

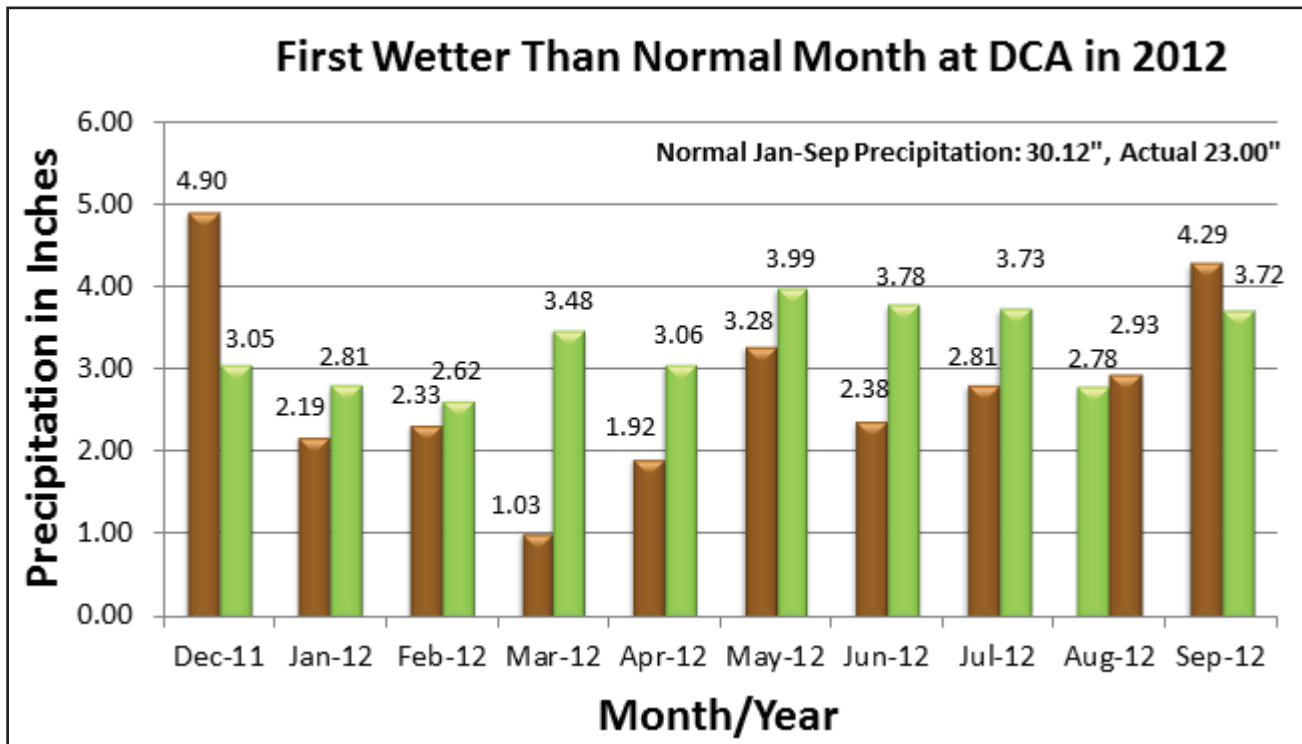


PRESTO

PREcipitation Summary and Temperature Observations
For the Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD Area



SEPTEMBER 2012: Above Normal Temperatures (Again); A Wet Month (Finally) In Washington



September Highlights

- ☛ Above normal temperatures at the three major airports: +1.2°F at DCA; +1.7°F at BWI; and +0.2°F at IAD
- ☛ Above normal reading at BWI for 20th consecutive month; 11th at DCA
- ☛ On 1st, DCA marked 29th calendar day with temps at or above 95°F, all-time record
- ☛ IAD recorded 3 days with highs at or above 90°F; DCA and BWI, 2; Annual total: 53 at DCA, 45 at BWI and 40 at IAD
- ☛ IAD marked 8 days with minimums in 40s
- ☛ On 1st, greatest rainfall in Washington, 1.64", since December 7, 2011: 3.10"
- ☛ On the 8th, strong to severe thunderstorms with damaging winds knocked down trees and cut power to 188,000 customers, according to press reports. Winds gusted to 63 mph near IAD in Loudoun County, VA, and to 58 mph at DCA. Wind damage caused windows to blow out on 29 vehicles at the Lorton, VA, train station parking lot. A waterspout was observed near Cape St. Claire, MD. Rainfall was heavy in some areas: 1.27" in Pasadena, MD (Anne Arundel County) and 1.18" in McLean, VA (Fairfax County)
- ☛ On the 18th, strong to severe thunderstorms were again accompanied by damaging winds and torrential rainfall. Winds gusted to 61 mph at DCA, 60 mph in Columbia, MD (Howard County) and to 47 mph at BWI. A funnel cloud was observed near Reva, VA (Culpeper County), where numerous roads were flooded; in Frederick, MD, rainfall totalled 4.54" near Thurmont. In Virginia, torrential rainfall was observed in Loudoun County with 4.22" measured near Round Hill

