

## Eligible Corn Growers and Landlords Begin Filing Syngenta Settlement Claims in May

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On April 10, 2018, a federal district court judge granted preliminary approval to the \$1.51 billion MIR162 Syngenta settlement. This settlement, reached in September 2017 and officially announced in March 2018, would settle claims by U.S. farmers for Syngenta bringing Viptera and Duracade corn varieties to market before approval in China. This approval means corn growers in the Mid-Atlantic region will begin to see formal notices hitting their mailboxes in May, and the claims process will begin. Corn growers and eligible landlords will be able to file claims electronically beginning May 11, 2018, at [www.cornseedsettlement.com](http://www.cornseedsettlement.com), or by calling 1-833-567-CORN(2676) to request a paper form. Corn growers and eligible landlords will need to file a claim by October 12, 2018.

The settlement includes all U.S. corn farmers, including those who opted out of the original class action suit and those who grew Agrisure Duracade corn and Agrisure Viptera corn varieties. The settlement will also include landlords who based rental rates on yield or price, such as a flex-lease based on yield or price or a crop-share lease. Fixed cash landlords are not eligible to participate. The period included in the settlement is September 15, 2013 through

the 2018 crop year. Corn growers and eligible landlords are not required to retain an attorney to assist in collecting on this settlement.

The settlement will include four classes defined as:

Class 1: Growers and eligible landlords who did not use Duracade or Viptera,

Class 2: Growers and eligible landlords who did use Duracade or Viptera,

Class 3: Grain handlers, and

Class 4: Ethanol producers.

Claims to three of the four classes will be limited in the amount that may be recovered:

- Class 2 will be limited to \$22.6 million,
- Class 3 will be limited to \$29.9 million, and
- Class 4 will be limited to \$19.5 million.

Class 1 will receive a minimum of \$1.44 billion, with the bulk of the settlement going to corn growers and eligible landlords who did not grow Duracade or Viptera corn seeds. If a person qualifies in two classes (for

example, you grew Duracade seed one year but not in other years), you are permitted under terms of the proposed settlement to collect as long as the recovery is not duplicative. The settlement does not allow for recovery of silage or fed-on-farm corn.

Corn growers and eligible landlords in Class 1 and Class 2 will prove the amount they are entitled to recover using USDA's Form FSA 578. This form determines the corn grower's or eligible landlord's corn acreage minus any failed acres and silage acres. Multiply the acreage by the county average yield for the marketing year reported by NASS, deducting the percentage of bushels fed on the farm reported by the corn grower or eligible landlord, multiplying by the marketing year weighted average to get the recovery amount for that marketing year.

The weighted averages for each market year are:

- 2013/14 - 26%
- 2014/15 - 33%
- 2015/16 - 20%
- 2016/17 - 11%
- 2017/18 - 10%

The weighted averages represent damage impact determined by the plaintiffs' economic experts during the Kansas trial. For example, if a corn grower or eligible landlord seeking recovery had reported 100 acres on her FSA Form 578 with a county yield of 150 bushels per acre and no silage or fed on-farm corn

reported in marketing year 2014/15, then the corn grower or eligible landlord is entitled to a 2014/15 compensable recovery quantity of 4,950 bushels for the 2014/15 marketing year. At this time, a dollar value on that compensable recovery quantity is unknown. The recovery method for the other two classes (grain handlers and ethanol producers) will follow a different format. This overview will not cover those recovery methods.

Corn growers or eligible landlords have until August 10, 2018, to file an objection as to why the court should not grant final approval to the settlement, or to opt-out of the settlement. Many growers may have already opted out of the class action, but may need to opt-out again based on the language of the proposed settlement agreement. Corn growers or eligible landlords who do nothing will receive no settlement payment and conclude any legal claim once the court grants final approval to the settlement.

The court has set a final approval hearing on the settlement for November 15, 2018, at 1 pm in Kansas City. According to the order granting preliminary approval, payment of settlement claims should happen no later than April 1, 2019.

## Proper Stewardship by Growers is Essential to Ensuring Dicamba Tolerant Soybeans Continue to be Available

*Matt Morris, Agriculture Extension Educator  
University of Maryland Extension, Frederick County*

Dicamba tolerant soybeans, marketed under the trade name Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans, are again available to Maryland growers for the 2018 growing season. This line of soybeans will combine previous Roundup Ready technology with tolerance to the herbicide dicamba.

