

MAY 1995: Above normal precipitation prevailed across most of the local area for only the second time since August 1994. There were 14 days with measurable precipitation ($\geq 0.01"$) at DCA and a monthly total of 4.19" (the largest May total since 1990). More than 5 inches of rain was recorded at IAD, the most in May since 1989. In contrast, subnormal precipitation was measured at BWI for the eighth consecutive month; however, it was the wettest month (3.40") since September 1994 at that location. Showers and/or thunderstorms soaked portions of the Washington/Baltimore area on several May days. The first event occurred on the 2nd with most areas receiving over half an inch of rain. Most of the local area recorded more than an inch of rain during a two-day period (9th-10th) as a storm system tracked west of the mid-Atlantic region. Strong thunderstorms battered portions of the Washington/Baltimore area on the 17th and 18th, generating brief and torrential rains, small hail, and a tornado in Prince Georges County, MD. Additional thunderstorms during the Memorial Day weekend produced damaging wind gusts and over half an inch of rain in Fairfax and Loudoun counties, VA.

Monthly temperatures averaged near normal across most of the area for the second consecutive month. Unlike April, highs failed to reach the 90°F mark at most locations and barely topped 50°F on the 2nd as rainy weather dominated the region.

MAY 1995 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
National (DCA)	75.3	56.3	65.8	66.4	-0.6	88/25	45/3	4.19	3.66	+0.85	13.15
Baltimore (BWI)	75.1	53.9	64.5	63.4	+1.1	89/24	43/8	3.40	3.72	-0.32	12.19
Dulles (IAD)	74.3	51.1	62.7	62.2	+0.5	88/25	36/8	5.13	4.02	+1.11	14.64
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	74.4	51.5	62.9	64	-1	87/24,25	40/7,9	5.16	3.8	+1.4	15.44
Andrews AFB (ADW)	76.6	56.0	66.3	64	+2	91/25	42/8	4.31	4.0	+0.3	16.65

SPRING (MARCH-MAY) 1995: Spring was marked by above normal temperatures and subnormal precipitation at most locations in the Washington/Baltimore area. March and April brought just three days with significant precipitation, with the largest total (more than two inches) falling on March 8th-9th with at most locations. A daily record of 1.97" of precipitation fell at DCA on March 8th, the most precipitation in a calendar day (midnight to midnight) since November 28, 1993. The storm ended as the last measurable snowfall of the season, with accumulations of up to 4 inches in some of the extreme northern and western suburbs (with as much as 7" in the Shenandoah Valley). Subnormal precipitation prevailed during April, despite 18 days with at least a trace of precipitation at DCA. The final month of Spring yielded showers and/or thunderstorms and the largest monthly precipitation totals in several months at some locations. Severe weather portions of the area as a tornado caused property damage in Cheverly, MD. Strong thunderstorms produced hail and heavy rain in Montgomery County on the 17th and damaging wind gusts on the 29th across portions of northern Virginia.

Spring's slightly warmer than normal conditions were due in large part to abnormal March warmth (monthly departures between +2°F and +5°F). Most of the warm weather occurred during a period of 11 consecutive days (12th-22nd) with above normal temperatures. During this period, highs topped 70°F from the 13th-17th at DCA. The first 90°F+ reading of 1995 was observed at four of the five airports (DCA, BWI, IAD & ADW) on April 19th, the earliest date for a 90°F+ reading at DCA since 1977. In contrast, notable winterlike cold occurred on March 9th as lows dipped into the twenties, accompanied by strong wind gusts and near zero wind chills. The latest 32°F or lower reading of the season since 1990 was observed on April 5th (30 degrees at DCA). Despite the extreme variation in daily April temperatures, near normal monthly values prevailed. May again averaged near normal at most locations. There were no days in May with 90°F+ readings at the three major airports.

SPRING 1995 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Mth-Day		Precipitation(In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNm	MaxT	Min	Total	Norm	DepNm	Snow
National (DCA)	67.2	47.0	57.1	56.8	+0.3	91/4-19	22/3-10	8.22	9.54	-1.32	0.4
Baltimore (BWI)	66.8	44.8	55.8	53.7	+2.1	90/4-19	22/3-10	7.44	10.19	-2.75	0.2
Dulles (IAD)	66.3	41.2	53.8	52.7	+1.1	90/4-19	20/3-10,11	8.66	10.30	-1.64	1.8
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	66.8	41.9	54.3	54	0	89/4-19	21/3-11	10.38	10.7	-0.3	T
Andrews AFB (ADW)	68.8	46.2	57.5	54	+4	92/4-19	24/3-10	8.94	10.6	-1.7	T

LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER : What's ahead for '95?

Now that Spring has ended with slightly warmer than normal temperatures and subnormal precipitation, our attention shifts to Summer. Below is a list of some of the summer extremes recorded since 1871 in Washington as well as the seasonal normals for DCA.

Ten Warmest Avg. T (°F)	Ten Coolest Avg. T (°F)	Ten summers with most 90°F or greater readings	Ten Wettest Total Prec. (In.)	Ten Driest Total Prec. (In.)
1980 80.0	1907 71.4	1988 55 days	1906 27.05	1966 4.62]
1991 79.4	1903 71.6	1966 54 days	1905 24.22	1962 4.62]
1993 79.3	1927 71.7	1980 52 days	1878 23.59	1943 4.66
1987 79.2	1886 72.3	1872 49 days	1933 20.50	1964 5.06
1983 79.1	1904 72.6	1993 47 days	1969 19.88	1894 5.38
1988 79.0	1891 72.7	1983 46 days]	1886 19.81	1893 5.57
1994 78.9]	1889 73.0	1943 46 days]	1942 19.65	1954 6.09
1978 78.9]	1912 73.2	1991 45 days	1955 19.39	1930 6.11
1973 78.7	1897 73.3	1994 42 days	1928 19.24	1957 6.51
1981 78.6	1915 73.6]	1987 41 days]	1948 18.75	1932 6.63
	1884 73.6]	1970 41 days]		

[Summer Normals at DCA (Normals period 1961-1990): Average Temperature 78.1°F Total Precipitation 11.90"]