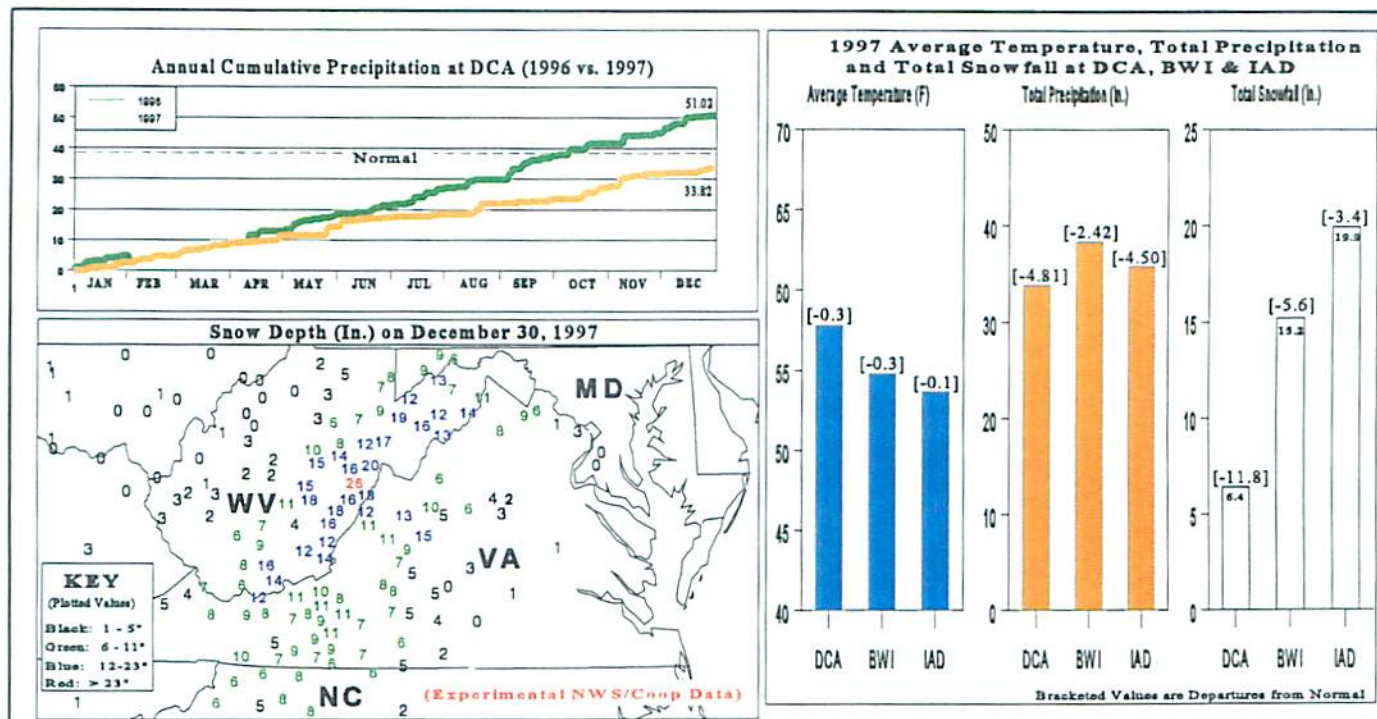




**PRECIPITATION SUMMARY AND TEMPERATURE OBSERVATIONS  
FOR THE WASHINGTON, DC & BALTIMORE, MD AREA**

**DECEMBER 1997 & ANNUAL REVIEW**

**DECEMBER: RELATIVELY MILD WITH SUBNORMAL PRECIPITATION & SNOWFALL**  
**1997: VERY MILD WINTER, SUMMER DROUGHT, AND FREQUENT WEEKEND**  
**AUTUMN RAINS**



**HIGHLIGHTS  
MONTHLY**

- Above normal temperatures with subnormal precipitation across the Washington/Baltimore area;
- Ninth month of last 12 with subnormal precipitation at both DCA & IAD;
- Driest December since 1988 at DCA, since 1989 at IAD (10<sup>th</sup> driest overall);
- A strong storm system on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> generated the first inch of snow across portions of the local area (1.8" at IAD) and nearly two feet in the central Appalachians (see graphic above);
- Above average December snowfall at IAD (4.7"), but eighth consecutive such month with subnormal snowfall at DCA (0.1").

**ANNUAL**

- Near normal temperatures with subnormal precipitation and snowfall across the local area (see graphic above);
- Only 4 months (January, February, March & December) with above normal temperatures at DCA;
- Only 52 days with lows at or below 32°F at DCA, the third fewest ever recorded in Washington;
- 42 days with 90°F+ highs, including the latest such reading (October 6<sup>th</sup>) ever recorded at DCA;
- 5 days with 100°F+ highs at DCA, including an all-time record high of 105°F on August 17<sup>th</sup> at the airport;
- Only 3 months (March, October & November) with above normal precipitation at DCA;
- Subnormal snowfall at all three major airports;
- 1997 precipitation totals at the three major airports 20"-24" less than in 1996 (see graphic above).

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