

OCTOBER 1994: For the third consecutive October, subnormal precipitation and temperatures were recorded at DCA. Most of the month featured the same conditions prevalent in September: pleasantly mild, dry days and clear, chilly nights. There were only 6 days with measurable precipitation at DCA and no precipitation events yielded over an inch of rain. The most significant rain occurred on the 23rd when morning showers generated 0.85" at DCA and nearly an inch at both DAA and ADW. Monthly precipitation totals were generally below two inches across the Washington/Baltimore area, yielding the driest month since November 1991 at DCA and the fifth and ninth driest October on record at IAD and BWI, respectively. It was also the fourth month of 1994 with less than 2 inches of precipitation at DCA; however, precipitation totals for the January–October period are still above normal across most of the region (see table below).

October was the seventh month of 1994 with subnormal temperatures at DCA. There were 19 days with at or below normal readings at DCA, including 16 of the first 18 days, but the last two weeks of the month produced pleasantly mild days with highs mainly in the seventies. However, the first freeze of Autumn was observed in many of the suburbs north and west of Washington and Baltimore, ending the growing season in most of these areas. Readings of 32°F or lower occurred six times at IAD, with the first such occurrence on the 11th (31°F), and twice at DAA (28th and 29th). DCA, BWI and ADW all remained above freezing during October and lows at DCA never fell below 40°F.

OCTOBER 1994 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)				
Location	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm	Yr to Date	DepNm
National (DCA)	68.5	49.6	59.1	59.7	-0.6	81/1	40/28	1.19	3.02	-1.83	33.65	+1.26
Baltimore (BWI)	68.6	45.4	57.0	56.6	+0.4	80/1*	36/28	1.82	2.98	-1.16	39.42	+5.39
Dulles (IAD)	67.9	39.8	53.9	55.1	-1.2	81/1	28/28	1.05	3.20	-2.15	39.98	+6.26
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	67.4	41.5	54.5	57	-2	81/1	30/28	1.83	3.4	-1.6	42.55	+7.0
Andrew AFB (ADW)	67.5	45.2	56.3	58	-2	83/1	33/28	1.42	3.3	-1.9	36.73	+0.6

Other occurrences: * October 9th.

LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER: *The first inch of snow in Washington.*

As mentioned earlier, some parts of the local region recorded their first freeze of the Fall during October. With that in mind, our attention now focuses on the first inch of snow in the local area. The largest single snow event for any November in Washington (since records began) occurred in 1987 when 11.5 inches blanketed the airport. This particular event also tied December 17, 1932 as the greatest single event snowfall during any astronomical Autumn in Washington. The date of the first inch of snow in Washington can vary greatly from year to year. During the last ten years it has occurred between mid-November and late January (see below). The earliest snows ($\geq 1''$) in Washington (city) took place on October 30, 1925 (2.2") and October 20, 1940 (1.4") while the earliest measurable snow ever recorded at National Airport fell on October 10th, 1979 (0.3"). In contrast, no significant snowfall was observed at all during the 1972–1973 season (DCA total=0.1").

Winter Season

1993–1994
 1992–1993
 1991–1992
 1990–1991
 1989–1990
 1988–1989
 1987–1988
 1986–1987
 1985–1986
 1984–1985
 1983–1984

First 1" (or greater) Snowfall

December 28
 December 10
 January 25
 December 27
 November 22
 December 9
 November 11
 January 22
 December 20
 January 4
 January 11