

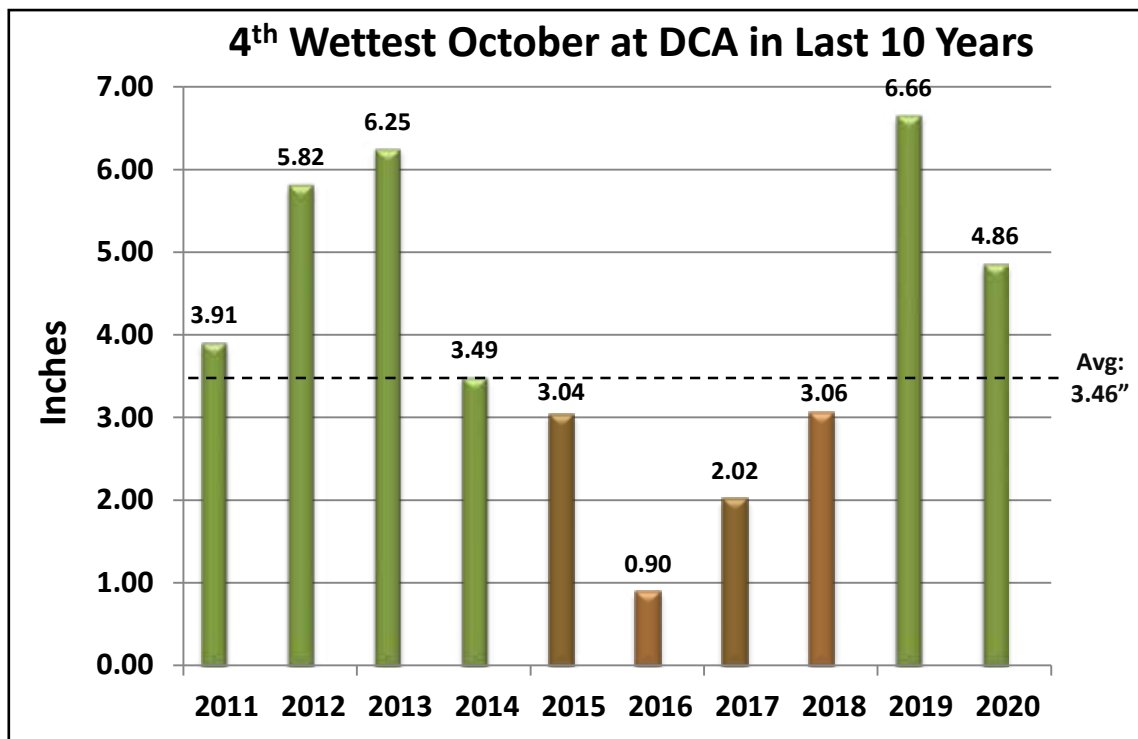


# PRESTO

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



## OCTOBER 2020: Mostly Dry with Heavy Rain from Hurricanes Delta, Zeta; Above Average Temps



### October Highlights

- ⚡ Above average temperatures at all three airports: DCA, 61.9°F (+2.4°F), BWI, 59.7°F (+3.6°F) and IAD, 58.7 (+2.7°F).
- ⚡ Above normal rainfall throughout the area: DCA 4.86" (+1.46"), BWI, 4.36" (+1.03) and IAD, 3.54" (+0.29").
- ⚡ On the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, the remnants of Hurricane Delta resulted in 1"-2" rainfall totals in much of area; The highest total was 2.25" in Culpepper (Culpepper County), VA; and at the major airports: DCA, 1.54", BWI, 1.39" and IAD, 1.17".
- ⚡ On the 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, the growing season ended for many areas west of D.C. and Baltimore in Maryland, West Virginia and Northern Virginia, when the area observed widespread sub-freezing temperatures. Most of these same areas had frost/freeze conditions in mid-September as well.
- ⚡ On the 29<sup>th</sup>, heavy rain from Hurricane Zeta's remnants caused widespread flooding across central Virginia, the metro areas and east. High totals include 3.80" near Keswick, (Albemarle County) VA; 3.65" at Afton (Albemarle County), VA, and 2.55" at the National Arboretum in D.C.; DCA measured 2.26", BWI, 2.21" and IAD, 1.68". Multiple road closures were reported throughout the area.
- ⚡ On the 31<sup>st</sup>, the growing season ended for most of the remaining locations around the metro areas with freezing and sub-freezing temperatures; IAD hit the freezing mark at 32°F but BWI and DCA have not had a freezing or sub-freezing temperature yet this season.

