

AUGUST 1992: The coolest August in 46 years marked the fifth month this year with below normal average temperatures, a sharp contrast from 1991 when the first eight months were all warmer than normal. Both BWI and IAD observed the coolest August on record. There were only five days with highs of 90°F or greater at DCA, and no prolonged periods of heat as cool, Canadian air masses frequented the eastern half of the nation during August. A stalled cold front across the area around mid-month provided several days of cool, damp conditions and most of the month's rainfall total. The high at DCA on Aug. 15 failed to hit 70°F, and was nearly 20°F degrees below normal. Monthly precipitation totals were well below normal at all five airports, with IAD recording the fourth driest August on record (note: the four driest Augusts at IAD have all occurred in the last six years). Several unusually strong cold fronts generated severe weather across portions of the area. Strong thunderstorms on Aug. 4 spawned tornadoes in northern Virginia and southern Prince Georges County while the remnants of Hurricane Andrew produced tornadoes in Howard and Carroll Counties on Aug. 28. Despite several days with measurable rainfall, monthly totals were 1–3 inches below normal in what is normally the wettest month of the year at most locations.

AUGUST 1992 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)	82.4	65.5	74.0	77.6	-3.6	93/11	56/30	2.48	4.40	-1.92
Baltimore (BWI)	82.7	61.9	72.3	75.6	-3.3	95/11	51/30	2.19	4.62	-2.43
Dulles (IAD)	81.5	59.3	70.4	74.3	-3.9	93/11	48/30	1.33	4.16	-2.83
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	84.2	63.1	73.6	75	-1	93/11	52/30	2.89	4.4	-1.5
Andrews AFB(ADW)	80.4	61.3	70.8	75	-4	92/11	50/30	3.10	4.4	-1.3

SUMMER (JUNE–AUGUST) 1992: The Summer of 1992 was the coolest in 20 years at DCA, a dramatic change from 1991 (the second warmest on record). There were only 20 days when highs reached or exceeded 90°F at DCA, including a mere five days when readings hit 95°F or greater. The only notable heat wave occurred from July 9–21 when 12 of 13 days topped the 90°F mark at DCA. July was the only summer month with above normal average temperatures at the three major airports (DCA, BWI, and IAD). Both June (coolest since 1974 at DCA) and August (coolest since 1946 at DCA) recorded subnormal temperatures with monthly departures of -2°F and -3°F respectively, at DCA, BWI, and IAD. In addition, more than 70% of the days in both June and August were cooler than normal at DCA. Summer precipitation totals were below normal at all five airports. Both June and August were drier than normal months at all five airports, however July was atypically wet. In July, over 7 inches of rain fell on portions of Montgomery, Fairfax, and Calvert Counties while totals exceeding 8 inches were measured in parts of Prince William County. Twelve days of measurable precipitation was recorded at DCA in July, most falling in the last eleven days of the month. Vegetation was not stressed and soil moisture was adequate throughout most of the summer as cool weather occurred during the dry June and August while wet conditions prevailed shortly after the July heat wave.

SUMMER 1992 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station <u>Location</u>	<u>Temperatures (°F)</u>					<u>Extreme/Month–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)	83.8	66.4	75.1	77.0	-1.9	99/7–14	51/6–22	10.17	11.63	-1.46
Baltimore (BWI)	83.7	62.8	73.3	74.9	-1.6	98/7–14	46/6–22	9.15	12.27	-2.12
Dulles (IAD)	82.6	60.6	71.6	73.5	-1.9	96/7–14	44/6–23	11.44	12.14	-0.70
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	85.0	63.2	74.1	74	0	100/7–14	44/6–23	10.10	11.9	-1.8
Andrews AFB (ADW)	81.6	62.2	71.9	75	-3	96/7–14	47/6–23	12.07	12.4	-0.3

LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER: Drier than normal?

Since 1984, a coincidental and oscillating precipitation pattern has occurred at DCA with even-numbered years recording below normal totals while odd-numbered years received above normal amounts. Will this continue in 1992? Below is a list of the September precipitation totals since 1984 and the respective departures from normal. [Normal: 3.22"; Normals period 1951–1980]

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Precipitation(In.)</u>	<u>Departure from Normal(In.)</u>
1992	?	?
1991	3.50	+0.28
1990	0.87	-2.35
1989	6.68	+3.46
1988	1.85	-1.37
1987	5.11	+1.89
1986	0.60	-2.62
1985	6.67	+3.45
1984	2.51	-0.71