5.

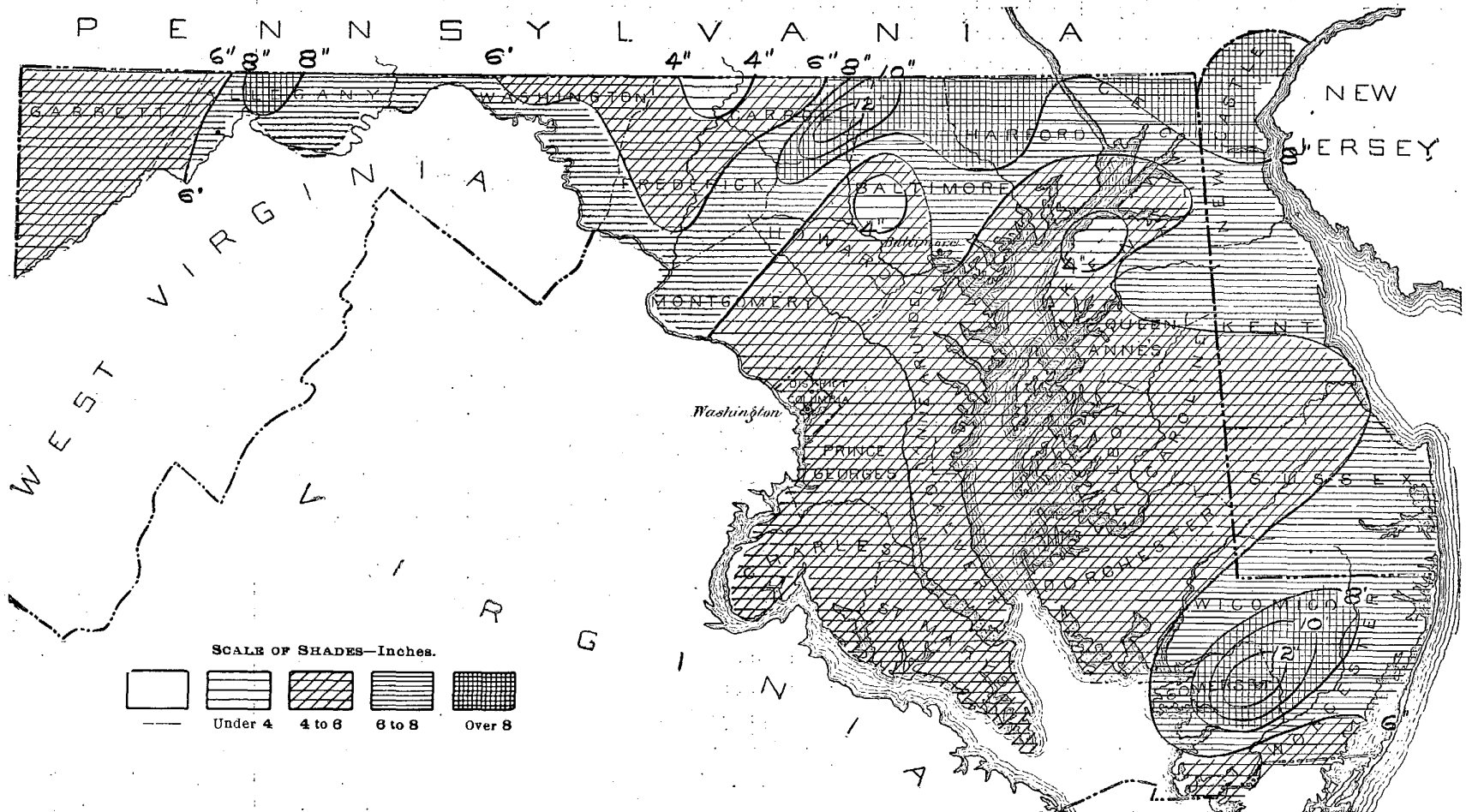
Aurora.—Chewsville, 1, 4, 18, 20, 30.

Climatological data for Maryland and Delaware, August, 1901.

Table with columns: Stations, Counties, Elevation, Length of record, Temperature (Mean, Departure from normal, Highest, Date, Lowest, Date, Greatest daily range, Total), Precipitation (Departure from normal, Greatest in 24 hours, Total snowfall, Number rainy days, Number clear days, Number partly cloudy days, Number cloudy days), Sky, Prevailing direction of wind, and Observers. The table is divided into Western Maryland, Northern-Cen. Md., Southern Maryland, Eastern Maryland, and Delaware.

Note.—All records are used in determining State or district means, but State and district departures are determined by comparison of current data of only such stations as have normals. Letters of the alphabet indicate the number of days missing—e.g. “d” denotes four days missing. † Mean of 7 a. m. + 2 p. m. + 2. † Incomplete record. * Not included in means. † On other dates also. New normals of temperature and precipitation have been computed for all stations having a record of three years or more, from the beginning of observations to include the year 1900. The use of the new normals began in the January report.

TOTAL PRECIPITATION, AUGUST, 1901.



SCALE OF SHADES—Inches.