While this new dicamba tolerance may be useful in combating certain tough-to-control weeds, including marestail and palmer amaranth, use caution when applying dicamba. Applications of dicamba may cause

problems due to the sensitivity of certain crops to the herbicide. Exposure can occur due to drift, volatility, or a non-target application.

Below are some recommendations to consider when using new dicamba-tolerant technologies.

- **Dicamba type:**

The only dicamba products that will be approved for in-crop use with Xtend soybeans will be XtendiMax from Monsanto, FeXapan from Dupont (not labeled in

MD), and Engenia from BASF. These are lower volatility formulations than other dicamba products and are designed for dicamba-tolerant soybeans. These products will be classified as restricted-use pesticides for 2018 and all users must take dicamba or synthetic auxin herbicide training prior to purchasing these products.

- **Know the location of sensitive crops:**

Talk with your neighbors and know where crops such as tomatoes, grapes, alfalfa, and non-tolerant soybeans are located. Engenia includes woodlands and native vegetation as sensitive crops; any broadleaf cash crop is listed as a sensitive crop in the XtendiMax label. This information will help you decide whether to use dicamba near these crops, especially if a prevailing wind will cause drift in their direction.

In addition, you should maintain buffer zones of 110 feet (220 feet if a 22 oz/ac rate is exceeded), between dicamba application sites and sensitive crops. The two websites below contain a (incomplete) list of some sensitive crops in your area:

<http://maryland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/OnePane/basicviewer/index.html?appid=a4e2153518d04317bbac79702aafcd53>  
[www.driftwatch.org](http://www.driftwatch.org)

- **Rates:**

Engenia - Dicamba tolerant soybeans - maximum of 12.8 fl oz/application and 51.2 oz/season.

FeXapan and XtendiMax - Dicamba tolerant soybeans - maximum of 44 fl oz/pre-plant application, 22 fl oz/post-emergence application, and a maximum of 88 fl oz/season.

- **Nozzle selection:**

Engenia - Only TTI11004 and TTI11005 are currently approved.

FeXapan and XtendiMax - Apply large droplets with specific nozzles. Do not use flat fan nozzles that produce driftable fines. Use TTI11004 or nozzles listed on the EPA-mandated product websites.

- **Tank mix partners and water conditioning:**

Ammonium sulfate (AMS) **CANNOT** be mixed with the new dicamba formulations. AMS is commonly used as a water conditioning agent for glyphosate applications. Adding AMS will increase the volatility of dicamba. Also, certain spray adjuvants and herbicide

tank mix partners are not compatible with the new dicamba formulations.

Lists of approved tank mix partners can be found at:

<http://www.xtendimaxapplicationrequirements.com/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://agproducts.basf.us/campaigns/engenia/tankmixselector/>

<http://www.dupont.com/products-and-services/crop-protection/soybean-protection/articles/fexapan-tank-mix-partner.html>

- **Recordkeeping:**

For the 2018 season, recordkeeping will be mandatory when applying dicamba in-crop on soybeans. Specific recordkeeping requirements will vary between the three approved, in-crop dicamba products, so always consult the label. However, it is recommended you always record wind speed and direction, air temperature, humidity, location of the application, product(s) used, rate, crop being treated, pests being targeted, and total product amounts used, among other information. Proper recordkeeping can provide essential evidence in the event of herbicide damage to a non-target crop.

- **Wind speed, temperature, and temperature inversions:**

The optimal wind speed for applying the new dicamba products is 3-5 mph. Applications are prohibited when wind speeds are above 10 mph.

As the temperature increases, so does the volatility of dicamba. Use caution when applying dicamba products in hot, humid weather.

Take caution when wind speeds are below 3 mph, since this could indicate the presence of a temperature inversion. This phenomenon occurs when the temperature, which normally decreases with height in a thin layer of the atmosphere, increases with height. Inversions are another cause of vapor drift. Other indicators of a temperature inversion include low-hanging smoke or dust, morning fog or frost, clear and still nights with little to no cloud cover, and ground temperatures cooler than early morning air temperatures.

- **Multiple applications and weed height:**

Multiple herbicide applications with the same mode of action within a single season selects for

herbicide resistance. Avoid using dicamba on tolerant soybeans more than once in a season. If possible, a pre-emergence herbicide should be applied before or at planting. It is also important to remember that weeds should be targeted at 4" of height or less for successful control.

**Application suggestions:**

Keep ground speeds below 15 mph and nozzle pressures as low as possible to maintain the desired application rate. Boom height should be no more than 24" above the crop or weed canopy. If a weed is 4" tall, boom height should not exceed 28."

