

Good weather allows early planting

HARRISBURG — Warm dry weather which continued across the commonwealth during week ending May 12 provided five days suitable for farm fieldwork, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. The average temperature was 61 degrees, four degrees above normal, and the average precipitation was .19 inch, .63 inches below normal.

Farm activities included har-

vesting ryelage and small amounts of alfalfa for silage and hay; plowing; planting oats, corn and potatoes, spreading manure; and spraying herbicides for no-till corn.

Statewide, topsoil moisture supplies were rated short by 42 percent of the farm reporters and adequate by 58 percent. The northern region showed no im-

provement over last week with moisture supplies virtually the same at 70 percent short and 30 percent adequate. Southern reporters rated soil moisture as 33 percent short and 67 percent adequate. Central reporters rated it 25 percent short and 75 percent adequate.

All stations reporting across the state showed rainfall levels below normal since April 1, ranging from .18 inch below normal in Blairsville to 3.60 inches below normal in Emporium.

Statewide, 96 percent of the oat crop was seeded. This compares to last year's rate of 62 percent seeded and the five-year average of 79 percent sown. Seeding rates of 92 and 97 percent were reported for the northern and central region respectively, while the southern region indicated oat seeding was virtually complete.

Statewide, 53 percent of the corn crop had been planted by week's end, 26 percent above last week.

Last year at this time only ten percent of the crop was planted. The five-year average stands at 27 percent planted by this date.

Pennsylvania's spring plowing was 86 percent complete by week's end. This compares to last year's rate of 48 percent and the five-year average of 69 percent complete at this time. The northern, central and southern regions report plowing completion rates of 86, 87 and 85 percent respectively.

Statewide, 78 percent of the potato crop was planted, well above the 40 percent planted at this time last year and the five-year average of 53 percent planted.

Across the state, 32 percent of the barley crop was in the boot stage and 45 percent was heading or headed. This compares to last year's progress of 16 percent in boot and less than five percent in head. Statewide 33 percent of the wheat was in boot and six percent in head, while last year less than five percent was in boot and vir-

tually no wheat was headed. Ryelage is still being harvested, with most rye reported as heading or headed.

Alfalfa stands were rated good by 55 percent, fair by 41 percent and poor by four percent of farm reporters. Some indicated alfalfa stands are short and suffering insect damage. Clo-tim stands were rated fair by 54 percent of reporters and good by 46 percent. Feed obtained from pastures was rated above average by four percent, average by 70 percent and below average by 26 percent of the reporters.

By the end of the week 86 percent of the state's peach trees were in full bloom or past compared with 58 percent in full bloom or past last year. Cherries were reported as 95 percent in full bloom or past compared with 58 percent last year. Statewide, 94 percent of the apple trees were in full bloom or past compared with only 13 percent at this time last year.

Maryland to revise regs on pesticide application

ANNAPOLIS, MD — The Maryland Department of Agriculture has announced plans to revise and update its current regulations pertaining to the Pesticide Applicators Law. The actual proposal calls for the repeal in their entirety of Regulations .01-.22 and to replace them with new regulations.

Significant revisions include:

- Licensing of pest control consultants.
- Record-keeping by all dealers who sell restricted-use pesticides.
- Establishment of a new certification category - Miscellaneous Pest Control.
- Modification of private applicator certification fees and effective certificate period.

Changes will also require all places of business applying pesticides to obtain a pesticide business license; require corporations who apply pesticides to their property to obtain a license; and establish of standards and guidelines for inspections for pests.

An announcement of the proposed change, in its entirety, was published in the Maryland Register, Vol. 12, Issue 9 on Friday, April 26th. Concerned parties have until May 31, 1985 to

comment on the proposed actions.

Comments should be submitted in writing to David Shriver, Chief, Pesticide Applicator's Law Section, Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.



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