

October 2008

Temperature: While significantly cooler than October 2007, monthly temperatures were slightly above normal across the Washington/Baltimore area. Positive departures were +0.1°F at DCA and BWI and +0.2°F at IAD. October marked the 16th out of the past 18 months with above normal readings at the three major airports. The majority of the first half of the month featured above normal readings including highs at or above 80°F from the 13th-16th at DCA and BWI.

The pattern shifted dramatically by the 17th with subnormal readings on all but one day at DCA (25th) through month's end. Maximum readings were more than 10 degrees below normal from the 27th-29th as highs struggled to rise above 50°F across the area. The growing season ended on the 20th across most locations except Calvert and St. Marys Counties in MD and King George County, VA, where freezing temperatures arrived on the 30th. IAD's minimum reading was 29°F on the 20th and BWI, 32°F. DCA has yet to observe its first freeze of the season with a monthly low of 36°F on the 31st.

Precipitation: In sharp contrast to the previous three wet Octobers, subnormal rainfall was recorded across the region with amounts generally between 1"-2". The month featured a 23 day period (2nd-24th) with no measurable rainfall across many locations including the three major airports. It was the 3rd longest stretch of dry days in October at DCA, 4th longest at BWI and 2nd longest at IAD. The months' greatest rainfall occurred on the 25th when afternoon tropical downpours brought over an inch to some locations in Virginia, including storm totals of 1.80" in Rixeyville (Culpeper County), 1.68" in Hamilton (Loudoun County), and 1.10" at IAD; Maryland storm totals included 1.52" in Taneytown (Carroll County) and Cockeysville (Baltimore County).

A coastal storm brought rain and high winds locally and the seasons' first snows to the mountains on the 27th-28th. Wind gusts reached 56 mph in Waynesboro, VA, 53 mph in Gaithersburg, MD, and 48 mph at BWI. Rainfall totals were highest east of the major cities in Maryland including .66" in Norrisville, (Harford County), .63" in Herald Harbor (Ann Arundel County) and .43" at BWI. Snowfall totals included 6.0" in Frostburg, MD (Alleghany County), and 5.5" at both Bayard, WV (Grant County) and Circleville, WV (Pendleton County).

OCTOBER 2008 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

| Location | Station Temperatures (°F) | | | | | Extreme/Day | | Precipitation (Inches) | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------|------|------|--------|-------------|-------|------------------------|------|--------|--------------|
| | AvMx | AvMn | AvgT | NmIT | DepNml | MaxT | MinT | Total | Norm | DepNml | Year to Date |
| National (DCA) | 67.7 | 50.0 | 58.9 | 58.8 | +0.1 | 82/15,16 | 36/31 | 1.13 | 3.22 | -2.09 | 41.09 |
| Baltimore (BWI) | 66.5 | 44.6 | 55.5 | 55.4 | +0.1 | 83/14,15 | 31/31 | 1.27 | 3.16 | -1.89 | 39.17 |
| Dulles (IAD) | 66.5 | 43.8 | 55.2 | 55.0 | +0.2 | 84/14 | 28/30 | 1.31 | 3.37 | -2.06 | 39.37 |

Looking Ahead to November: When will the first snow fall? In Washington, the largest single November snow event occurred in 1987 when 11.5" blanketed DCA. This event tied December 17, 1932, as the greatest single snowfall event during astronomical autumn in Washington. In the last 10 years, the first snow has fallen between early December and mid January. The earliest snow (>1") in Washington, D.C., fell on October 30, 1925, (2.2") and October 20, 1940, (1.4"). The earliest measurable snow ever recorded at DCA fell on October 10, 1979, (0.3"). DCA recorded less than 1" of snowfall during the 1997-98 and 1972-73 seasons.

Snow Season First 1" (or greater) Snowfall at DCA

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| 2007-2008 | December 5 |
| 2006-2007 | January 21 |
| 2005-2006 | December 5 |
| 2004-2005 | January 19 |
| 2003-2004 | December 4 |

Snow Season First 1" (or greater) Snowfall at DCA

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 2002-2003 | December 5 |
| 2001-2002 | January 19 |
| 2000-2001 | December 19 |
| 1999-2000 | January 20 |
| 1998-1999 | January 8 |