

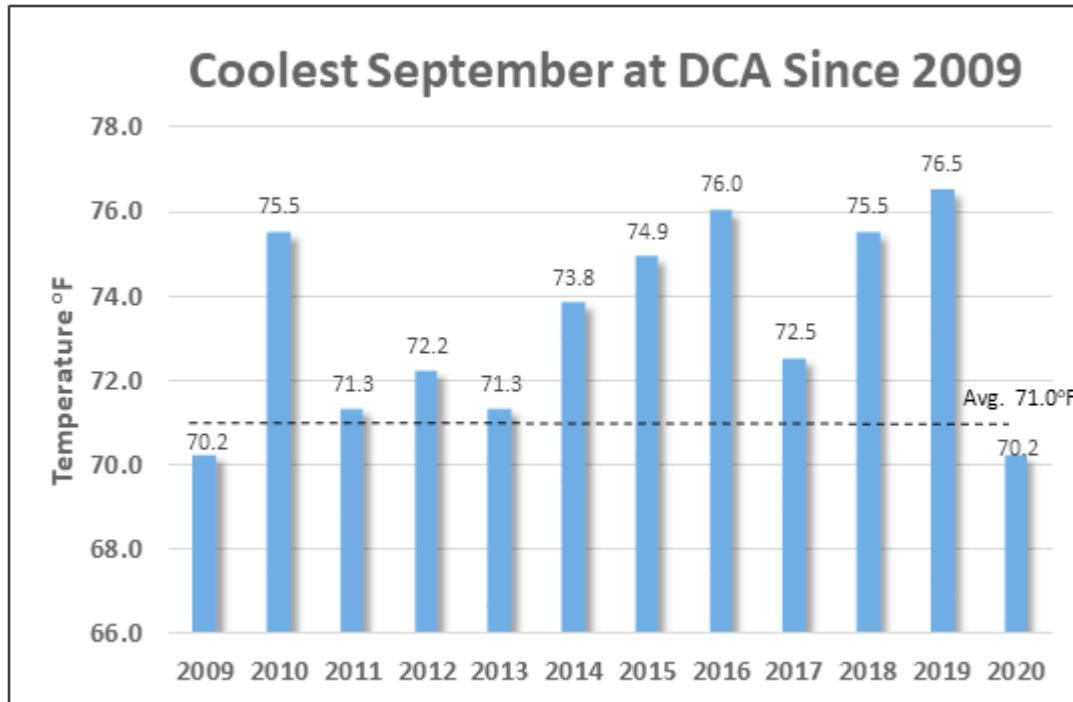


# PRESTO

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



## SEPTEMBER 2020: Near Normal Temperatures with Continued Varied Rainfall



### September Highlights

- ☞ Slightly below normal temperatures at DCA, 70.2°F (-0.8°F) and IAD, 67.2°F (-0.7°F) and above at BWI, 68.8°(+1.0°F).
- ☞ September had only a few 90 degree days; for the year, DCA recorded 46 days at 90°F or higher, BWI, 47, and IAD 39.
- ☞ On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, IAD tied and set record high minimums of 72°F and 74°F, respectively.
- ☞ On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, an EF-1 tornado struck near Edgewater, MD, with a maximum wind of 100 mph, a maximum width of 100 yards and path of 6 miles, causing minor tree and property damage but no reported injuries. Rainfall from the event resulted in a water rescue and car sinking in Montgomery and Baltimore counties, respectively.
- ☞ On the 10<sup>th</sup>, two rounds of slow-moving areas of heavy rains resulted in extreme rainfall totals of 4.87" in Hyattsville Hills (Prince George's County), MD, 4.69" in Kensington (Montgomery County), MD, 4.09" at Michigan Park in D.C., and 3.37" in Alexandria, VA. DCA set a daily record rainfall of 2.88". Rain started in central Maryland pre-dawn and then returned midday over most of Maryland, most heavily to the east of the D.C. metro area. A reported 20 vehicles were stranded by flood waters.
- ☞ Smoke from wildfires in the West created hazy skies across the area from the 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>.
- ☞ On the 19<sup>th</sup>, all three major airports recorded temperatures in the 40s, only the 5<sup>th</sup> such low reading at such an early date for DCA since the 1980s.
- ☞ The cool weather continued on the 20<sup>th</sup> when BWI tied a record low at 42°F. There was widespread frost with some freezing temperatures in particular to the north and west; the lowest readings included 28°F in Bayard, (Grant County), WV, 30°F in Fort Valley, (Shenandoah County), VA, and several 32°F readings in Frederick and Allegany counties in Maryland. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, widespread frost occurred again in most of the same areas with many sites noting their coldest September morning in more than 30 years.
- ☞ The month ended with heavy rain on the 30<sup>th</sup> in the northern and western areas: 2.78" at Pleasant Hills (Harford County), MD, 2.51" at Upper Tract (Pendleton County), WV, and 2.10" at Mustoe and Mill Gap (Highland County), VA.

