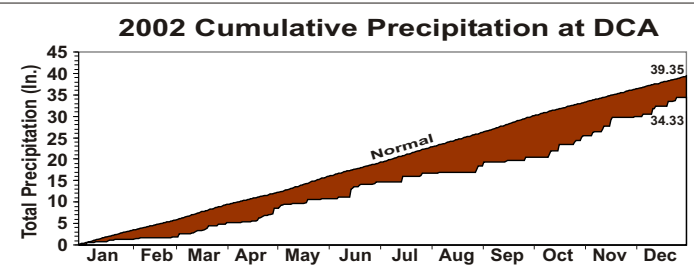
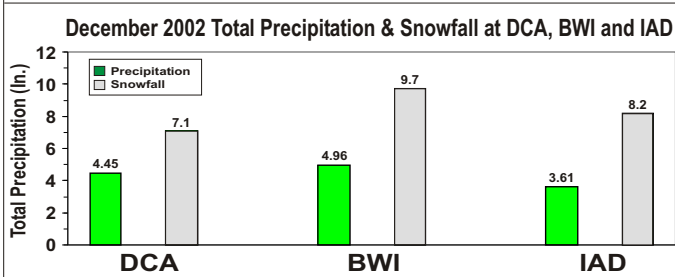
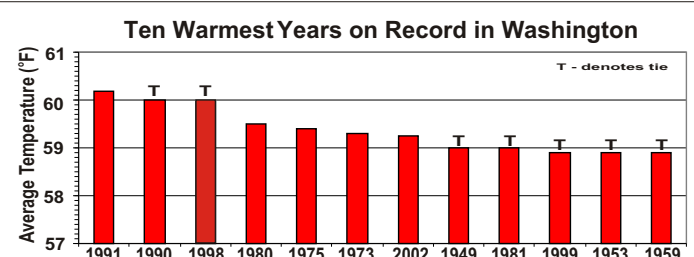
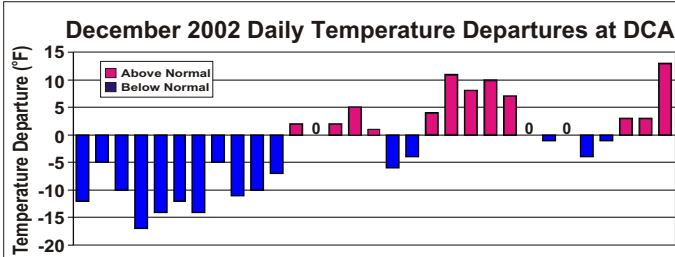


**PRECIPITATION SUMMARY AND TEMPERATURE OBSERVATIONS
FOR THE WASHINGTON, DC & BALTIMORE, MD AREA**

**DECEMBER 2002 & ANNUAL REVIEW
DECEMBER: ABNORMALLY COLD, WET AND SNOWY
ANNUAL: WARMER AND DRIER THAN NORMAL**



HIGHLIGHTS

MONTHLY

- Abnormally cold, wet and snowy across the Washington/Baltimore area;
- Monthly temperature departures between -2°F and -3°F at DCA, BWI and IAD;
- Third consecutive month with subnormal temperatures, the first such period since July-September 2000;
- 19 days with at or below-normal temperatures at DCA;
- Daily record lows at BWI (13°F on 6th & 6°F on 7th) and at IAD (9°F on 6th, 1°F on 7th & 13°F on 8th);
- 20 days with at or below freezing lows and 2 days with highs at or below 32°F at DCA;
- Third consecutive month with above-normal precipitation at most locations, the first such occurrence since July-September 2001 at DCA;
- First December with above-normal snowfall and the snowiest December at DCA since 1989;
- Largest December snowfall (between 4 and 7 inches at most locations) in 20 years on the 5th;
- Freezing rain coats trees and power lines with up to ½" of ice in some suburban locations on the 11th, knocking out power to thousands of customers and created dangerous driving conditions;
- Between 1 and 2 inches of snow blanket much of the local area on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, yielding the first white Christmas in the Washington/Baltimore area in many years.

ANNUAL

- Above-normal temperatures and subnormal precipitation & snowfall across most of the Washington/Baltimore area;
- Seventh warmest year on record at DCA, sixth at BWI and fourth at IAD;
- 56 days with 90°F+ highs, the most since 1991 and 40 more than in 2001 at DCA;
- 61 days with at or below freezing lows at DCA;
- October-December 2002 was wettest 3-month period since July-September 2000 at DCA and accounted for 40% of the observed annual precipitation total;
- Drought plagued much of the local region until mid-Autumn, resulting in significant agricultural losses and water restrictions in some areas;
- Annual precipitation deficits of 5.02" at DCA, 2.64" at BWI and 3.62" at IAD;
- Winter 2001-2002 was second driest and third warmest on record in Washington;
- A very strong tornado (F4 - 207-260 mph winds) touched down in southern Maryland on April 28th, causing more than \$100 million in damage, claimed 5 lives and injured more than 100 people in Charles and Calvert counties in Maryland, according to press reports;
- Second hottest summer (tied w/ 1991) on record in Washington.