

**MAY 1992:** May 1992 will be noted as the coolest May in 25 years at DCA, as temperatures averaged 3.7°F below normal due to a jet stream pattern more typical of winter. Almost two-thirds of the days recorded subnormal average temperatures, and there were no prolonged warm spells. There was only one day (23rd) with readings at or above 90°F at DCA and BWI; however, two days later cool, moist northeasterly winds and cloudy skies kept highs confined to the fifties, generating an unseasonably cool Memorial Day with a high of only 58°F at DCA. Cold weather gripped the area the morning of the 21st with many locations reporting lows in the thirties. The mercury plunged to a record daily low (33°F) at Dulles, but by the afternoon, temperatures rebounded by as much as forty degrees with highs rising into the eighties.

Precipitation during the month was near to slightly below normal at four of the five airports with only Dulles receiving surplus amounts. Unfortunately, wet weather was the norm during the weekends as rain (trace or more) fell on all five May weekends. A storm system on the 30th and 31st accounted for nearly half of the May rainfall at DCA. Some portions of Montgomery County measured more than 2.5 inches, pushing monthly totals to more than 5.5 inches (AH co-op observer).

**MAY 1992 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:**

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	71.9	52.7	62.3	66.0	-3.7	91/23	43/21	3.41	3.48	-0.07
Baltimore (BWI)	71.2	50.4	60.8	63.4	-2.6	91/23	38/21	2.92	3.44	-0.52
Dulles (IAD)	71.6	47.8	59.7	62.4	-2.7	88/2*	33/21	3.82	3.62	+0.20
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	72.5	48.7	60.6	64	-3	91/23	35/21	3.80	3.8	0
Andrews AFB (ADW)	70.3	48.5	59.4	64	-5	90/23	35/21	3.70	4.0	-0.3

Other dates of occurrence: \* May 23rd;

**SPRING (MARCH-MAY) 1992:** This Spring was the coolest since 1984, with all airports recording below normal temperatures. In addition, temperatures averaged below normal for each of the three spring months at four of the five airports. Extended periods of subnormal daily temperatures were observed at DCA, including 25 of 27 days between March 11th and April 6 and another 20 days during May due to recurring outbreaks of cool Canadian air dropping into the eastern U.S.

Precipitation was frequent, with at least a trace falling at DCA on at least one weekend day during 11 out of 13 full spring weekends. Storm systems produced more than two inches of rain at BWI on March 26-27th, over 2 inches at IAD on April 21-22, and in excess of 2.5 inches across portions of Montgomery County May 30-31. Snow was reported on 8 different days during March at DCA while Dulles measured more than an inch.

**SPRING 1992 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:**

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Month-Day			Precipitation (In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm	Snow	
National (DCA)	63.5	44.9	54.2	56.2	-2.0	91/5-23	21/3-16	9.44	9.87	-0.43	T	
Baltimore (BWI)	61.4	41.3	51.3	53.6	-2.3	91/5-23	19/3-16	9.26	10.51	-1.25	T	
Dulles (IAD)	63.0	40.0	51.5	52.7	-1.2	88/5-2*	18/3-17	10.20	10.19	+0.01	1.2	
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	64.5	42.1	53.3	54.3	-1	91/5-23	21/3-14	9.67	10.7	-1.0	T	
Andrews AFB (ADW)	62.0	41.2	51.6	54.7	-3	90/5-23	20/3-14#	9.63	10.6	-1.0	T	

Other dates of occurrence: \*May 23rd; #March 14th.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE: Four in a row?**

With the Washington/Baltimore area observing below normal temperatures for all three months of the Spring, the question arises whether the cooler than normal conditions will continue for a fourth consecutive month. If so, it would be the longest period at DCA since July 1976-January 1977 (7 consecutive months).