

APRIL 1995: Once again, subnormal precipitation dominated the monthly weather highlights across the local area. Much like March, most of April's precipitation total fell during one or two rain events. On the evening of the 12th, heavy showers (accompanied by thunder in some areas) produced more than half an inch of rain across the Washington/Baltimore area. These rains marked the first significant precipitation since March 8th, when nearly two inches of rain fell. The second major rain event occurred on the 30th, when showers once again generated over 0.50" of precipitation across most of the region. April did feature numerous days with showers, but most events yielded less than 0.10" of rain. In fact, there were 18 days with at least a trace of precipitation at DCA, yet the monthly total was only 1.89", with 70% of that falling on the 12th and 30th (0.69" and 0.63", respectively). It was the third consecutive month with subnormal precipitation at DCA, IAD, DAA, and ADW and the seventh consecutive such month at BWI. In addition, since September 1994 only one month (January 1995) yielded above normal precipitation at DCA (see graph on cover).

Monthly temperatures averaged near normal at most locations; however, there were a few notable daily departures. The first 90°F+ reading of 1995 was observed at four of the five airports (DCA, BWI, IAD & ADW) on the 19th. This marked the earliest date (tied with 4/19/85) for a 90°F+ reading at DCA since 1977. Highs more typical of late May were also observed on 4 other days (8th, 9th, 21st and 22nd) as readings soared into the eighties at most locations. On the flip side, there were several cool days when maximum temperatures only reached the fifties, including a high of 50°F on the 24th at DCA. Lows generally averaged near normal most of the month, but did drop into the thirties on the first 6 days, including a subfreezing reading (30°F) at DCA on the morning of the 5th (the latest 32°F or lower reading since April 13, 1990).

APRIL 1995 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation(In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm	Yr to Date
National (DCA)	67.1	45.5	56.3	56.5	-0.2	91/19	30/5	1.89	2.71	-0.82	8.96
Baltimore (BWI)	66.8	43.5	55.2	53.4	+1.8	90/19	30/1	1.92	3.09	-1.17	8.79
Wallops (IAD)	66.0	39.1	52.6	52.7	-0.1	90/19	24/1	2.14	3.11	-0.97	9.51
Fort Belvoir (DAA)	67.0	41.1	54.1	55	-1	89/19	29/3*	2.15	3.20	-1.0	10.28
Andrews AFB (ADW)	68.6	44.1	56.4	55	+1	92/19	30/5#	1.85	3.00	-1.2	12.34

Other occurrences: * April 6th and 15th; # April 6th.

LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY: A Dry Spring?

With subnormal precipitation in both March and April, the Washington/Baltimore area is off to one of the driest springs (meteorological) in nearly 10 years (since 1987 at both DCA & BWI and 1985 at IAD). Precipitation deficits for the 2-month period range from slightly under 2 inches at DCA to nearly 3 inches at IAD. With this in mind, our attention now focuses on May. Will it, too, bring below normal precipitation and therefore a dry spring? Below is a look at the ten driest March - April periods at BWI and IAD (14 driest at DCA) along with the corresponding May and spring precipitation totals. [Normals periods: DCA and BWI: 1961-1990 and IAD: 1963-1990]

<u>DCA</u> Precipitation (In.)					<u>BWI</u> Precipitation (In.)					<u>IAD</u> Precipitation (In.)				
Year	March	April	May	Spring	Year	March	April	May	Spring	Year	March	April	May	Spring
1985	1.88	0.03	5.79	7.70	1985	2.37	0.39	6.01	8.77	1985	1.70	0.33	4.82	6.85
1915	1.07	0.90	2.18	4.15	1987	0.99	1.86	4.16	7.01	1969	2.04	1.34	0.99	4.37*
1986	0.74	1.98	0.75	3.47*	1981	1.14	2.04	3.63	6.81	1995	1.39	2.14	?	?
1926	2.07	0.79	2.22	5.08	1969	1.63	1.80	1.46	4.89	1981	0.99	3.05	4.36	8.40
1885	1.53	1.71	2.85	6.09	1976	2.23	1.27	5.03	8.53	1986	1.12	3.01	1.19	5.32
1969	1.60	1.71	1.20	4.51	1986	0.96	2.64	0.37	3.97*	1978	2.85	1.62	5.05	9.52
1947	1.02	2.48	4.44	7.94	1971	1.90	1.75	6.12	9.77	1968	3.36	1.29	5.90	10.55
1946	1.67	1.93	6.99	10.59	1995	2.12	1.92	?	?	1988	2.31	2.35	10.26	14.92
1976	2.51	1.17	3.57	7.25	1957	2.27	2.46	0.55	5.28	1971	2.27	2.56	8.47	13.30
1945	0.64	3.13	3.06	6.83	1988	2.35	2.44	4.37	9.16	1974	3.09	2.14	3.78	9.01
1987	1.54	2.28	2.54	6.36										
1938	2.23	1.67	3.51	7.41										
1971	1.93	2.10	6.80	10.83										
1995	2.14	1.89	?	?										

May Normal Precipitation: 3.22" May Normal Precipitation: 4.02"
Spring Normal Precipitation: 10.19" Spring Normal Precipitation: 10.30"

May Normal Precipitation: 3.66"
Spring Normal Precipitation: 9.54"

* denotes Driest Spring on Record