

SEPTEMBER 1990: After measuring over 10 inches of rain at DCA during July and August, September recorded dramatically lower amounts, with many areas receiving less than an inch. As noted on the front cover, September 1990 recorded the lowest amount of monthly precipitation during the past 4 years at National, but it was only the twelfth driest September on record in Washington (since 1871). The month commenced with no measurable rainfall during the first 12 days at 4 of the 5 airports, and only two significant rainfall events affected the entire region. Thunderstorms provided about half an inch on Sep. 16, and morning rains on Sep. 22 deposited about a quarter of an inch. Despite the limited September rainfall, totals are still slightly above normal for the year throughout the region, and long-term moisture remains adequate due to frequent precipitation throughout 1990. Despite the dry month, 3 of 5 weekends still had some rainfall, although the precipitation-free weekends of Sep. 1-2 and 8-9 were the first back-to-back dry weekends since Dec. 16-17 & 23-24 at DCA. Since the last weekend in 1989 (Dec. 30-31), DCA has now observed precipitation (trace or more) during 33 of the last 40 weekends.

September temperatures averaged between 1°F and 2°F below normal at most stations, marking the first time that there have been successive cooler than usual months since last November-December. There were two 90°F+ days during September at DCA, and so far only 26 for the year (well below the long-term annual average of 37.4 days). Several cool intrusions from Canada frequently dropped lows into the forties and occasionally the upper thirties outside of the city, but there were only two record lows [37°F at IAD and 41°F at BWI on 9/18]. In addition, clouds and cool northeasterly winds held highs in the sixties on Sep. 17-19 and 23-24 at all 5 locations.

SEPTEMBER 1990 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

| Station <u>Location</u> | <u>Temperatures (°F)</u> | | | | | <u>Extreme/Day</u> | | <u>Precipitation (In)</u> | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | <u>AvMx</u> | <u>AvMn</u> | <u>AvgT</u> | <u>NmIT</u> | <u>DepNm</u> | <u>MaxT</u> | <u>MinT</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Norm</u> | <u>DepNm</u> |
| National (DCA) | 78.1 | 61.2 | 69.7 | 71.1 | -1.4 | 93/7 | 46/18 | 0.87 | 3.22 | -2.35 |
| Baltimore (BWI) | 77.5 | 56.8 | 67.1 | 68.9 | -1.8 | 89/7 | 41/18 | 1.07 | 3.46 | -2.39 |
| Dulles (IAD) | 77.8 | 54.1 | 66.0 | 67.4 | -1.4 | 92/7 | 37/18* | 1.49 | 3.26 | -1.77 |
| Ft. Belvoir (DAA) | 78.3 | 56.3 | 67.3 | 69 | -2 | 94/7 | 41/18 | 1.04 | 3.6 | -2.6 |
| Andrews AFB (ADW) | 75.7 | 55.2 | 65.4 | 69 | -4 | 91/7 | 40/18* | 0.54 | 3.6 | -3.1 |

Other dates of occurrence: *September 25

LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER: THE FIRST FROST OR FREEZE

October is usually the month when we often think about the first frost or freeze in the Washington/Baltimore area, especially outside the city. Below is a listing of the dates with the first 32°F reading at National during the past 10 years, along with the earliest and latest freezes on record, courtesy of the Washington WSFO, Sterling, VA.

| <u>Year</u> | <u>First 32°F date</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>First 32°F date</u> |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 1989 | Nov. 18 | 1984 | Nov. 20 |
| 1988 | Nov. 25 | 1983 | Dec. 2 |
| 1987 | Nov. 11 | 1982 | Nov. 6 |
| 1986 | Nov. 13 | 1981 | Nov. 23 |
| 1985 | Dec. 2 | 1980 | Dec. 14 (Latest freeze) |
| Earliest freeze: Oct. 10, 1895 | | | |