

AUGUST 1993: After record-breaking July heat, temperatures returned to more seasonable levels during August. There were no 100°F+ readings or daily record highs and only 3 days when the mercury reached or exceeded 95°F at DCA; however, there were 14 days with 90°F+ readings and 19 days (61%) with above normal temperatures, yielding a monthly departure of +1.1°F and the 9th warmest (tied w/ 1900) August on record. Elsewhere, IAD observed 17 days with 90°F+ readings and a monthly temperature departure of +3.7°F, making August 1993 the second warmest ever recorded.

August precipitation varied significantly around the Washington/Baltimore area. DCA recorded near normal amounts while Dulles was wetter than normal; however, portions of Prince Georges, Calvert, and Anne Arundel counties in Maryland and Prince William county in Virginia observed much below normal rainfall. Monthly deficits exceeded 1" at BWI, ADW, and DAA. Notable precipitation events included much-needed soaking rains on the 6th with more than 2 inches observed at some locations. This single rain event accounted for more than 50% of the monthly total precipitation at four of the five airports (DCA, BWI, DAA, and ADW). Severe weather erupted to the south of Washington on the 6th as strong thunderstorms spawned tornadoes in the Richmond-Petersburg area of Virginia, including the strongest twister ever recorded in the state.

AUGUST 1993 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	89.0	70.1	79.6	78.5	+1.1	96/2*	62/22	3.87	3.91	-0.04
Baltimore (BWI)	87.8	65.5	76.7	75.6	+1.1	98/28	58/23	2.55	3.92	-1.37
Dulles (IAD)	90.0	65.9	78.0	74.2	+3.8	98/28	58/22	4.68	3.94	+0.74
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	87.7	65.6	76.7	75	+2	95/28	58/22	3.07	4.4	-1.3
Andrews AFB (ADW)	86.3	65.1	75.7	75	+1	95/28	58/22	3.12	4.4	-1.3

Other dates of occurrence: * August 26th;

SUMMER (JUNE-AUGUST) 1993: Hot and dry conditions dominated the Summer across the Washington/Baltimore area. In sharp contrast to the summer of 1992 (the coolest since 1972), the June-August period of 1993 was the second hottest (tied w/ 1991) on record at DCA and the warmest ever at IAD. In addition, July was the hottest month ever recorded in Washington with an average temperature of 83.1°F at DCA (Avg. Max. Temp. 92.5°F). The July heat included 4 days of 100°F readings at DCA, 8 straight days with highs at or above 95°F, a monthly record for consecutive days of 90°F+ readings (16), and 24 days when the mercury reached or exceeded 90°F, the most ever recorded in any month at DCA (tied with July 1987). Ironically, the summer heat was slow to commence with the first 90°F+ reading not occurring until June 9th at DCA, the latest such occurrence since 1983. Abnormally warm conditions returned periodically in August, producing 14 days at or above 90°F at DCA. For the summer, DCA recorded 47 days with 90°F+ temperatures, the most since the summer of 1988.

Rainfall was below normal at all 5 airports with DCA recording its driest summer since 1980. DCA, BWI, and ADW all observed seasonal deficits above 4 inches. Long stretches with little precipitation (the last 21 days of July and the last two weeks of August) caused some local crop damage. Occasional thunderstorms provided temporary relief from the heat and dryness, but relatively little severe weather around the local area; however, strong thunderstorms spawned tornadoes in the Richmond, VA area on August 6th while Hurricane Emily skirted the Outer Banks of North Carolina in late August before turning northeastward and out to sea.

SUMMER 1993 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Mth-Day		Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	88.9	69.8	79.4	78.1	+1.3	100/7-8*	51/6-2	6.96	11.09	-4.13
Baltimore (BWI)	87.5	65.2	76.4	75.1	+1.3	100/7-8#	44/6-2	6.82	11.28	-4.46
Dulles (IAD)	89.0	64.1	76.6	73.7	+2.9	100/7-8	41/6-2	8.51	11.35	-2.84
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	87.8	65.6	76.7	74	+3	99/7-7	45/6-2	8.75	11.9	-3.1
Andrew AFB (ADW)	86.8	66.2	76.5	75	+2	99/7-8	43/6-2	7.83	12.4	-4.6

Other dates of occurrence: * July 9th, 10th, 28th; # July 9th.

LOOKING AHEAD TO AUTUMN: Hot Summer = Warm Fall?

With the Summer officially behind us, our focus now turns to Autumn. After one of the hottest summers on record in the Washington/Baltimore area the question arises whether there is a correlation between a hot summer and a warm Autumn. Below is a list of the ten hottest summers at DCA, and the corresponding Fall average temperature [Autumn Normal Avg. Temp.: 60.3°F].

Year	Summer AvgT (°F)	Autumn AvgT (°F)	Year	Summer AvgT (°F)	Autumn AvgT (°F)
1980	80.0	61.9	1988	79.0	57.7
1993	79.4	?	1978	78.9	61.7
1991	79.4	60.1	1973	78.7	63.1
1987	79.2	58.8	1981	78.6	60.2
1983	79.1	61.1	1975	78.6	62.0