

**APRIL 1994:** Relatively dry and unusually warm weather dominated throughout the entire Washington/Baltimore area during April, after several consecutive months of abnormally cold and wet conditions. Above normal readings were observed on 25 days (83%) at DCA, bringing an end to a string of seven consecutive months with subnormal temperatures. Monthly temperature departures exceeded +5°F at the three major airports (see table below) and highs of 70°F or greater were common throughout the month (18 days at DCA). On 8 days the mercury rose to 80°F or higher at DCA (readings more representative of late May), including the first 90°F reading of the year on the 27th, the first such April occurrence since 1990. Last year it took until June 9th at DCA to reach the 90°F mark. BWI observed its first 90°F reading of 1994 (92°F on the 27th) while IAD recorded two such occurrences (on the 26th and 27th). The lack of cold air prevented temperatures from dipping below freezing at DCA and resulted in many locations recording their last frost or freeze by the 8th.

Subnormal precipitation was observed at all five of the local airports with the majority of the monthly total falling during the first two weeks. It was the first month since October 1993 that both DCA and IAD recorded below normal precipitation. In addition, it was the driest month since July 1993 at both DCA and BWI and since August 1992 at IAD. The last 17 days produced only 0.26" of precipitation at DCA, including a ten-day period (17th–26th) when no measurable rainfall ( $\geq 0.01$ "") was recorded, the longest such occurrence since late August – early September. There were no storm events during the month that generated more than an inch of precipitation, the first such occurrence since June 1991 at the three major airports. While most individuals enjoyed the warm and relatively tranquil conditions, allergy sufferers were severely affected by unusually high levels of pollen (mainly trees), the result of a cold, wet winter followed by a rapid warm-up and relatively dry April.

**APRIL 1994 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:**

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Total	Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT		Norm	DepNm	Yr to Date
National (DCA)	72.8	51.2	62.0	56.5	+5.5	90/27	36/8	1.58	2.71	-1.13	18.51
Baltimore (BWI)	71.0	48.2	59.6	53.4	+6.2	92/27	33/8	2.53	3.09	-0.56	19.83
Dulles (IAD)	73.8	46.4	60.1	52.7	+7.4	91/27	29/8	1.71	3.11	-1.40	16.15
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	73.9	46.0	59.9	55	+5	89/26*	33/2#	1.54	3.2	-1.7	18.27
Andrew AFB (ADW)	70.8	47.0	58.9	55	+4	89/27	32/8	1.80	3.0	-1.2	18.47

Other occurrences: \* April 27th; # April 5th.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY: A cooler than normal Spring?**

With one of the warmest Aprils on record in the Washington area officially behind us, our attention now turns to May, the final month of meteorological Spring. Since 1982, a coincidental, oscillating temperature pattern has occurred with three consecutive years of cooler than normal Springs followed by two warmer than normal such periods. Since both 1992 and 1993 recorded subnormal spring average temperatures the question arises will 1994 continue this coincidental pattern? [Normal spring average temperature: 56.8°F]

Spring Season	Average Temperature (°F)	Seasonal Departure (°F)
1994	?	?
1993	54.8	-2.0
1992	54.2	-2.6
1991	60.0	+3.2
1990	57.1	+0.3
1989	55.2	-1.6
1988	55.9	-0.9
1987	56.6	-0.2
1986	57.2	+0.4
1985	59.1	+2.3
1984	53.8	-3.0
1983	55.7	-1.1
1982	56.2	-0.6