

JUNE 1999: Near to slightly cooler than normal conditions along with a third consecutive month of subnormal precipitation was observed across the local area. Monthly temperature departures between -0.2°F and -1.0°F were observed at the three major airports. There were 16 days with subnormal temperatures at DCA, including three days (17th, 20th & 21st) when highs only topped out between 65°F and 70°F (about 15°F below normal), mainly due to overcast skies. In addition, there were several mornings when lows dipped into the fifties (about 5°F-10°F below normal) in the cities and into the forties in some of the far northern and western suburbs. In sharp contrast, a brief but intense heat wave enveloped the local area from the 7th-9th, when readings soared to 98°F for three consecutive days at DCA. The two 98°F readings observed on the 7th and 8th established new daily records for Washington. Both BWI and IAD established three daily record highs during this three-day period (7th-9th) with highs of 96°F, 97°F & 96°F at BWI and 96°F, 95°F & 96°F at IAD.

Drier than normal conditions persisted for a third consecutive month, causing drought conditions to worsen across the local region. Although monthly totals (between 2 & 3 inches) were somewhat higher than those recorded a month earlier, monthly departures were still about an inch below normal at most locations. The month commenced with twelve consecutive days without measurable precipitation (≥ 0.01 ") at DCA. This 12-day period combined with a 7-day period without measurable precipitation at the end of May resulted in nearly 3 weeks without measurable precipitation at DCA. Most of the monthly total at many locations was the result of only two significant precipitation events. On the 14th, late-afternoon thunderstorms generated heavy rain across portions of the local area. DCA recorded over an inch of precipitation while both BWI and IAD recorded about 0.25 inches. On the 20th, an all-day rain accompanied by unusually cool weather provided another 0.50" to 0.75" to most of the area. Some locations, especially to the west of Washington, received brief, heavy thunderstorms on the 13th. At IAD, these storms yielded more than an inch of rain. The continued dry conditions stressed local crops and turned many lawns brown across much of the area. The April-June period of this year produced only slightly more than half of the normal precipitation at both DCA and BWI, with three-month precipitation totals of only 5.63" (58% of normal) at DCA and 6.03" (58% of normal) at BWI. In addition, precipitation deficits for the last 12 months (July 1998-June 1999) exceeded 1 foot at many locations across the local area, yielding the second driest July-June period ever observed in Washington.

JUNE 1999 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Yr to date
National (DCA)	83.6	65.7	74.7	75.6	-0.9	98/7*	57/18 [#]	2.26	3.38	-1.12	17.46
Baltimore (BWI)	81.9	61.1	71.5	72.5	-1.0	97/8	50/5 [#]	2.04	3.38	-1.63	16.84
Dulles (IAD)	82.1	59.5	70.8	71.0	-0.2	96/7*	48/5 [#]	3.00	3.92	-0.92	19.35
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	85.5	63.2	74.4	N/A	N/A	100/9	52/19	3.82	3.7	+0.1	21.60
Andrews AFB (ADW)	82.3	61.4	71.9	N/A	N/A	97/7*	50/19	2.80	3.7	-0.9	16.71

Other Occurrences: * June 8th & 9th; # June 19th; @ June 9th.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JULY: Another month with subnormal precipitation?

As mentioned earlier, drier than normal conditions prevailed across the local area for the third consecutive month, yielding the second driest July-June period ever observed in Washington. During this 12-month period, there have been 10 months with subnormal precipitation at DCA. With that in mind, the question arises whether the drier than normal conditions will continue? Below is a list of the monthly precipitation totals and departures from normal since July 1998 at DCA along with a few additional precipitation statistics during this 12-month period.

	Jul. 1998	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan. 1999	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.
Total Precipitation (In.)	1.79	0.59	1.83	0.59	0.91	1.74	5.42	2.54	3.87	2.09	1.28	2.26
Departure from Normal (In.)	-2.01	-3.32	-1.48	-2.43	-2.21	-1.38	+2.70	-0.17	+0.70	-0.62	-2.38	-1.12
Percent of Normal	47	15	55	20	29	56	199	94	122	77	35	67

Total Precipitation for the 12-month period: **24.91"**

Normal Precipitation for the 12-month period: **38.63"**

Precipitation deficit for the 12-month period: **-13.72"**

Number of 7-day (or greater) periods without measurable precipitation: **14**

Longest periods without measurable precipitation: **20 consecutive days** (Aug. 18, 1998-Sep. 6, 1998)
19 consecutive days (May 25-June 12, 1999)

Number of days with ≥ 1 " of rain: **6**

Number of days with ≥ 0.50 " of rain: **18**

Largest single-day precipitation total for the 12-month period: **1.32"** (June 14, 1999)