**Most importantly:**

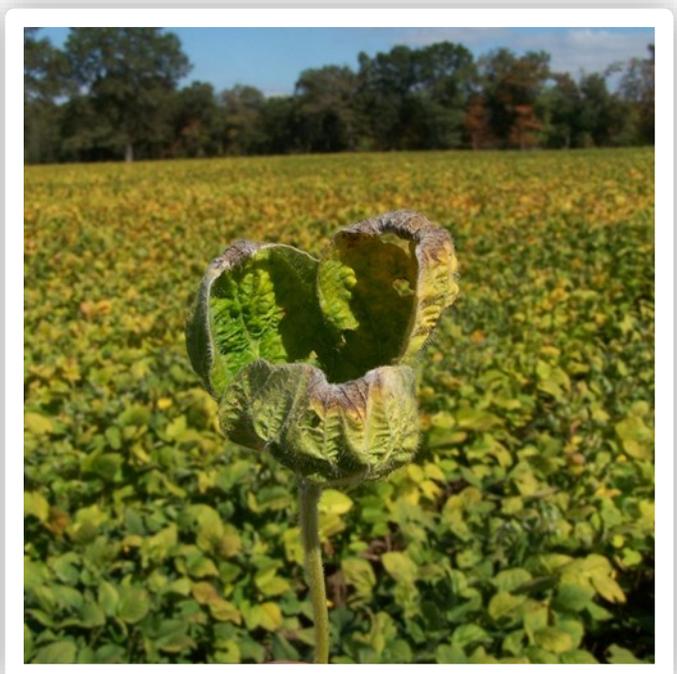
ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE PRODUCT LABELING. It is a violation of Federal and state law to use any pesticide product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.

Approval of dicamba-tolerant soybeans by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will run until the end of 2018. At that point, they will consider whether to renew approval based on the number of problems that occur as a result of this new technology.

If you have questions regarding the use of dicamba tolerant soybean technology or dicamba, please contact Matt Morris @ 301-600-3578 / mjmorris@umd.edu or your local Extension office for more information.

**Dicamba Changes for 2018:**

1. Classified as a restricted use pesticide that only certified pesticide applicators can purchase.
2. Anyone applying these products MUST receive dicamba or auxin-specific training.



**Figure 1.** Example of damage when a label rate of 1pt/ac of the herbicide Clarity drifted on to non-tolerant soybeans.

3. Applications can ONLY be made between sunrise and sunset.
4. Recordkeeping is mandatory. Refer to the individual labels for exact recordkeeping requirements.
5. All applications cannot be done when wind speeds exceed 10 mph (down from 15 mph).
6. Record of compliance with spray system cleanout is mandatory.
7. Labels have enhanced language about susceptible crops. This includes non-dicamba-tolerant soybeans.



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University of Maryland Extension is currently searching for a pasture management and livestock operations specialist. This position will provide leadership and delivery of educational programming related to pasture management and hay production for livestock consumption. The successful applicant will have access to Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station facilities including dairy, beef, and equine facilities with 600 acres of forage crops.

Those interested should apply online through [ejobs.umd.edu](http://ejobs.umd.edu), position #103272. Best consideration date is June 1.

## Know Your Insect Pest: Grass Sawfly

*Emily Zobel, Agriculture Agent Associate  
University of Maryland Extension, Dorchester County*

Grass sawflies can cause damage to both barley and wheat. Grass sawfly larvae hatch and feed on the lower leaf blade in early May. As it grows, the larvae will climb and continue to feed on stems and leaves. Stem and head clipping often occur before leaf feeding is complete and/or the grain reaches physiological maturity. A sawfly larva may clip >10 heads before it matures and drops to the ground.

The grass sawfly larvae can be distinguished from other pests by their solid green color, amber head with a brown band and many legs. Sawfly larvae are often mistaken as caterpillars, but are actually in the insect order Hymenoptera (wasp, bees, and ants). You can tell

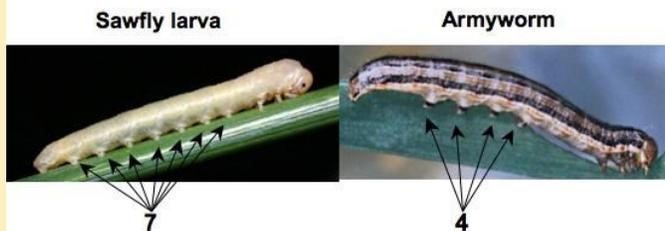
the difference between a caterpillar and sawfly larvae by counting the number of prolegs. Caterpillars will have 5 or fewer pairs of pro-legs while sawfly larvae will have 6 or more pairs of pro-legs (Figure 1).

