

OCTOBER 1999: Subnormal temperatures and precipitation prevailed across the Washington/Baltimore area during October. There were 23 days with at or below normal temperatures at DCA, yielding monthly departures between -2°F and -3°F at DCA, BWI, and IAD. In addition, BWI recorded their coolest October (Avg. Temp.: 53.9°F) since 1988 while IAD reported the coolest (Avg. Temp.: 53.1°F) since 1992. Similar to October 1998, there were no prolonged periods of excessive heat, but this year there were no days with a maximum temperature at or above 80°F for the first time since 1987 at DCA. This was due mainly to a persistent flow of cool Canadian air that prevailed across the area most of the month. In addition, there were only 9 days when the mercury reached or exceeded 70°F, and 5 days when highs only topped out in the fifties (readings more typical of mid-to late November) at DCA. Lows in the thirties were common across the local area on the 24th and 25th and the first 32°F or lower reading of the season was recorded at IAD on the 28th.

After several weeks of stormy weather and excessive rainfall, more tranquil autumn-like conditions prevailed across the region. Monthly precipitation totals were generally between 2 and 3 inches, resulting in monthly deficits of less than an inch at most locations. Five precipitation events accounted for most of the monthly precipitation totals, but there was no event that produced more than an inch of rain at any of the five airports. Heavy showers and thunderstorms on the 4th produced about half an inch of rain at DCA and about 0.75" of an inch at both BWI and IAD. A steady rain from the 9th-10th yielded about 0.75" at the three major airports. Showers on the 17th produced between 0.10" and 0.30" at the three major airports, and were followed by wind gusts up to 40 mph on the 18th. Another round of showers on the 19th and 20th produced around 0.50" at most locations. More showers on the 22nd produced light amounts, marking the last measurable precipitation at most locations for the month and the longest period without measurable rainfall since late July-early August.

OCTOBER 1999 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNmI	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNmI	Yr to date
National (DCA)	65.9	48.4	57.1	59.7	-2.6	79/3	39/24*	2.16	3.02	-0.86	35.92
Baltimore (BWI)	65.5	42.3	53.9	56.6	-2.7	79/3	34/26 ^o	2.48	2.98	-0.50	39.02
Dulles (IAD)	65.6	40.5	53.1	55.1	-2.0	78/3	32/28	2.56	3.20	-0.64	39.22
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	69.4	44.7	57.0	N/A	N/A	81/3	36/23 ^o	2.00	3.6	-1.6	39.65
Andrews AFB (ADW)	65.7	44.6	55.1	N/A	N/A	77/2 [^]	36/28	2.58	3.6	-1.0	39.89

Other Occurrences: * October 25th; ^o October 28th; ^o October 24th & 25th; [^] October 3rd & 31st.

LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER: *The first inch of snow in Washington.*

With some locations around the Washington/Baltimore area having recorded their first frost or freeze, our attention now focuses on the first inch of snow in the local area. In Washington, the largest single November snow event occurred in 1987 when 11.5 inches blanketed DCA. This particular event also tied December 17, 1932 as the greatest single snowfall event during any astronomical autumn in Washington. The date of the first inch of snow in Washington can vary greatly from year to year. During the last ten years, it has occurred between late November and late January (except in 1997-98, when no 1"+ snows occurred). The earliest snows (≥ 1") in Washington (city) took place on October 30, 1925 (2.2") and October 20, 1940 (1.4") while the earliest measurable snow ever recorded at National Airport fell on October 10, 1979 (0.3"). In contrast, no significant snowfall was observed at all during the 1997-98 & 1972-73 seasons at DCA (total=0.1").

<u>Snow Season</u>	<u>First 1" (or greater)</u> <u>Snowfall at DCA</u>	<u>Snow Season</u>	<u>First 1" (or greater)</u> <u>Snowfall at DCA</u>
1998-1999	January 8	1993-1994	December 28
1997-1998	No 1" amount recorded	1992-1993	December 10
1996-1997	January 9	1991-1992	January 25
1995-1996	December 9	1990-1991	December 27
1994-1995	January 28	1989-1990	November 22