

SEPTEMBER 1993: September marks the astronomical transition from summer to autumn usually about the third week of the month; however, the seasonal change occurred, weather-wise, about a week earlier as significantly cooler and drier conditions replaced hot and humid weather that enveloped the Washington/Baltimore area the first half of the month. During the first 15 days the mercury topped 90°F on four days and temperatures during this period averaged 3.7°F above normal. Autumn-like weather settled across the local area around mid-month. The last half of the month produced only one day with above normal daily temperatures at DCA and a departure for the 15-day period of -4°F. Highs in the sixties were common from the 16th-30th at DCA. On the 17th, there was only a two degree difference between the high (66°F) and low (64°F) temperatures at DCA. On the 30th, highs failed to top 60°F at DCA while lows dipped into the thirties and forties throughout the region later that evening.

Precipitation was above normal at four of the five airports, the first such occurrence since April at both DCA and BWI. Early-month heat and humidity were accompanied by showers on the 4th and 8th, and thundershowers on the 9th. An all-day rain on the 16th and 17th ushered in autumn-like weather and produced nearly an inch of rain across most of the area. The next weather system to have a significant local impact, occurred from the 26th-27th. Initially, the passage of a warm front generated heavy rain, with up to half an inch recorded at some locations. On the following day, strong thunderstorms erupted along and ahead of a cold front, generating heavy rain (over 1" at BWI, IAD, and DAA), damaging wind gusts, and two tornadoes in northern VA (Page and Fauquier counties). Strong wind gusts from some of these storms caused extensive tree and property damage in northwest Washington, D.C. and Riverdale, MD.

SEPTEMBER 1993 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station <u>Location</u>	<u>Temperatures (°F)</u>					<u>Extreme/Day</u>		<u>Precipitation (In)</u>		
	<u>AvMx</u>	<u>AvMn</u>	<u>AvgT</u>	<u>NmIT</u>	<u>DepNm</u>	<u>MaxT</u>	<u>MinT</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Norm</u>	<u>DepNm</u>
National (DCA)	79.1	62.8	71.0	71.3	-0.3	96/3	46/30	3.68	3.31	+0.37
Baltimore (BWI)	78.2	59.4	68.8	68.5	+0.3	95/3	41/30	4.07	3.41	+0.66
Dulles (IAD)	79.5	57.9	68.7	67.1	+1.6	96/3	35/30	4.66	3.36	+1.30
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	78.6	58.1	68.3	69	-1	95/1	36/30	5.46	3.6	+1.9
Andrews AFB (ADW)	78.0	58.3	68.2	69	-1	95/2	37/30	3.25	3.6	-0.4

LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER: *The first frost or freeze?*

October is typically the month when we think about the first frost or freeze in the Washington/Baltimore area, especially outside of the city. Below is a list of the dates of the first 32°F or lower reading during the last ten years at DCA, along with the earliest and latest freezes on record.

<u>Year</u>	<u>First 32°F (or lower) reading</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>First 32°F (or lower) reading</u>
1992	October 20	1987	November 11
1991	November 4	1986	November 13
1990	November 19	1985	December 2
1989	November 18	1984	November 20
1988	November 25	1983	December 2
Earliest Freeze: October 10, 1895		Latest Freeze: December 14, 1980	