

SEPTEMBER 1994: A significant number of pleasantly warm, dry days and cool, clear nights dominated the month. Relatively rain-free weather prevailed during the first 16 days across most of the Washington/Baltimore area, leading to the sunniest month, thus far, in 1994 at DCA. In addition, DCA recorded 18 consecutive days (August 30–September 16) without measurable precipitation, the longest such stretch since October 18–November 8, 1991 (22 days). Despite lengthy periods of dry weather, September rainfall was near to slightly above normal through most of the Washington/Baltimore area, except across portions of southern Maryland where much above normal precipitation was observed. A cold front accompanied by showers and brief wind gusts up to 40 mph on the evening of the 17th dropped about 0.50" of rain across portions of the local area. A powerful coastal storm on the 22nd provided the majority of the September rainfall at DCA. The storm system produced a steady, soaking rain throughout the area (2.64" at BWI and 1.53" at DCA). One cooperative observer in Calvert County, MD recorded 6 inches of rain from the storm, pushing year-to-date precipitation totals over 50 inches (nearly eighteen inches more than at DCA). Farther east, the storm pounded the coastal mid-Atlantic with hurricane-force wind gusts, causing some property damage. A short-lived warm and humid air mass late in the month fueled thunderstorms on the 26th that dumped up to two inches of rain on portions of Fairfax and Loudoun counties, VA.

September temperatures averaged below normal across the entire Washington/Baltimore area. DCA recorded 22 days with at or below normal readings and only one day (14th) when the mercury reached or exceeded the 90°F mark. In addition, it was also the fifth consecutive September with subnormal temperatures at DCA. There were no intrusions of excessive heat or abnormally cold weather and therefore, no new daily temperature records were established at DCA. However, most locations experienced lows in the forties at some point during the month, including readings of 42°F at DAA on the 30th and 45°F at IAD on the 12th, 29th, and 30th.

SEPTEMBER 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	Yr to Date	DepNm
National (DCA)	79.3	61.1	70.2	71.3	-1.1	91/14	52/30	2.84	3.31	-0.47	32.46	+3.09
Baltimore (BWI)	78.3	57.9	68.1	68.5	-0.4	91/14	47/30	3.93	3.41	+0.52	37.60	+6.55
Dulles (IAD)	78.5	54.6	66.6	67.1	-0.5	90/14	45/12*	3.40	3.36	+0.04	38.93	+8.41
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	77.5	53.7	65.6	69	-3	89/14	42/30	4.68	3.6	+1.1	40.93	+8.9
Andrew AFB (ADW)	78.2	56.8	67.5	69	-1	92/14	48/12	3.72	3.6	+0.1	34.68	+2.2

Other occurrences: * September 29th and 30th.

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

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

Year	First 32°F (or lower) reading		Year	First 32°F (or lower) reading	
	DCA	IAD		DCA	IAD
1993	November 2	October 1	1988	November 25	October 6
1992	October 20	October 7	1987	November 11	October 9
1991	November 4	October 8	1986	November 13	October 7
1990	November 19	October 20	1985	December 2	October 26
1989	November 18	October 23	1984	November 20	November 3
Earliest Freeze: October 10, 1895			Latest Freeze: December 14, 1980		