You can scout for sawfly larvae and armyworms by shaking stems. Shake both sides of 5 linear feet of row and examine any worms that fall off between the 2 rows and note any head clipping. Repeat for at least 10 sites. The threshold for sawfly larva and armyworm is when the larvae number more than 0.4 per linear ft. of row or 0.7 per square ft. and are smaller than 3/4 inch. If the larvae are over 1 inch, have a dark bar on the head capsule, and have clipped many heads, it is probably too late to treat.

Some chemical control options are as follows: BaythroidXL (beta-cyfluthrin), Besiege (lambda-cyhalothrin+ chlorantraniliprole), Blackhawk 36WG (spinosad), Mustang MAXX 0.8 EC (zeta-cypermethrin), Radiant SC (spinetoram, Warrior II (lambda-cyhalothrin), and Tombstone 2 EC (cyfluthrin). Remember the label is the law. Be sure to read the label before making any pesticide applications and observe all label restrictions. Please check the label for rates and pre-harvest interval and restrictions.

*Article adapted from information from University of Maryland and University of Delaware.*

### Prolegs (false legs) Comparison



**Figure 1.** Proleg comparison between a sawfly larva and an armyworm. Sawflies have 6 or more pairs of prolegs. Images: University of Maryland and University of Delaware.



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<http://blog.umd.edu/agronomynews/>

## Top 6 Tips For Managing Soybean Diseases

Andrew Kness, Agriculture Extension Educator  
University of Maryland Extension, Harford County

As we move into the 2018 growing season, here are some tips for managing soybean diseases. They are all important points to consider, and are in no particular order of importance.

1. **Know what you're up against.** Don't just guess at the cause of the problem; use the resources at your disposal to confirm the cause. The [University of Maryland Extension Plant Diagnostic Lab](#) is a great resource, as well as private labs. Your local extension agent can also help you diagnose a problem. Also, remember that other abiotic disorders such as drought, herbicide damage, nutrient deficiencies, etc., can sometimes resemble a biotic disease. Proper identification will help you implement the correct management tactics.
2. **Know your soybean variety.** Pay particular attention to the disease and resistance (if any) ratings. Selecting varieties that are more tolerant or resistant to a particular disease will be a key part of your management moving forward. In fields where a particular disease is a recurring problem, selecting varieties that have resistance or tolerance (if available) should be a priority. Use University [variety trial](#) information (when available), in conjunction with the seed company ratings, to select the best seed for each field.
3. **Plant at the proper population.** Pushing plant populations too high will result in a denser canopy, creating a much more humid and moist microclimate within the canopy, which is an ideal environment for most plant diseases to develop. Research in Maryland has shown that full-season soybean plant populations should be targeted at 140,000 plants per acre and 180,000 plants per acre for double-crop production.
4. **Protect the top 1/3 of the canopy.** The top third of the soybean plant contributes to nearly all of the carbohydrates necessary for grain fill, which is what determines your yield. Foliar diseases that infect the top third of the plant, if severe enough, can significantly affect yield. If foliar fungal diseases begin spreading to the upper third of the plants that are approaching flowering and pod fill, a fungicide application may be necessary to protect

yield; however, economics and return on investment should be considered. Fungicides are relatively cheap now but you should still consider the economics; so before spraying, figure out how many bushels you need in return to warrant that application. During average years in Maryland, diseases are typically not severe enough to warrant a fungicide application for most of our foliar diseases of soybean. If they are, we generally achieve the best control of most foliar diseases when an appropriate fungicide is applied between R1 and R3. Always remember to read and follow the label, as well as rotate fungicide modes of action to curb disease resistance. The [Take Action Pesticide-Resistance Management](#) website has some great resources and tools to help make rotating modes of action quick and easy, including a searchable database and the [Take Action Soybean Fungicide Classification Chart](#).

5. **Plant in ideal field conditions.** Avoid having seed and seedling plants in soil that is cool and waterlogged. Waterlogged soils can lead to the development of stem and root diseases (Figure 1), which have no in-season cure once infection occurs. Also, if you're using fungicide seed treatments, realize that they are only effective for approximately 2-3 weeks after planting. Practices



**Figure 1.** Classic symptoms of post-emergence damping off in soybeans caused by root-rotting pathogens during an extended period of saturated soil conditions. Image: Cary Hicks, Bugwood.org.

that help reduce compaction and increase water infiltration will prevent your seedling soybeans from having “wet feet”, which is the driving cause of root and stem disease development. Planting into soils that are the proper moisture and temperature will go a long way in helping you manage many soybean diseases.

