

JULY 1994: After a record warm June and three weeks of relentless heat and humidity in July, a late-month change in the weather pattern resulted in persistent cloud cover accompanied by occasional strong storms. The end result was a monthly temperature departure of only +1.8°F at DCA, but the warmest start to a summer ever recorded in the Washington/Baltimore area. Highs at or above 90°F occurred on 22 of the first 25 days at DCA. In addition, there was only one day (11th) between the 2nd and 22nd when the mercury failed to reach 90°F. The most intense heat was observed from the 6th–9th when highs hit 95°F or higher each day at DCA; however, there were no daily record highs. This year (through July), there have been 42 days with highs at or above 90°F at DCA, tying 1991 for the most such days. The oppressively humid air mass that enveloped the local area most of the month kept lows from dipping below the 70°F mark on all but 4 nights (11th, 26th–28th) at DCA, including a record high minimum temperature (79°F) on the 8th.

Precipitation was above normal throughout nearly the entire local area except at DCA where subnormal rainfall occurred for the fourth consecutive month. The largest monthly precipitation totals occurred in Calvert County where over 9" of rain was reported by an co-op observer. Monthly totals of 5–7 inches were common throughout much of the Washington/Baltimore area. Despite the subnormal total at DCA, it was the most monthly precipitation recorded at that location since this March. The most noteworthy event occurred on the 27th when strong thunderstorms spawned several tornadoes in northeastern Virginia and central Maryland and generated over 4 inches of rain in Prince Georges and Anne Arundel counties, MD while more than three inches of rain soaked IAD in a three hour period. The tornadoes caused significant damage in some areas, but fortunately no injuries or fatalities, and the heavy rains generated some urban flooding.

JULY 1994 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 | Yr to Date | DepNm |
| National (DCA) | 90.6 | 73.0 | 81.8 | 80.0 | +1.8 | 98/8* | 66/28 | 3.61 | 3.80 | -0.19 | 25.27 | +3.12 |
| Baltimore (BWI) | 89.1 | 71.1 | 80.1 | 77.0 | +3.1 | 98/8 | 64/12 | 4.54 | 3.69 | +0.85 | 30.23 | +6.51 |
| Dulles (IAD) | 89.6 | 69.4 | 79.5 | 75.6 | +3.9 | 96/6 | 62/12 | 5.75 | 3.49 | +2.26 | 30.91 | +7.69 |
| Ft. Belvoir (DAA) | 88.8 | 70.4 | 79.6 | 76 | +4 | 96/8 | 65/11# | 6.37 | 3.8 | +2.6 | 32.09 | +8.1 |
| Andrew AFB (ADW) | 88.9 | 70.2 | 79.5 | 77 | +3 | 98/8* | 65/28 | 4.68 | 4.3 | +0.4 | 26.90 | +2.4 |

Other occurrences: * July 9th; # July 12th and 28th.

LOOKING AHEAD TO AUGUST: Hottest summer on record in Washington?

After the hottest June on record and the sixth hottest July, our attention turns to August and whether the Washington area will possibly experience the warmest summer on record. For this to happen the August average temperature at DCA must be slightly above normal (approximately +0.5°F or 79.0°F). Below is a list of the ten hottest summers ever observed at DCA. [Normal Summer Average Temperature: 78.1°F; Normals Period 1961–1990]

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Average Summer Temperature (°F)</u> |
|-------------|--|
| 1980 | 80.0 |
| 1991 | 79.4 |
| 1993 | 79.3 |
| 1987 | 79.2 |
| 1983 | 79.1 |
| 1988 | 79.0 |
| 1978 | 78.9 |
| 1973 | 78.7 |
| 1981] | 78.6 |
| 1975] | 78.6 |
| 1966] | 78.5 |
| 1943] | 78.5 |
| 1872] | 78.5 |