

**APRIL 1993:** Unseasonably cool conditions prevailed for a third consecutive month across much of the Washington/Baltimore area. As previously mentioned, all five airports recorded subnormal temperatures with monthly departures reaching  $-2^{\circ}\text{F}$  at both DAA and ADW. At DCA, the temperature for this year failed to reach  $70^{\circ}\text{F}$  until April 15th, the latest such reading in modern history. In addition, there were 22 days with at or below normal temperatures at DCA and only one day (25th) when the mercury topped  $80^{\circ}\text{F}$ . The threat of frost persisted through most of the month with lows dropping into the thirties on several mornings; however, the cool mornings were often followed by very mild afternoons due to the strong spring sun. The temperature at Dulles dropped to  $32^{\circ}\text{F}$  on the morning of the 28th, but quickly warmed to a high  $71^{\circ}\text{F}$  by the afternoon.

April precipitation was once again above normal at all five airports. Portions of Fairfax County, VA and Montgomery County, MD recorded over 5 inches of rain. Heavy rains on the 10th, 16th, and 21st–22nd fell on already-saturated ground, causing some urban and small stream flooding. Year-to-date precipitation totals exceed 20 inches at some locations across the Washington/Baltimore area, and some locations are off to the wettest start to a year in a decade (see cover). Dulles has recorded 18.73" of precipitation during the first four months of 1993, nearly half the annual normal of 40.24" and the wettest January–April period on record. In addition, the March–April period has already produced above normal spring (March–May) precipitation totals at the three major airports. Strong thunderstorms produced four confirmed tornadoes in Fauquier and Loudoun counties, VA on the 16th and another tornado touched down in Warren County, VA on the 26th. Additional thunderstorms on the 1st generated hail and wind gusts to 45 mph at many locations. Meanwhile, morning snow on the 22nd produced slushy conditions across portions of the far northern and western suburbs of Washington.

**APRIL 1993 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:**

Station Location	Temperatures ( $^{\circ}\text{F}$ )					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	64.7	44.8	54.8	56.5	-1.7	81/25	35/7	3.62	2.71	+0.91
Baltimore (BWI)	63.3	41.7	52.5	53.4	-0.9	81/25	30/4	3.68	3.09	+0.59
Dulles (IAD)	65.3	39.8	52.6	52.7	-0.1	82/15	28/7	5.62	3.11	+2.51
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	65.4	40.7	53.1	55	-2	82/15*	30/4	3.99	3.2	+0.8
Andrews AFB (ADW)	64.1	41.8	53.0	55	-2	82/15*	30/7	4.61	3.0	+1.6

Other dates of occurrence: \* April 25th.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY: The first  $90^{\circ}\text{F}+$  day at DCA.**

May is typically the first month of the year with a  $90^{\circ}\text{F}+$  reading in the Washington area. Looking back at the last ten years, there have only been two years (1990 and 1985) when the first  $90^{\circ}\text{F}$  or greater reading occurred before May (coincidentally, in those two years the corresponding Mays observed no  $90^{\circ}\text{F}+$  readings). In addition, there were two years (1989 and 1983) when the first  $90^{\circ}\text{F}$  or greater reading didn't occur until June. Below is a list of the last ten Mays and the corresponding first  $90^{\circ}\text{F}+$  reading at DCA:

<u>Year</u>	<u>First <math>90^{\circ}\text{F}</math> or greater reading</u>
1992	May 23 ( $91^{\circ}\text{F}$ )
1991*	May 12 ( $90^{\circ}\text{F}$ )
1990	April 26 ( $91^{\circ}\text{F}$ )
1989	June 1 ( $94^{\circ}\text{F}$ )
1988	May 30 ( $91^{\circ}\text{F}$ )
1987	May 18 ( $91^{\circ}\text{F}$ )
1986	May 7 ( $91^{\circ}\text{F}$ )
1985	April 19 ( $91^{\circ}\text{F}$ )
1984	May 22 ( $90^{\circ}\text{F}$ )
1983	June 13 ( $92^{\circ}\text{F}$ )

\* Hottest May on record in Washington and monthly record  $90^{\circ}\text{F}+$  readings (11).

– the earliest  $90^{\circ}\text{F}+$  reading in Washington: March 22, 1907 ( $90^{\circ}\text{F}$ )

– the latest  $90^{\circ}\text{F}+$  reading in Washington: July 12, 1979 ( $93^{\circ}\text{F}$ )