- 6. **Crop rotation and residue management.** Since many of the major soybean diseases in Maryland overwinter on old soybean residue, planting soybeans back-to-back is not recommended. Breaking up the rotation with a small grain, corn, or another crop before returning to soybeans will allow the old soybean residue more time to decompose and kill off the pathogens that are overwintering in and on them (Figure 2). Likewise, a light tillage pass with a vertical till or turbo till tool to size old soybean residue will increase residue decomposition, reducing inoculum load in your field for future soybean crops.

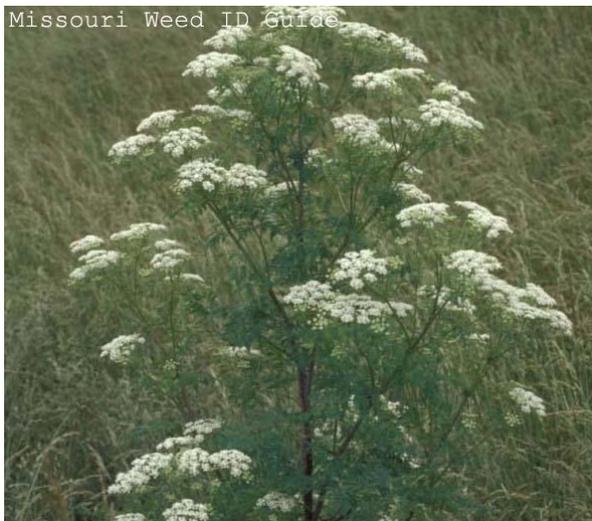
If you have any questions about soybean disease management or notice any odd symptoms this year, feel free to give me a call at (410) 638-3255.



**Figure 2.** Signs and symptoms of the charcoal rot pathogen, *Macrophomia phaseolina*. Notice the tiny black specs, which are microsclerotia, structures that allow the pathogen to overwinter in old soybean residue. Image: Martin Draper, USDA-NIFA, Bugwood.org.

## Weed to Watch: Poison Hemlock

Kelly Nichols, Agriculture Agent Associate  
University of Maryland Extension, Frederick County



**Figure 1.** Flowering poison hemlock.

Poison hemlock is a concern for both human and livestock health, and it is important to know how to identify and control it. It is typically seen along

roadsides, fallow areas, fence rows, pastures, and creeks. Native to Europe, this weed is a biennial, completing its lifecycle in two years. In its first year, it will produce a rosette of leaves close to the ground (Figure 2). In the second year, it will bolt; this means that it will send up a stem, producing more leaves, flowers, and many seeds (Figure 1).

Poison hemlock is in the carrot/parsley family. It does look similar to wild carrot (Queen Anne’s Lace); however, it is a larger plant, growing 4 to 6 feet tall when mature. Another key identifying feature of poison hemlock are the stems, which have purple spots and are hollow and hairless (Figure 3). The whole plant also has a musty smell.

Touching this plant has caused skin irritation. But it is also toxic if ingested by humans or livestock. It can take as little as 0.25% or 0.5% of a horse or cow’s weight, respectively, to cause poisoning and severe damage to the nervous system. That’s only 2.5 to 5

pounds of fresh material per 1,000 pounds of animal weight. If too much is ingested, it can cause death. Therefore, it is important to eradicate this weed in areas where livestock and humans could come into contact with it.

When working to control poison hemlock, always wear the correct personal protective equipment, including long sleeves, gloves, long pants, socks, and closed-toed shoes. Poison hemlock can be pulled out by hand if there are only a few plants. Mowing would slow growth and prevent seed production; however, this may not be the best option, as mowing would spread the plant material around.



Figure 2. Poison hemlock before bolting.



Figure 3. Purple spots on stem of poison hemlock.

Using a herbicide to control poison hemlock is best done in the spring before it bolts. Herbicides such as 2,4-D plus Banvel/Clarity, Crossbow (2,4-D + triclopyr), or glyphosate as a spot treatment will provide good control.

## Fusarium Head Blight Fungicide Recommendations

Andrew Kness, Agriculture Extension Educator  
University of Maryland Extension, Harford County



Figure 1. Wheat head with Fusarium head blight, which causes the premature dry-down and bleaching of florets. Image: A. Kness, Univ. of Maryland.

