

MAY 1994: After a near-record warm April, cool conditions prevailed during May across the Washington/Baltimore area, the fourth month this year with subnormal temperatures. Cool Canadian air frequented the local region on several occasions, producing lows in the thirties at suburban locations late into the month. IAD observed a low of 37°F on the 28th while the mercury dipped to 38°F at DAA. There were no prolonged periods of heat and humidity, and only two days when temperatures reached the 90°F mark (23rd and 24th) at DCA. Two all-day rain events held highs in the fifties on the 4th and the 7th (nearly 20°F below normal). There were 21 days with below normal temperatures at DCA, including 13 consecutive such days (2nd-14th). In addition, the average temperature for the month at DCA was only 1.1°F higher than April 1994, the smallest difference ever recorded between these two particular months in Washington. This small difference is extremely unusual during the springtime when normal monthly temperatures rapidly increase to reflect the transition between winter and summer.

Precipitation was below normal at all five airports for the second consecutive month. DCA observed only 1.56", the lowest May total since 1986. In addition, only slightly more than a third of an inch of fell during the last 23 days of the month. However, portions of both Montgomery County, MD and Fairfax County, VA recorded slightly above normal precipitation due mainly to strong thunderstorms on the evening of the 24th.

MAY 1994 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
Location	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	Dep	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	Dep
National (DCA)	74.1	52.0	63.1	66.4	-3.3	92/23	44/2	1.56	3.66	-2.10
Baltimore (BWI)	72.4	48.8	60.6	63.3	-2.7	90/23	40/14	3.02	3.72	-0.70
Dulles (IAD)	73.5	46.2	59.9	62.2	-2.3	90/23	36/14	3.19	4.02	-0.83
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	73.4	46.1	59.8	64	-4	92/23	37/2*	1.63	3.8	-2.2
Andrew AFB (ADW)	71.5	47.4	59.4	64	-5	90/23	38/14	2.06	4.0	-1.9

Other dates of occurrence: * May 14th.

SPRING (MARCH-MAY) 1994: Spring was marked by near to above normal temperatures and wetter than normal conditions across the Washington/Baltimore area. Despite cooler than normal conditions in both March and May, unseasonable April heat more than compensated for the temperature deficiencies incurred in the first and last month of Spring. Most of the subnormal temperatures in March were the result of extended periods of cloud cover and precipitation. There were 20 March days (65%) with at or below normal readings at DCA, but included only 9 days with at or below freezing temperatures. Precipitation was abundant during March with monthly totals exceeding 8 inches throughout most of the local area. It was the wettest March this century in Washington (8.45") and the wettest such month ever observed at BWI, DAA, and ADW. April conditions were just the opposite of those in March, as relatively dry and unusually warm weather enveloped the local region. There were 25 April days (83%) with at or above normal temperatures at DCA, including a string of 12 consecutive such days (10th-21st). The abnormal warmth produced the second warmest April on record at DCA (warmest at both BWI and IAD). In addition, the three major airports all recorded monthly temperature departures above +5°F as well as the first 90°F+ reading of 1994. Precipitation was rather scant during April, with less than 2 inches recorded at 4 of the 5 airports and included a ten-day period (17th-26th) without measurable precipitation at DCA. Subnormal temperatures returned to the local area in May, producing the second coolest May at DCA in 21 years and the coolest such month at both BWI and IAD since 1973. There were 21 days with at or below normal temperatures and only two days when the mercury reached the 90°F mark. Precipitation fell short of normal for the second consecutive month at all five airports. It was the second straight month DCA observed less than 2 inches of precipitation; however, the January-May total (20.07") is still more than 5 inches above normal.

SPRING 1994 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Mth-Day			Precipitation (In)		
Location	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	Dep	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	Dep	Snow
National (DCA)	67.1	46.5	56.8	56.8	0	92/5-23	24/3-17	11.59	9.54	+2.05	4.0
Baltimore (BWI)	65.3	43.5	54.4	53.7	+0.7	92/4-27	23/3-17	14.19	10.19	+4.00	3.9
Dulles (IAD)	66.9	41.6	54.2	52.7	+1.5	91/4-27	20/3-12	11.61	10.30	+1.31	7.9
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	67.3	41.5	54.4	54	0	92/5-23	22/3-12	11.46	10.7	+0.8	3.0
Andrew AFB (ADW)	65.0	42.8	53.9	54	0	90/5-23	23/3-17	12.69	10.6	+2.1	2.2

LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER (June-August): What's in store for '94?

Now that Spring has ended with near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation, our attention shifts to the Summer. Below is a list of some of the summer extremes recorded since 1871 in Washington as well as the seasonal normals.

Ten Warmest	Ten Coolest	Ten Summers with most	Ten Wettest	Ten Driest
Avg. T (°F)	Avg. T (°F)	90°F or greater readings	Total Prec. (In.)	Total Prec. (In.)
1980 80.0	1907 71.4	1988 55 days	1906 27.05	1966 4.62
1991 79.4	1903 71.6	1966 54 days	1905 24.22	1962 4.62
1993 79.3	1927 71.7	1980 52 days	1878 23.59	1943 4.66
1987 79.2	1886 72.3	1872 49 days	1933 20.50	1964 5.06
1983 79.1	1904 72.6	1993 47 days	1969 19.88	1894 5.38
1988 79.0	1891 72.7	1983 46 days]	1886 19.81	1893 5.57
1978 78.9	1889 73.0	1943 46 days]	1942 19.65	1954 6.09
1973 78.7	1912 73.2	1991 45 days	1955 19.39	1930 6.11
1981 78.6	1897 73.3	1987 41 days]	1928 19.24	1957 6.51
1966 78.5]	1915 73.6]	1970 41 days]	1948 18.75	1932 6.63
1943 78.5]	1884 73.6]	1977 39 days]		
1872 78.5]		1900 39 days]		
		1873 39 days]		

Summer Normals at DCA (Normals period 1961-1990): Average Temperature 78.1°F

Total Precipitation 11.09"