

MAY 1993: Warm and relatively tranquil conditions highlighted most of May after 3 consecutive months of unseasonably cold and often stormy weather. Temperatures averaged slightly above normal at all 5 airports, but there were no prolonged periods of heat and humidity. In fact, only one location (IAD) recorded a 90°F reading during the month. The month commenced with 13 consecutive days of above normal temperatures at DCA, tying the longest such stretch since July 1992; however, a southerly shift in the jet stream shortly after mid-month brought Canadian air in into the eastern half of the U.S. and unusually cool conditions across the local area. Daily highs in the sixties were common across the Washington/Baltimore area from the 18th–22nd, and the mornings were chilly with readings in the thirties and forties common in the suburbs, including 38°F at IAD on the 21st. Dulles also tied a record daily low on the morning of the 30th when the mercury plunged to 42°F.

Precipitation was below normal at four of the five airports with thunderstorms providing most of the monthly total. While thunderstorms were frequent across the area there were few reports of severe weather. Thunderstorms dumped more than an inch of rain both DCA and IAD, and nearly 2.5 inches at DAA on the 5th. Additional storms on the 12th generated more than an inch of rain at BWI and wind gusts over 50 mph in some areas. The last third of the month was relatively dry with all 5 airports observing 10 consecutive days (21st–30th) with no measurable precipitation.

MAY 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)	77.2	57.5	67.4	66.4	+1.0	89/11	48/21	3.40	3.66	-0.26
Baltimore (BWI)	76.5	53.5	65.0	63.4	+1.6	89/11	41/21	3.66	3.72	-0.06
Dulles (IAD)	77.0	52.0	64.5	62.2	+2.3	90/11	38/21	2.85	4.02	-1.17
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	77.0	52.5	64.8	64	+1	88/11*	41/21#	5.07	3.8	+1.3
Andrews AFB (ADW)	76.2	53.0	64.6	64	+1	85/11*	43/23	2.84	4.0	-1.2

Other dates of occurrence: * May 28th; # May 23rd.

SPRING (MARCH–MAY) 1993: Spring 1993 will be remembered for an event more reflective of a winter season: the “Storm of the Century” that battered the eastern third of the U.S. during mid-March. Locally, the storm produced more than a foot of snow at some locations around the Washington/Baltimore area (14.1” at IAD, 13.1” at ADW), between 18” and 36” in the eastern Appalachians, and established an all-time record low barometric pressure at DCA (28.54”) on March 13th. Gale force winds caused blowing and drifting snow, near-zero visibilities, and downed numerous trees and power lines, knocking out electricity to thousands of customers in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. This event set the stage for a cool and wet spring. All five airports reported subnormal Spring temperatures and much above normal precipitation. Stormy weather dominated the month of March across the Washington/Baltimore area, with all five airports recording twice the monthly normal precipitation. Both BWI and IAD observed the wettest March on record with 8.12” and 7.65”, respectively. March temperatures were significantly below normal across the region, with all five airports recording monthly departures below -3°F. Unseasonably cool conditions continued through April, marking a third consecutive month with subnormal temperatures across the region. At DCA, the temperature for this year failed to reach 70°F until April 15th, the latest such reading in modern history. In addition, there were 22 days with at or below normal temperatures at DCA and only one day (25th) when the mercury topped 80°F. April precipitation was once again above normal at all five airports. Portions of Fairfax County, VA and Montgomery County, MD recorded over 5 inches of rain. A northerly shift in the jet stream brought warmer conditions to the Washington/Baltimore area in early May. As mentioned earlier, the first 13 days were warmer than normal at DCA with highs topping 80°F on several occasions; however, a southward shift (southward) in the jet brought significantly cooler conditions to the area shortly after mid-month, producing highs only in the sixties from the 18–22nd at DCA. Subnormal rainfall occurred during the final month of Spring at four of the five airports, which included a string of ten consecutive days without measurable precipitation. However, plentiful March to early May precipitation has pushed year-to-date totals to over 20 inches at some locations across the Washington/Baltimore area.

SPRING (MAR–MAY) 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	Snow
National (DCA)	63.9	45.6	54.8	56.8	-2.0	89/5–11	15/3–15	13.84	9.54	+4.30	6.6
Baltimore (BWI)	62.4	42.2	52.3	53.7	-1.4	89/5–11	10/3–15	15.46	10.19	+5.27	12.7
Dulles (IAD)	63.7	40.6	52.1	52.7	-0.6	90/5–11	-1/3–15	16.12	10.30	+5.82	15.5
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	64.1	41.4	52.8	54	-1	88/5–11*	6/3–15	17.16	10.7	+6.5	8.0
Andrews AFB (ADW)	62.9	42.3	52.6	54	-1	85/5–11*	13/3–15	15.22	10.6	+4.6	13.4

Other dates of occurrence: * May 28th.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER (June–August): What’s in store for 1993?

With the Spring officially behind us the focus now turns to the summer season. After an abnormally cooler and wetter than normal Spring, what kind of weather will the summer of 1993 yield? Below is a list of the last ten summers at DCA and the corresponding temperature and precipitation conditions. [Based on normals period: 1961–1990]

Year	Avg. Summer Temp.(°F)	Dep. Nml.(°F)	# of 90°F+ Days	# of 100°F+ Days	Total Summer Prec.(In.)	Dep. Nml.(In.)
1992	75.1	-3.0	20	0	10.17	-0.92
1991	79.4	+1.3	45	2	7.06	-4.03
1990	76.9	-1.2	24	1	13.66	+2.57
1989	77.4	-0.7	20	0	12.83	+1.74
1988	79.0	+0.9	55	7	7.08	-4.01
1987	79.2	+1.1	41	2	8.56	-2.53
1986	77.4	-0.7	32	0	10.41	-0.68
1985	76.0	-2.1	18	0	7.31	-3.78
1984	77.1	-1.0	21	0	8.40	-2.69
1983	79.1	+1.0	46	1	11.98	+0.89