As wheat begins to head, growers will be considering fungicide applications for managing head scab/Fusarium head blight (FHB). The Fusarium Risk Assessment Tool ([www.wheatscab.psu.edu](http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu)) is a forecasting model that predicts your risk for developing FHB on your wheat based on the current and predicted weather forecasts. FHB infection is favored by wet weather and high humidity. You should use this tool to help assess your risk for developing

FHB as your wheat approaches flowering. Historically, this tool has been about 70% accurate.

Management of FHB should start with seed selection, since fungicides can only achieve about 50% control under the best case scenario; so selecting resistant varieties is crucial for harvesting good quality grain. It should be noted that resistance to FHB in wheat

is not complete; therefore, fungicide applications are often needed in order to achieve acceptable management of FHB. The pathogen that causes FHB can only infect the plant through the flower, so fungicide applications should be targeted between early flowering (Feekes 10.5.1) and 5 days thereafter. Fungicides that are effective on FHB include the triazoles (FRAC group 3 fungicides), which are Caramba (metconazole), Proline (prothioconazole), and Prosaro (prothioconazole + tebuconazole). These fungicides will also do an excellent job on foliar diseases as well, helping to keep the flag leaf clean. Folicur (tebuconazole) is less effective, but provides some suppression of FHB and DON accumulation, but should not be used if FHB risk is high. Over the past few years, Tilt (propiconazole), has become less effective for managing FHB, and is currently providing poor control. Fungicides containing strobilurins (Qoi, FRAC group 11 fungicides and mix-mode of action fungicides) should not be used past heading on wheat because these fungicides can increase DON vomitoxin accumulation in the grain. For barley, fungicide applications should be made at head emergence. Unlike wheat, barley has no resistance to FHB, so if we get a highly favorable year for FHB development, the very best control you can hope to achieve of FHB and DON is about 50% suppression.

## What Should I Do About Slugs?

*Peter Coffey, Agriculture Agent Associate  
University of Maryland Extension, Carroll County*

Well, it's finally starting to feel like spring, and that means it's time to talk slugs. There are 15 species of slug in Maryland, but only four are common in field crops, and the most troublesome one seems to be, *Deroceras reticulatum*, the gray garden slug (Figure 1). It's light grey and can be up to 2 inches long. It can handle a bit dryer conditions than most slugs, which allows it to become a problem in field crops. Economic thresholds for slugs are hard to determine because the crop has the entire year to overcome any damage that doesn't kill it. In general, young plants can tolerate a large amount of damage, at least 40% defoliation in corn, and 50% in soybeans.



**Figure 1.** Gray garden slug adult. Image: Cheryl Moorehead, Bugwood.org

Most slug damage occurs during the first month after planting, and large populations can devastate seedlings. Slugs have a rasping mouthpart, and feed by scraping the surface of leaves. This appears first as "window pane" damage in corn (Figure 2), and can worsen into shredded leaves. Slugs cannot dig, which means the growing point of the corn plant (which is belowground) is protected, meaning corn can outgrow heavy damage with low yield loss. However, the plant is still stressed, and may be more sensitive to bad weather while growing through the damage. Slug-damaged cereals tend to tiller more, compensating for damage, but if the population of slugs is high enough, yield can still be affected.

In soybeans, slugs create craters in the cotyledons, holes in the leaves, and can snip the growing meristem.



**Figure 2.** Symptoms of slug feeding damage in corn. Image: Roger Schmidt, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Bugwood.org

Soybean seedlings can't recover from a severed meristem, and so slugs can lead to significantly reduced stand counts. Protecting the meristem is why making sure your seed slot is closed when planting is so important. If the seed slot isn't closed slugs will travel along it, eating the young meristems as they emerge, killing soybeans and corn.

Because slugs dry out so easily they are particular about their field environment. This is why you may notice slugs are always a problem in the same fields. Overall, priority for slug scouting should be given to: 1) fields with a history of slug problems, 2) fields with abundant surface residue, and 3) fields that are low-lying, with heavy soil. Look for slime trains, and turn over crop litter. Slugs are more active at night, so night scouting is most effective.

Neonicotinoid seed treatments are ineffective against slugs, and make the slugs poisonous to predatory beetles, which are their primary natural enemies. If you have a field with a history of slug problems, consider planting untreated seed if you can get it. Metaldehyde (Deadline), baits are the standard treatment, but tend to be water soluble, so their window of efficacy may be brief. Iron phosphate (Sluggo) is an OMRI approved alternative, but it is more expensive. Thirty percent urea mixed with equal parts water applied at 20 gal/acre will kill slugs, however, it is only effective if it contacts the slugs directly. This means that the most effective application is at night when there is no wind, and the temperature is mild because that is when slugs will be most exposed. Repeat applications may be necessary in areas with high populations. Also, don't forget urea is a source of nitrogen, so this would need to comply with your nutrient management plan!