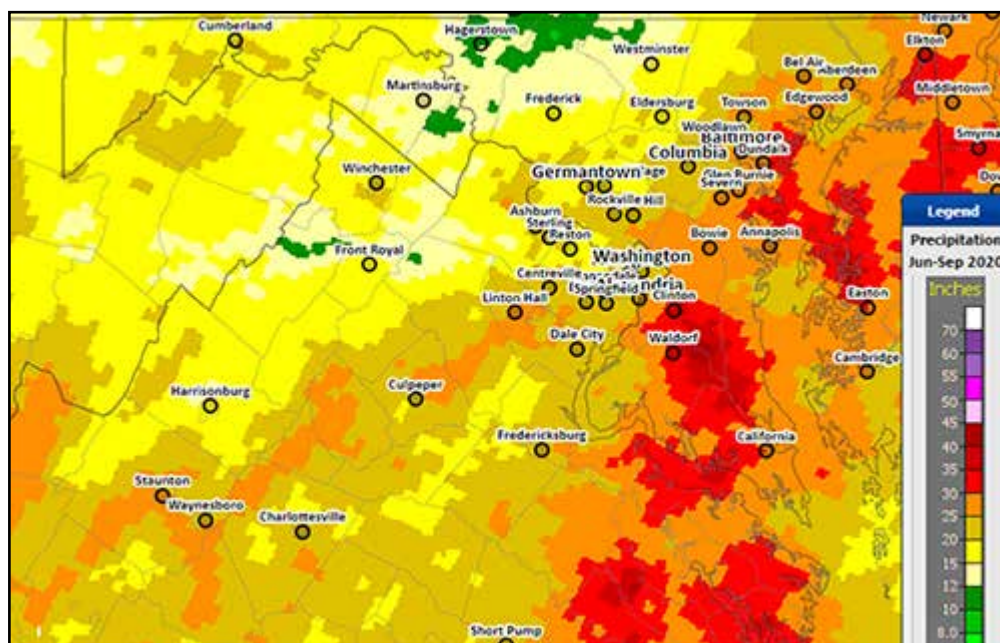
## September 2020

**Temperatures:** After a very hot summer, monthly temperatures were near or slightly below average and were the coolest since 2009 for DCA, since 2014 for BWI and since 2013 for IAD: DCA, 70.2°F (-0.8°F), BWI, 68.8°(+1.0°F) and IAD, 67.2°F (-0.7°F). The first week of the month continued the warmth of summer with a few 90-degree days. IAD tied and beat record high minimums on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (72°F) and 10<sup>th</sup> (74°F), respectively. The month was consistently cool after the first week. Widespread frost and freeze occurred particularly in western areas, about 3 weeks before the average date of the first frost/freeze in these areas. The lowest readings ranged from the upper 20s to low 30s across the Potomac Highlands and eastern panhandle of West Virginia, central and western Maryland and northern and western Virginia.

**Precipitation:** Rainfall was highly variable with DCA, BWI and areas to the east continuing the wet summer trend and IAD and areas to the north and west much drier: DCA, 5.53" (+1.81"), BWI, 4.48" (+0.45") and IAD, 2.28" (-1.64"). The map below shows how the accumulated rainfall for June-September ranged from only 7"-10" in parts of Washington and Frederick counties, MD, to as much as 40"-46" in areas along the Paxtuent River in southern Prince George's County and southern Maryland. DCA recorded 149% of normal and BWI 111%, while IAD observed only 58% of its normal rainfall. Significant flooding occurred from heavy rainfall on the 10<sup>th</sup> near the metro and over areas to the east with highest total near 4.83".

Rainfall totals from June to September for WFO Sterling, VA, area climate stations ranged from 25.67" at BWI and 24.28" at DCA to 10.47" at Martinsburg, WV and 7.81" at Hagerstown, MD.

**Severe Weather:** After an active summer of severe weather, the month had just one notable event on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, when an EF-1 tornado struck near Edgewater, MD, with maximum winds of 100 mph, maximum width, 100 yards, and tracked for 6 miles, causing tree and minor property damage, but no reported injuries. Rainfall from the event resulted in a water rescue and car sinking.



*June through September rainfall data from CoCoRAHs.*

## September 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)	78.0	62.4	70.2	71.0	-0.8	91/3,4	46/20	5.53	3.72	+1.81	41.38
Baltimore (BWI)	78.3	59.3	68.8	67.8	+1.0	90/2	40/22	4.48	4.03	+0.45	42.09
Dulles (IAD)	77.3	57.1	67.2	67.9	-0.7	91/3	38/22	2.28	3.92	-1.64	36.50

**Looking Ahead to October: The first freeze!** October traditionally marks the first freeze in many area locations. When will the Washington/Baltimore area record its first freeze in 2020? Below is a list of the first 32°F or lower readings at DCA, BWI and IAD in the last 10 years.

First 32°F (or lower) reading at DCA, BWI and IAD in Last 10 Years							
Year	DCA	BWI	IAD	Year	DCA	BWI	IAD
2019	Nov 9	Nov 2	Nov 2	2014	Nov 15	Nov 8	Nov 8
2018	Nov 11	Oct 22	Oct 22	2013	Nov 13	Oct 26	Oct 25
2017	Nov 10	Nov 10	Nov 10	2012	Nov 26	Nov 5	Oct 13
2016	Nov 23	Oct 26	Oct 26	2011	Dec 10	Oct 30	Oct 30
2015	Nov 23	Oct 19	Oct 18	2010	Nov 29	Nov 2	Nov 1