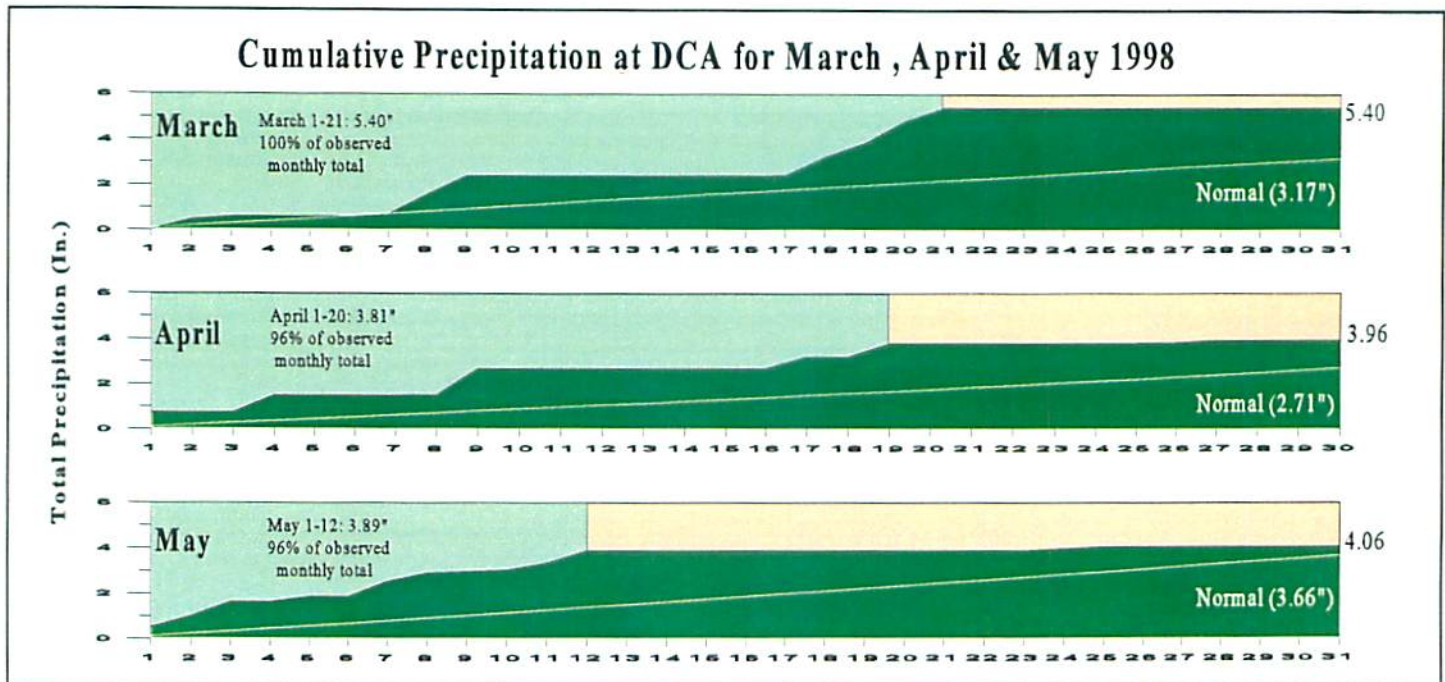




PRECIPITATION SUMMARY AND TEMPERATURE OBSERVATIONS
FOR THE WASHINGTON, DC & BALTIMORE, MD AREA

MAY 1998 & SPRING REVIEW

**WET STARTS TO EACH SPRING MONTH FOLLOWED BY AN
EXTENDED PERIOD WITH *LITTLE OR NO PRECIPITATION***



HIGHLIGHTS

MONTHLY

- Above normal temperatures and precipitation across most of the Washington/Baltimore area;
- First 90°F+ reading of the year at both BWI and IAD on the 16th, and on the 19th for the third consecutive year at DCA;
- 19 days with at or above normal temperatures at DCA;
- Only 2 days with 90°F+ highs at both DCA and IAD, 4 at BWI;
- Fifth consecutive month with wetter than normal conditions at DCA, the longest such period since February-July 1989 (tied w/ Nov. 1993-March 1994);
- For the third consecutive month, a wet start (3.89" of precipitation in first 12 days at DCA) was followed by an extended period of dry weather (see graphic above);
- Measurable precipitation (≥ 0.01 ") observed on 11 of the first 12 days at both DCA & IAD and 12 of 12 at BWI ;
- 11 days (13th - 23rd) without measurable precipitation at DCA, the longest such period since August 21-September 1, 1997;

SEASONAL

- Above normal temperatures and precipitation across the Washington/Baltimore area;
- Warmest Spring since 1991 at DCA, BWI (4th overall - tied w/ 1995) and IAD (3rd overall);
- Summerlike warmth at the end of March with readings in the eighties across most of the Washington/Baltimore area from the 27th - 31st with all-time record March highs established at BWI (89°F) and tied at IAD (89°F) on the 30th;
- Last freeze of season observed on March 25th at DCA, on April 12th at BWI and on April 13th at IAD;
- More than 1 foot of rain observed at all 5 airports and more than 2 feet for the January - May 1998 (5-month) period;
- Extended periods of dryness during the last 10 days of both March (trace at DCA) & April (0.14" at DCA) and the last 19 days of May (0.17" at DCA) across much of the Washington/Baltimore area;
- March snowfall at BWI (2.1") exceeded the total for the meteorological Winter (Dec.-Feb. Total: 1.1").

Andrew H. Horvitz, Office of Meteorology/NWS, (301) 713-1867
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