Currently, about 42% of the State is abnormally dry and about 1% is in a moderate drought. Temperatures have been unusually cool for April, but the one-month outlook predicts a 40-60% probability of warmer than normal temperatures through May. The State is predicted to receive a normal amount precipitation for the month of May.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Maryland

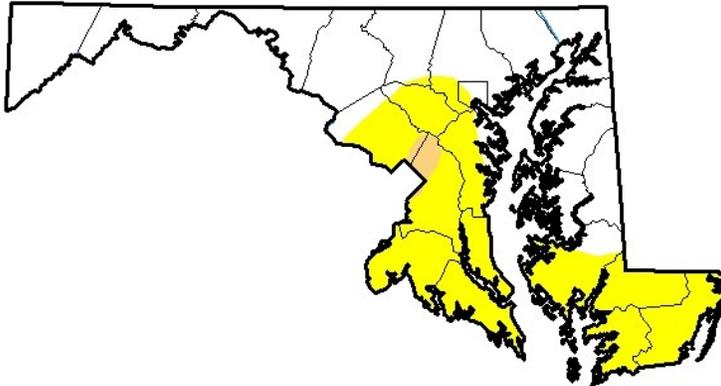
**April 24, 2018**

(Released Thursday, Apr. 26, 2018)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

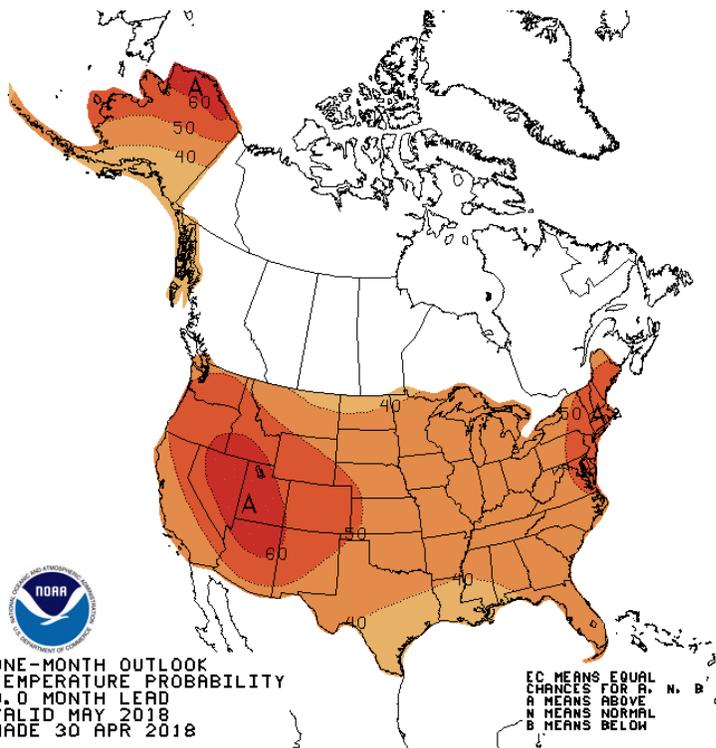
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	57.85	42.15	1.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 04-17-2018	57.85	42.15	1.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 01-23-2018	16.42	83.58	44.31	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-02-2018	16.44	83.56	44.31	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-26-2017	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 04-25-2017	59.42	40.58	13.07	0.00	0.00	0.00



