

OCTOBER 2001: Much like October 2000, very dry conditions along with near-normal temperatures highlighted the weather across the local area again this October. Measurable precipitation fell on only four days at both DCA & BWI and 3 days at IAD, yielding less than an inch of rainfall at both DCA & BWI and about 1.50" at IAD. Monthly precipitation deficits above 2 inches were reported at both DCA and BWI. It was the fourth consecutive drier than normal October at DCA & BWI and fifth such month at IAD. The dry conditions became more pronounced during the second half of the month as no measurable rainfall occurred after the 16th. The only significant rainfall of the month occurred during the evening of the 14th, as a slow moving storm system dropped over an inch of rain just to the west of the Washington (1.10" at IAD). The storm system weakened once it reached Washington D.C. and Baltimore, producing less than 0.50" at both BWI (0.47") and DCA (0.32") Fortunately, with near-normal precipitation across most of the area during the January-September period, including a wet summer in most areas, and a growing season nearing its conclusion, impacts of the dry October weather were minimal.

Near-normal temperatures prevailed across the Washington/Baltimore area, with monthly temperature departures between -0.6°F and +0.7°F at the three major airports. There were 18 days with at or above normal temperatures at as well as 18 days with highs at or above 70°F, including 6 days when highs topped 80°F at DCA. Abnormally warm weather prevailed during the first week as highs soared at or above 80°F from the 2nd-5th at DCA, 3rd-5th at IAD and on the 3rd and 4th at BWI. On the 3rd and 4th, summerlike readings were recorded across the area, including DCA where highs on both days reached 84°F. Abnormal warmth returned to the local area again from the 22nd-24th with 80°F+ highs observed on each of the three days at IAD. On the 24th, all three major airports reported daily record highs as readings soared into eighties. There were intermittent periods of autumnlike weather, including five days with highs only in the fifties (7th-8th and 27th-29th). In addition, there were several cool, clear nights, including the 8th when the first freezing temperatures of the season were recorded at both BWI (31°F) and IAD (30°F). In fact, IAD recorded five days with 32°F of lower readings, including 3 nights when the mercury plunged into the twenties.

OCTOBER 2001 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Yr to date
National (DCA)	70.6	48.7	59.7	59.7	0.0	84/3*	33/29	0.69	3.02	-2.33	27.91
Baltimore (BWI) 69.2	42.7	56.0	56.6	-0.6	82/24	26/29	0.76	2.98	-2.22	31.82	
Dulles (IAD)	70.1	41.5	55.8	55.1	+0.7	84/24	26/9	1.42	3.20	-1.78	34.82
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	M	M	M	N/A	N/A	M	M	M	3.6	M	M
Andrews AFB (ADW)	70.1	45.1	57.6	N/A	N/A	84/24	27/29	0.85	3.6	-2.7	34.35

Other Occurrences: * October 4th & 24th.

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

With most 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 early December 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>Snow Season</u>	<u>First 1" (or greater)</u>
	<u>Snowfall at DCA</u>		<u>Snowfall at DCA</u>
2000-2001	December 19	1995-1996	December 9
1999-2000	January 20	1994-1995	January 28
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