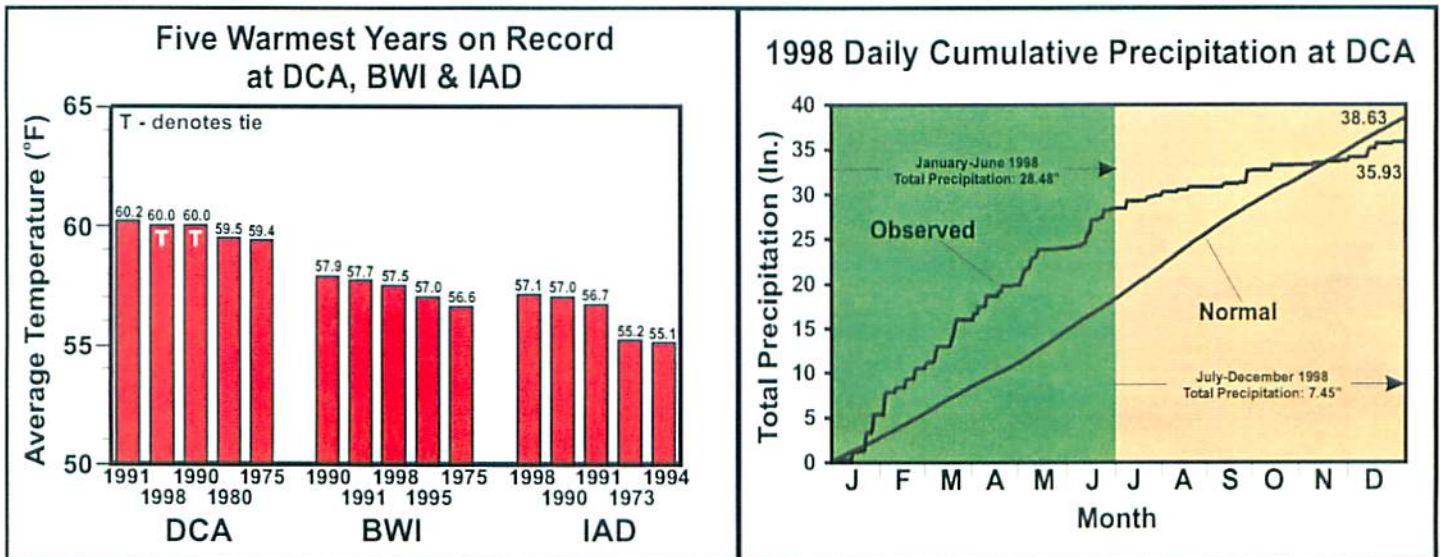




PRECIPITATION SUMMARY AND TEMPERATURE OBSERVATIONS
FOR THE WASHINGTON, DC & BALTIMORE, MD AREA

DECEMBER 1998 & ANNUAL REVIEW
DECEMBER: UNUSUALLY WARM AND DRY
ANNUAL: SECOND WARMEST YEAR ON RECORD IN WASHINGTON; ABNORMALLY WET FIRST HALF & VERY DRY LAST HALF



HIGHLIGHTS
MONTHLY

- Much above-normal temperatures and subnormal precipitation across the Washington/Baltimore area;
- Warmest December since 1988 at BWI (7th overall) and since 1990 at both DCA (7th overall in Washington) & IAD (4th overall), with monthly temperature departures of +4.5°F, +5.0°F and +5.9°F, respectively;
- 22 consecutive days (1st-22nd) with at or above normal temperatures (24 days overall) at DCA, including 4 consecutive days (4th-7th) with highs in the seventies (readings more typical of late-September);
- All-time monthly record highs established or tied at DCA (77°F on the 6th & 7th), BWI (79°F on the 7th) and IAD (79°F on the 6th);
- Four daily record highs established or tied at both DCA (4th-7th) & BWI (3rd,5th,6th & 7th) and 5 at IAD (3rd-7th);
- Driest December since 1988 at DCA (tied w/1997), BWI and IAD;
- Sixth consecutive month with subnormal precipitation at the three major airports;
- 10 days (the most since June) with measurable precipitation (≥ 0.01 ") at DCA, but only 2 days with more than 0.50";
- Ninth consecutive December with subnormal snowfall at DCA;

ANNUAL

- Above-normal temperatures and subnormal precipitation across the Washington/Baltimore area;
- Warmest year on record at IAD (Avg. Temp: 57.1°F), second in Washington (60.0°F - tied w/ 1990) and third at BWI (57.5°F);
- 231 days (63%) with at or above normal temperatures at DCA;
- 35 days with 90°F+highs and 36 days with lows at or below 32°F (the fewest ever recorded in Washington) at DCA;
- Wet first half (January-June Total Prec. At DCA: 28.48") and dry last half (July-December Total Prec. at DCA: 7.45")
- Only 1 day (September 22nd) during last 6 months with more than an inch of precipitation and only 5 with more than 0.50" at DCA;
- Least snowy calendar year since snowfall records began (1888) in Washington (0.4") and at IAD (1.8" -records began in 1963);
- Warmest winter (1997-98) on record at both BWI & IAD, second at DCA (4th overall in Washington);
- Strongest tornado ever recorded in Maryland touched down in Frostburg on June 4th (F4 - winds in excess of 200 mph);
- Driest Autumn (3.33") on record at DCA (3rd overall in Washington), BWI (3.46") and IAD (3.97").

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http://nic.fb4.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/PRESTO or <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om>