

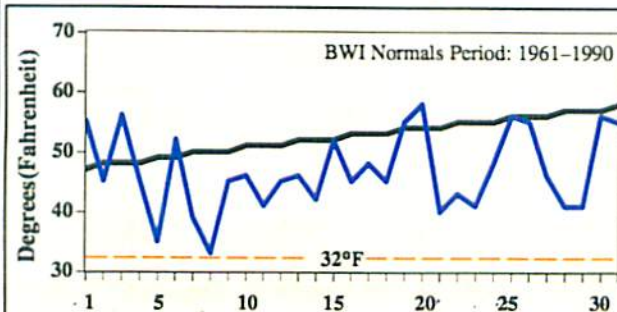
**PRECIPITATION SUMMARY AND TEMPERATURE OBSERVATIONS
FOR THE WASHINGTON, DC & BALTIMORE, MD AREA**

MAY 1997 & SPRING REVIEW

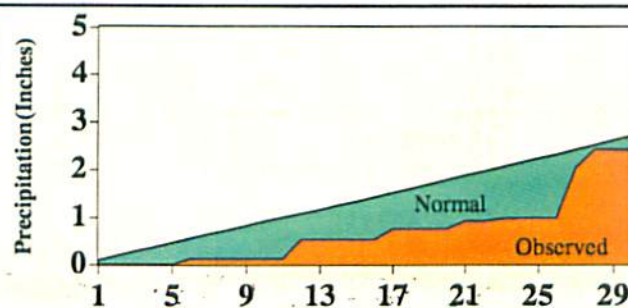
MAY: UNUSUALLY COOL WITH SUBNORMAL PRECIPITATION

SPRING: SUBNORMAL TEMPERATURES WITH NEAR NORMAL PRECIPITATION

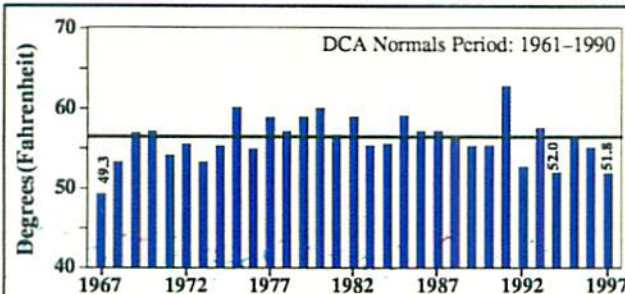
May 1997 Daily Minimum Temperatures at BWI



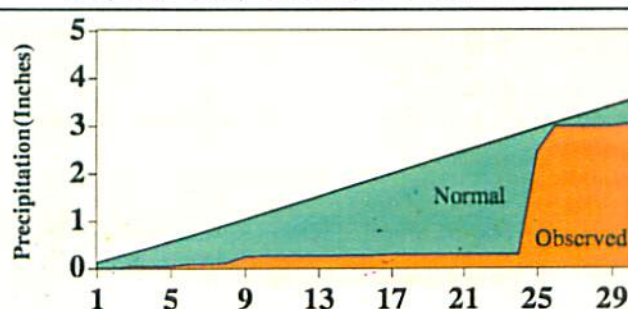
April 1997 Daily Cumulative Precipitation at DCA



May Average Minimum Temperatures at DCA 1967-97



May 1997 Daily Cumulative Precipitation at DCA



**HIGHLIGHTS
MONTHLY**

- Subnormal temperatures and precipitation across the Washington/Baltimore area;
- Second coolest May on record at BWI and fourth at IAD;
- Lowest May average minimum temperature in 30 years at DCA (see graph above);
- 22 days (71%) with below normal temperatures at DCA;
- Only 6 days with readings at or above 80°F at DCA (4 at both BWI and IAD);
- First 90°F+ reading at all five airports on the 19th with readings of 96°F at DCA, 93°F at BWI, 92°F at IAD, 97°F at DAA and 91°F at ADW;
- Subfreezing low observed at IAD (31°F) on the 8th;
- Less than 1/3 of an inch of precipitation at DCA during the 1st-24th;
- Soaking rains on the 25th-26th dumped over 2 inches at the three major airports;
- Thunderstorms spawned a weak tornado (F0) in Arlington, VA on the 25th, causing some property damage; thunderstorms on the 1st produced pea-size hail that accumulated in some areas.

SEASONAL (MARCH-MAY)

- Subnormal Spring temperatures (seasonal departures of about -1.5°F at the three major airports) with near normal precipitation across the local area;
- 55 days (60%) with at or below normal temperatures at DCA
- Highs in the seventies from March 27th-30th, followed by measurable snow in northeastern Maryland and snow showers across the Washington area on the 31st;
- Coolest April in more than ten years across the Washington/Baltimore area.
- Similar precipitation scenarios in both April and May with most of each month's precipitation total falling during the last week (see graphics above).

Andrew H. Horvitz, Office of Meteorology/NWS, (301) 713-1867
Joseph A. Harrison, Climate Prediction Center/NCEP/NWS, (301) 763-4670

(for more details turn over)