September 2012

Temperatures: The first month of meteorological Autumn followed a typical pattern with summer-like heat the first 8 days then a gradual transition to cooler readings. Despite some cooler days, all three major airports reported above normal temperatures for the month: +1.2°F at DCA; +1.7°F at BWI; and +0.2°F at IAD. DCA's final at or above 90°F occurred on the 8th. Nights were sultry from the 1st-7th with minimums at or above 70°F at DCA (1st-6th at BWI and IAD). All three airports equalled or broke a record high minimum on the 4th: 76°F at DCA, tied; 75°F at BWI, tied; and 71°F at IAD, new record. DCA also set a record high minimum the following day at 78°F. Cool mornings became more prevalent later in the month. IAD's minimum was 45°F on the 24th, 25th and 30th.

Precipitation: Once again, precipitation was highly variable across the area. DCA's total of 4.29" (0.57") was its first month since December 2011 with greater than normal precipitation (see cover). Meanwhile, BWI's total 2.21" (-1.82") and IAD, 2.71" (-1.21") were well below normal. Strong storms and severe weather impacted many areas throughout the month.

On the 1st, thunderstorm wind damage knocked down trees in Brooklandville, MD (Baltimore County), while DCA's 1.64" was its greatest calendar day total since Dec. 7, 2011. The following day, a waterspout was observed near Edgemere, MD over the Black River (Baltimore County). D.C. was again struck by torrential rainfall near Adams Morgan, 2.17", causing several roads to close due to flooding. On the 3rd, another waterspout was observed near Deal Island, VA.

A widespread line of strong to severe thunderstorms on the 8th crossed the metro area with winds knocking down trees and cutting power to 188,000 customers, according to press reports. Winds gusted to 63 mph near IAD in Loudoun County, VA, and to 58 mph at DCA. Wind damage caused windows to blow out on 29 vehicles at the Lorton, VA, train station parking lot. A waterspout was observed near Cape St. Claire, MD and rainfall was heavy in some areas including 1.27" in Pasadena, MD (Anne Arundel County) and 1.18" in McLean, VA (Fairfax County).

Ten days later, strong to severe thunderstorms again impacted the region with damaging thunderstorm winds and torrential rainfall. Winds gusted to 61 mph at DCA, 60 mph in Columbia, MD (Howard County), and to 47 mph at BWI. A funnel cloud was observed near Reva, VA (Culpeper County), and numerous roads were flooded in Frederick, MD, where rainfall totalled 4.54" near Thurmont. In Virginia, torrential rainfall was observed in Loudoun County with 4.22" measured near Round Hill. The month's final severe weather occurred on the 27th in the Shenandoah Valley with large hail striking Edinburg (2.00") and 1.75" in Lignum (Culpeper County). Flash flooding resulted in a swift water rescue near Ada (Fauquier County) and 2.43" was reported in Rixeyville (Culpeper County).

September 2012 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)				Extreme/Day			Precipitation (Inches)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Nml	DepNml	Yr to Date
National (DCA)	80.7	63.7	72.2	71.0	+1.2	95/1	53/25	4.29	3.72	+0.57	23.00
Baltimore (BWI)	79.5	59.5	69.5	67.8	+1.7	93/1	46/25	2.21	4.03	-1.82	24.68
Dulles (IAD)	79.8	56.4	68.1	67.9	+0.2	92/1	45/25,30	2.71	3.92	-1.21	22.76

Looking Ahead to October: The first freeze! October traditionally marks the first freeze in suburban locations. When will the Washington/Baltimore area record its first freeze in 2012? Below is a list of the first 32°F or lower readings at DCA and IAD in the last 10 years.

Year	First 32°F (or lower) reading		Year	First 32°F (or lower) reading	
	DCA	IAD		DCA	IAD
2011	December 10	October 30	2006	November 4	October 15
2010	November 29	November 1	2005	November 17	November 11
2009	December 6	November 6	2004	December 4	October 18
2008	November 18	October 20	2003	November 10	October 3
2007	November 24	October 29	2002	November 27	October 18

* Latest first frost at DCA: 12/22/01; at IAD, 11/11/05