

**APRIL 2001:** The second month of meteorological Spring was highlighted by above- normal temperatures and subnormal rainfall across the Washington/Baltimore. Monthly temperatures averaged between 1°F and 2.5°F above normal at the three major airports. There were 16 days with at or above normal temperatures at DCA, 4 days with summerlike heat and several days that featured some significant daily temperature variations. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, highs around the local area soared near 90°F at most locations. At IAD, a reading of 89°F established a daily record high. The most prolonged period of abnormal warmth occurred from the 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> as highs topped 80°F at most locations. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, IAD reported another record daily high as the mercury reached 88°F. There were four days with temperatures above 80°F at the three major airports, the most such April days since 1995 at DCA. In sharp contrast, a brief period of unseasonably cool weather prevailed from 16th-19th with daily temperature departures between -7°F and -13°F during this four-day period. During this time IAD reported a daily record low of 27°F on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The month also featured some wide daily variations in temperature. On the 9th, BWI recorded a low of 47°F, but by afternoon the high had reached 88°F. On the 27th, IAD recorded a high of 80°F after a morning low of 34°F. Meanwhile, clear, chilly nights with light winds led to some rapid overnight cooling as lows dipped at or below freezing on five days at IAD and four at BWI., including as late as the 26th at both locations. Farther west, lows dipped as low as 24°F in the Shenandoah Valley on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Dry weather along with rapid spring growth resulted in some of the highest pollen readings (1500+ pollen grains per cubic meter) in a decade across the local area.

In sharp contrast to April 2000, much drier conditions prevailed across the region. Monthly precipitation totals were generally under two inches at most locations. Both BWI's and DAA recorded their driest April since 1985, with 1.32" and 1.17", respectively. In addition, there was no measurable rainfall from the 19th through months' end across much of the local area. The most significant precipitation event was an all-day rain on the 11th generated about 0.50" of rain at most locations. This storm system was part of an unsettled weather pattern that occurred during the first half of the month. Between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> the majority of the months' rainfall was recorded at most locations. IAD observed measurable rainfall on twelve of thirteen days from the 6th-17th, but despite this wet period the airport recorded a monthly total of only 2.15", their driest April since 1995.

**APRIL 2001 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:**

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Yr-to-date
National (DCA)	68.0	47.1	57.6	56.5	+1.1	89/9	34/19	1.68	2.71	-1.03	9.64
Baltimore (BWI)	67.2	43.5	55.4	53.4	+2.0	88/9*	31/19	1.32	3.09	-1.77	11.23
Dulles (IAD)	68.3	42.7	55.5	52.7	+2.5	89/9	27/19	2.15	3.11	-0.96	10.55
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	69.7	43.3	56.5	N/A	N/A	91/9	28/19	1.47	3.2	-1.7	11.39
Andrews AFB (ADW)	65.4	42.2	53.8	N/A	N/A	86/9*	30/5	1.94	3.0	-1.1	12.76

Other Occurrences: \* April 23rd.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY:** *The first 90°F+ reading of 2001?*

With above-normal temperatures in April and 4 days when the mercury topped 80°F at DCA, the question arises: will May produce the first 90°F+ reading? Below is a list of the last ten years and the date of the first 90°F or greater reading at DCA, in addition to the earliest and latest such readings in Washington.

Year	First 90°F+ Reading	Year	First 90°F+ Reading
2000	May 7 <sup>th</sup> (90°F)	1995	April 19 <sup>th</sup> (91°F)
1999	May 30 <sup>th</sup> (92°F)	1994	April 27 <sup>th</sup> (90°F)
1998	May 19 <sup>th</sup> (90°F)	1993	June 9 <sup>th</sup> (93°F)
1997	May 19 <sup>th</sup> (96°F)	1992	May 23 <sup>rd</sup> (91°F)
1996	May 19 <sup>th</sup> (95°F)	1991	May 12 <sup>th</sup> (90°F)

Earliest first 90°F+ reading in Washington: March 22, 1907 (90°F)

Latest first 90°F+ reading in Washington: July 12, 1979 (93°F)