

NOVEMBER 1992: November provided much of the region with long stretches of cloudy and wet weather. Precipitation occurred on 70% of the days at DCA, but the monthly total was only slightly above normal. An exception to the dreary November weather occurred on Election Day when sunny and warm conditions pushed readings into the seventies. As has been the case for most of 1992, the heaviest rainfall was recorded in the suburbs of Montgomery, Fairfax, and Loudon counties. Dulles airport (IAD) measured over 5 inches of precipitation, the most in November since 1985. An outbreak of severe weather hit the area during the early morning hours of the 23rd, accompanied by frequent cloud-to-ground lightning, hail, and a confirmed tornado near Suitland, MD. This was the same system that was responsible for the devastating tornadic activity two days earlier across much of the southern U.S. The first snow flurries of the season were reported in most areas on the 15th and all five airports recorded a trace of snow for the month.

Temperatures were below normal during much of the first two-thirds of the month (13 of 20 days at DCA), including a low of 27°F (the normal low for mid-January) at DCA on the 9th. However, warmer than normal conditions dominated the latter part of the month (8 of 10 days at DCA), producing an above normal average monthly temperature at DCA, BWI, and IAD for only the fourth time in 1992.

NOVEMBER 1992 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgI	NmlI	DepNm	MaxI	MinI	Total	Norm	DepNm	Snow
National (DCA)	56.2	41.4	48.8	48.7	+0.1	73/3	27/16	3.38	2.82	+0.56	T
Baltimore (BWI)	55.7	38.6	47.2	46.3	+0.9	74/3	24/16	3.44	3.11	+0.33	T
Dulles (IAD)	54.6	36.7	45.7	44.8	+0.9	72/3	22/16	5.24	2.99	+2.25	T
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	55.6	37.8	46.7	47	0	73/3	24/16	4.19	3.00	+1.2	T
Andrews AFB (ADW)	55.3	39.2	47.3	48	-1	72/3	25/16	2.80	3.30	-0.5	T

AUTUMN (SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER) 1992: Below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation characterized the 1992 Fall for much of the Washington/Baltimore area. Both September and November were very wet months, with long stretches of clouds and rain. Four of the five airports recorded totals more than two inches above normal in September, with Tropical Storm Danielle dropping more than an inch of rain across most of the area on the 25th and 26th. In addition, sections of Fairfax County measured over 7 inches of rain during September, while portions of extreme southern Maryland recorded over 11 inches. In November, IAD received 5.24" of precipitation, the second largest November total since 1972. Severe thunderstorms on November 23rd generated locally heavy rains, hail, frequent lightning and a tornado (see above). October provided much of the area with a needed break from the unsettled Autumn pattern as dry weather generally prevailed.

Autumn temperatures were lower than normal at all five airports. Subnormal September and October temperatures occurred at most locations while only slightly above normal November readings were recorded at the three major airports. The largest monthly temperature deviations occurred in October, with four of the five airports observing departures of -3°F and lower. DCA recorded its earliest freeze since 1972 when the mercury dropped to 32°F on October 20th. In addition, it was also the first September without a 90°F+ reading at DCA since 1987.

AUTUMN 1992 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Mth-Day		Precipitation (In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgI	NmlI	DepNm	MaxI	MinI	Total	Norm	DepNm	Snow
National (DCA)	66.0	49.9	58.0	59.7	-1.7	88/9-22	27/11-16	8.90	8.94	-0.04	T
Baltimore (BWI)	66.0	46.7	56.4	57.4	-1.0	88/9-9*	24/11-16	12.13	9.68	+2.45	T
Dulles (IAD)	65.3	43.9	54.6	55.8	-1.2	88/9-4	22/11-16	13.60	9.26	+4.34	T
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	66.3	46.1	56.2	58.0	-2	89/9-9*	24/11-16	11.62	10.0	+1.6	T
Andrews AFB (ADW)	64.9	46.8	55.9	58.0	-2	86/9-9#	25/11-16	10.79	10.2	+0.6	T

Other dates of occurrence: + September 22nd; # September 10th and 22nd.

LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER: Subnormal December Snowfall Again?

Since 1974, there have only been two Decembers (1982 & 1989) with above normal snowfall at DCA. In 1991, there was no recorded snowfall at DCA, the first such December occurrence since 1972. Below is a list of December snowfall from 1974-1991 [Normal DCA December Snowfall: 3.4"]:

Year	Snowfall(In.)	Year	Snowfall(In.)	Year	Snowfall(In.)	Year	Snowfall(In.)
1991	0	1986	Trace	1981	1.7	1976	0.6
1990	3.0	1985	0.7	1980	0.3	1975	0.4
1989	9.0	1984	0.3	1979	Trace	1975	0.1
1988	1.2	1983	Trace	1978	Trace		
1987	Trace	1982	6.6	1977	0.2		