## October 2020

**Temperatures:** Overall, the month was comfortable and pleasant. The three major airports all reported above average temperatures with no excessively warm or cool days: DCA, 61.9°F (+2.4°F), BWI, 59.7°F (+3.6°F) and IAD, 58.7°F (+2.7°F). Perhaps because the month featured no excessively warm days, it was the coolest October since 2015. The highest temperatures were generally in the low 80s with October 7 reaching the low 80s at all three major airports.

The lowest temperatures ranged from near 30 to the low 40s. Halloween was the coolest day in the area; DCA dropped to 41°F, BWI, 37°F, and IAD had its first freeze with a 32°F reading.

**Precipitation:** Despite a wetter than normal total, most of the month was dry. The major airports all reported above average precipitation: DCA 4.86" (+1.46"), BWI, 4.36" (+1.03) and IAD, 3.54" (+0.29"). Rainfall was above normal in most areas, especially around the metro areas and east. The extremely active tropical season resulted in most of the area rainfall. Over 80 percent of the monthly rainfall was a result of the remnants of Hurricanes Delta and Zeta, which both made landfall along the central Gulf Coast states and then tracked into the area. Delta brought 1"-2" totals on the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> but the remnants of Hurricane Zeta resulted in the heaviest rain of the month on the 29<sup>th</sup>. (See table below.)

Site	Total Rainfall from Delta and Zeta	Total Rainfall for October	Percent of October Rainfall Generated by Delta and Zeta
DCA	4.01"	4.86"	82.5%
BWI	3.83"	4.36"	87.8%
IAD	3.01"	3.54"	85.0%

### October 2020 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)			
	AvMx	AvMin	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml	DepNml	Yr to Date
National (DCA)	69.8	53.9	61.9	59.5	+2.4	81/7	41/31	4.86	3.40	+1.46	46.24
Baltimore (BWI)	69.4	50.0	59.7	56.1	+3.6	81/7	37/31	4.36	3.33	+1.03	46.45
Dulles (IAD)	69.4	48.0	58.7	56.0	+2.7	83/7	32/31	3.54	3.25	+0.29	40.04

**Looking Ahead For November: Warm or Cool?** For the last 10 years (2010-2019), the monthly temperature trend for November has typically been opposite of the trend for October. Above normal temperatures in October have usually led to below average temperatures in November and vice versa. Most of the last 10 years have had warm (above normal) Octobers and cold (below normal) Novembers.

Site	October and November temperature trends have reversed each other from warm to cool or cool to warm most years from 2010-2019
IAD	9: (In 2016, October and November were both above normal.)
DCA	7: (In 2010 and 2016, October and November were both above normal and in 2017, below normal.)
BWI	7: (In 2010, 2011 and 2016, October and November were both above normal.)

**Looking Ahead For November: First Inch of Snow?** The first inch or greater snowfall at DCA during the 2019-20 snow season came late: January 7 (2.0"). Below are the dates when DCA measured its first inch or more of snow in the last 10 years.

First Inch of Snow at DCA for Last 10 years			
2019-2020	Did Not Occur	2014-2015	Jan 6
2018-2019	Nov 15	2013-2014	Jan 2
2017-2018	Dec 9	2012-2013	Mar 25
2016-2017	Jan 30	2011-2012	Did Not Occur
2015-2016	Jan 22	2010-2011	Dec 16