

APRIL 1991: While this April was the driest in most areas since 1985 (see cover), it will probably be remembered for the consecutive rainy/cool weekends of the 13th–14th and 20th–21st that frustrated most people, especially since most of the weekdays were warm and dry during this period. Still, the Washington/Baltimore area escaped severe weather systems that occurred not too far from the local area. On April 9th, a rapidly moving cold front triggered severe thunderstorms across the Ohio Valley, the Appalachians, and western Maryland which caused minor damage in Hagerstown, MD and extensive damage in Charlestown, WV. Fortunately, the intensity of the storms had decreased significantly by the time they reached the local area. On the 20th, a coastal storm developed east of Cape Hatteras, NC, spreading copious rainfall along the Eastern Seaboard from North Carolina to New England. More than six inches of rain fell on Norfolk, VA and over two inches was measured across portions of Maryland's Eastern shore. However, amounts dropped off drastically south and west of Ann Arundel County, MD with less than a tenth of an inch of rain recorded at National Airport (DCA). The heaviest rainfall of the month, occurred on the 13th when as much as 1.24" fell at Fort Belvoir while nearly three-quarters of an inch was measured throughout the remainder of the local area.

This was the seventh consecutive warmer than normal month in the Washington/Baltimore area, with the last cooler than normal month being September 1990. While it was the warmest April since 1985, the magnitude of the warmth was much less than in recent months. There were several warm days with highs above 80°F, including three consecutive days (7th–9th) where all five airports recorded highs exceeding 80 °F. In addition, this early April warm spell produced back-to-back record highs at both BWI and IAD on the 7th and 8th and a high of 90°F at Fort Belvoir (DAA) on the 8th (see table below). Several mild nights more than compensated for the cool and rainy weekends when maximum temperatures were between 15 °F and 18°F below normal.

APRIL 1991 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	67.8	48.6	58.2	56.7	+1.5	87/7	35/3	1.39	2.93	-1.54
Baltimore (BWI)	66.3	45.5	55.9	54.0	+1.9	87/8	28/3	1.68	3.35	-1.67
Dulles (IAD)	67.8	44.1	56.0	53.3	+2.7	87/8	23/3	1.80	3.14	-1.34
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	69.4	46.0	57.7	55	+3	90/8	30/1*	1.82	3.2	-1.4
Andrews AFB(ADW)	66.6	45.6	56.1	55	+1	87/8	28/3	1.43	3.0	-1.6

Other dates of occurrence: * April 3rd.

LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY: Recent Excessively Wet Mays.

Since 1982, there have been six May's with much above normal rainfall at DCA, including the most recent three years. Normal May precipitation: 3.48", based on normals period: 1951–1980.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Departure from Normal</u>
1982	5.11"	+1.63"
1983	4.62"	+1.14"
1985	5.79"	+2.31"
1988	4.50"	+1.02"
1989	7.77" (5th wettest on record)	+4.29"
1990	5.20"	+1.72"