

**AUGUST 1994:** A dramatic change in the weather pattern occurred across the region in late July and carried over into August, resulting in a halt to the unprecedented heat and humidity common during most of the first two months of summer. Numerous cool and refreshing air masses overspread the local area, keeping highs in the seventies on several days. In addition, there were only 3 days with readings at or above 90°F at DCA, the fewest in more than forty years. Lows dropped into the forties in many suburban locations, including daily record lows at IAD (49°F) and DCA (58°F) on the 7th, more typical of late September.

Precipitation fell in a typical August pattern, with significant variability from one location to another. Monthly precipitation totals were below normal at BWI, ADW, and DAA while amounts were slightly above normal at both DCA and IAD. A series of thunderstorms during the evening of the 11th generated 2-3 inches of rain across portions of Fairfax County, VA and Montgomery County, MD. Additionally, remnants of tropical storm Beryl dumped over 2 inches of rain on parts of Fairfax and Loudoun counties in Virginia and portions of southern Maryland on the 17th. Heavy rains were also observed in many suburban locations on the 21st, yielding monthly totals between 6 and 9 inches at some cooperative observer locations.

**AUGUST 1994 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:**

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	83.8	67.1	75.5	78.5	-3.0	93/14	56/6	4.35	3.91	+0.44
Baltimore (BWI)	83.6	64.6	74.1	75.6	-1.5	95/14	54/7	3.44	3.92	-0.48
Dulles (IAD)	84.2	63.3	73.8	74.2	-0.4	92/12*	49/7	4.62	3.94	+0.68
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	82.5	63.0	72.8	75	-2	90/4#	52/24	4.16	4.4	-0.2
Andrews AFB (ADW)	82.1	63.4	72.7	75	-2	91/13*	52/7	4.06	4.4	-0.3

Other dates of occurrence: \* August 14th; # August 13th and 14th.

**SUMMER (JUNE-AUGUST) 1994:** Unprecedented June heat and a warmer than normal July provided the warmest start to a summer ever recorded in the Washington/Baltimore area; however, significantly cooler than normal weather in August prevented the summer of 1994 from being one of the hottest on recorded across the local area. Summer temperatures averaged +0.8°F above normal at DCA. There were 42 days with readings at or above 90°F at DCA, 39 of which occurred by July 25th (a record for any June-July period). In addition, there were 14 consecutive June days with 90°F+ readings at DCA, including a high of 101°F on the 15th, the first June 100°F+ reading since 1988. There were few breaks in the heat and humidity during June and July with 24 days during each month recording at or above normal temperatures and 27 days in July with 70°F+ lows at DCA. As a result, the significantly cooler than normal August conditions were welcome, with several days of highs in the seventies and lows in the fifties. Overall, there were 22 August days with at or below normal temperatures at DCA.

Summer precipitation was below normal at DCA and BWI, but much above normal at IAD and many suburban locations. After the fifth consecutive June with subnormal precipitation at DCA and BWI, including 16 consecutive days without measurable precipitation at DCA (ending June 10th), several noteworthy events occurred. On July 27th, strong thunderstorms spawned several tornadoes across northeastern Virginia and central Maryland and generated over 4 inches of rain in Prince Georges and Anne Arundel counties in Maryland. More than three inches soaked IAD in a three-hour period. A series of thunderstorms during the evening of August 11th produced nearly four inches of rain across portions of Fairfax County, VA and over two inches in Montgomery County, MD. Additional heavy rains from the remnants of tropical storm Beryl on the 17th and stormy weather later in August pushed summer rainfall totals to nearly 19 inches in parts of Calvert County, MD.

**SUMMER 1994 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:**

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Mth-Day		Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	88.1	69.6	78.9	78.1	+0.8	101/6-15	54/6-3	9.55	11.09	-1.54
Baltimore (BWI)	87.1	67.2	77.1	75.1	+2.0	101/6-15	48/6-3	10.82	11.28	-0.46
Dulles (IAD)	87.4	65.5	76.4	73.7	+2.7	99/6-15	44/6-3	16.19	11.35	+4.84
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	86.2	65.7	75.9	74	+2	98/6-15	47/6-10	16.35	11.9	+4.5
Andrew AFB (ADW)	86.1	65.7	75.9	75	+1	98/7-8*	44/6-3	10.43	12.4	-2.0

Other dates of occurrence: \* July 9th.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER: Cool August = Cool Autumn?**

With the dramatic change to much cooler weather in late summer, the question arises as to whether a cooler than normal August gives rise to subnormal autumn (September - November) temperatures. Below is a list of the last ten cooler than normal Augusts and the corresponding fall season average temperatures. [Normal Autumn Average Temperature at DCA: 60.3°F; Normals Period: 1961-1990]

Year	August Avg. Temp. (°F)	Autumn Avg. Temp. (°F)	Year	August Avg. Temp. (°F)	Autumn Avg. Temp. (°F)
1994	75.5	?	1985	76.7	62.5
1992	74.0	58.0	1984	77.8	59.8
1990	76.5	61.4	1982	75.4	60.9
1989	77.1	60.0	1981	77.0	60.2
1986	74.6	59.5	1976	76.7	56.3