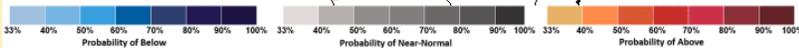
**Intensity:**

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

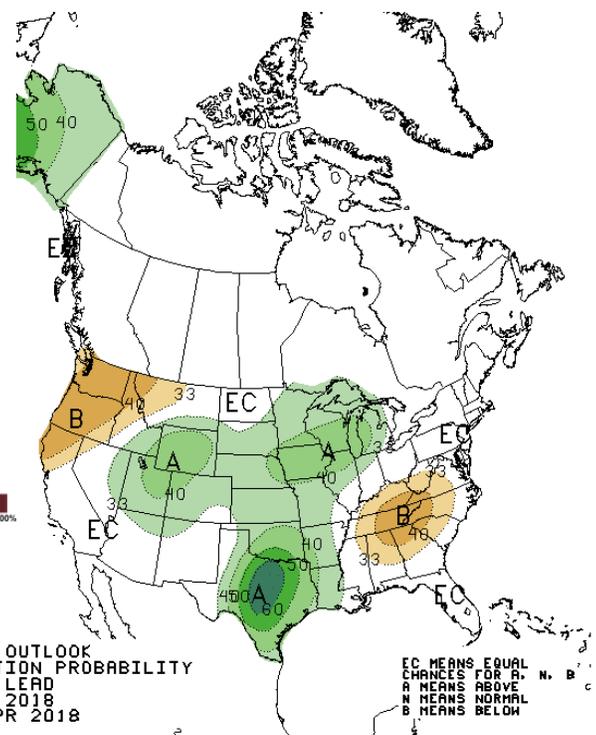
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



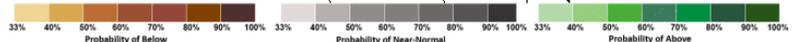
ONE-MONTH OUTLOOK  
TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY  
0.0 MONTH LEAD  
VALID MAY 2018  
MADE 30 APR 2018



EC MEANS EQUAL CHANCES FOR A, N, B  
A MEANS ABOVE  
N MEANS NORMAL  
B MEANS BELOW



ONE-MONTH OUTLOOK  
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY  
0.0 MONTH LEAD  
VALID MAY 2018  
MADE 30 APR 2018



EC MEANS EQUAL CHANCES FOR A, N, B  
A MEANS ABOVE  
N MEANS NORMAL  
B MEANS BELOW

# Other Publications & Resources From University of Maryland Extension



[University of Maryland Vegetable & Fruit Headline News](#) (published monthly during the growing season)



[University of Maryland TPM/IPM Report](#) (published weekly during the growing season for nurserymen and greenhouse growers)

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-  [Maryland Grain: http://extension.umd.edu/grain](http://extension.umd.edu/grain)
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## Crop Reports

### Western Maryland

Planting is in full swing. While there were some outliers who planted corn mid-April, the majority of corn started to go in the ground Sunday and Monday. There were four unplanted farms on my drive to the office Monday morning that were planted when I came home that day. I expect that 75-80% of the corn here will be in the ground by Saturday afternoon. There are reports of a few soybeans fields being planted as well.

Small grains have progressed slowly up until now and there is nothing headed yet. With the good running weather this week a lot of our rye and triticale crop is being chopped or wet baled for silage. Our hay crop is coming along equally slow, but many have taken advantage of the sun and good drying weather to make an early first cutting. It will be light on the tonnage, but of good quality. -*Matt Morris*

### Northern Maryland

The cool and wet April delayed a lot of spring field work in Northern Maryland. A few acres of corn and soybeans went in the ground a couple weeks ago, but corn planting is now in full swing since the soil

temperatures have warmed up. The vast majority of the corn crop in Northern MD should go in the ground over the next week as long as the weather permits. Soil moisture is adequate. Wheat and barley maturity has been delayed with the cool weather, but for the most part, fields look clean and disease-free. Wheat is approaching flag leaf emergence. Barley is starting to head out. The hay crop has been off to a slow start, too.-  
*Andy Kness*

### Upper & Mid Eastern Shore

Corn planting started last week and is in full swing now. Barley is flowering and wheat is boot to beginning Head. Powdery mildew is minimal with the weather we have had this spring. Speaking of weather, this is the latest I can remember trees leafing out, and I turn 50 this year!

Some forage producers took advantage of the nice weather to cut some grass hay.

Soil moisture is adequate throughout the region. -*Jim Lewis*

### Lower Eastern Shore

Wheat maturity across the Lower Eastern Shore range from booting

to heading stage. With favorable weather over the past few days and good field moisture conditions, corn planting is at its peak now. -  
*Manish Poudel*

### Southern Maryland

Most barley fields are heading out with wheat not far behind. Small grain condition has improved with warmer weather. There is still a lot of variability across fields. Corn planting progress has been slow this year with colder weather. We are around 30% of acreage planted. Conditions are good for planting this week, so farmers are working to catch up. Earlier planted corn is beginning to emerge without much problem. We have not heard of any reports of slug damage, but farmers are keeping a careful eye out given the cooler, wet weather, especially in no-till fields with heavy crop residue. Windy conditions have made spraying difficult. Forage crops look good this spring. We have several reports of alfalfa weevils. First cutting of alfalfa is occurring now. Tobacco planting will start this week. -*Ben Beale*



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