

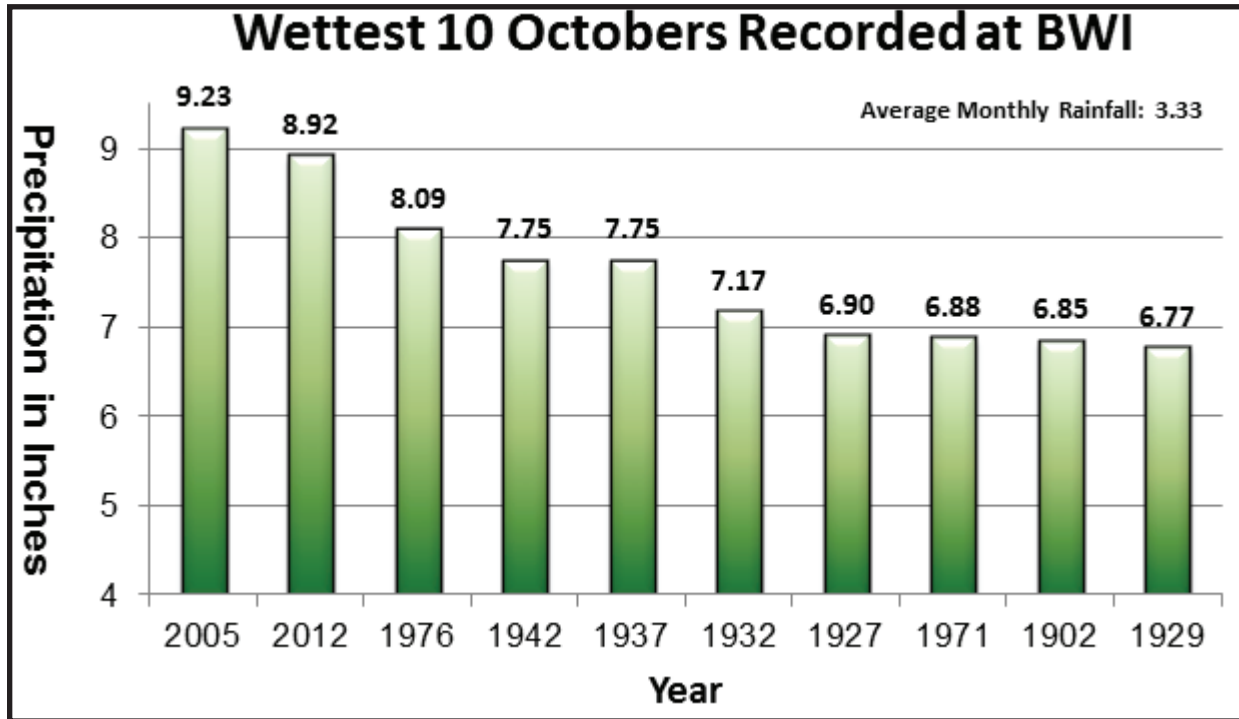


PRESTO

PREcipitation Summary and Temperature Observations
For the Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD Area



OCTOBER 2012: Above Average Temperatures; Wet Month Thanks to Super Storm Sandy



October Highlights

- ☛ Above normal temperatures at DCA, BWI and IAD: +1.5°F at DCA, +2.2°F at BWI and +0.8°F at IAD
- ☛ BWI recorded 21 consecutive months of above normal readings, 12 at DCA
- ☛ First freeze of season on 13th at IAD, with record low of 30°F
- ☛ Post Tropical Hurricane Sandy resulted in major impacts to metro area from 28th-30th and especially on the 29th. Many businesses, as well as Federal Government and schools close, up to 200,000 lost power (according to press reports); area deluged with 4"-7" rainfall and tropical storm force winds to 60 mph.
- ☛ Locations closer to Chesapeake Bay in Maryland measured greater rainfall and stronger wind gusts including 9.50" near Churchton, (Anne Arundel County), 8.51" near Bryans Road (Charles County) and 8.40" near Dundalk (Baltimore County)
- ☛ In Virginia, highest totals included Purcellville 7.89" (Loudoun County) and 6.25" near city of Fairfax (Fairfax County)
- ☛ Moderate flooding occurred on the Potomac and coastal flooding occurred near the Bay; numerous roads were flooded forcing road closures
- ☛ All three major airports broke rainfall records on the 29th: DCA, 3.85"; BWI, 5.51" (wettest October day on record) and IAD, 4.25"
- ☛ Baltimore's sea level pressure dropped to 964 millibars, lowest on record, while both DCA and IAD recorded its second lowest value and lowest since the March 13, 1993 "Storm of the Century"
- ☛ Strongest wind gusts were near the Bay including 79 mph near Highland Beach and 75 mph near Piney Point, MD. DCA measured 61 mph and BWI 60 mph
- ☛ Heavy snowfall across portions of West Virginia including 24.0" near Kitzmiller (Mineral County) and 22.3" in Bayard (Grant County)

October 2012

Temperatures: The consecutive streak of above normal temperatures continued at the three major area airports reaching 21 months at BWI and 12 at DCA. Positive departures were +1.5°F at DCA, +2.2°F at BWI and +0.8°F at IAD. Maximum readings reached at or above 80°F from the 3rd-5th and on the 24th. DCA's 84°F on the 24th equaled an all-time maximum for the date.

In sharp contrast, chilly conditions prevailed on the 7th and 8th with highs only in the 50s. BWI's high of 54°F on the 8th equaled a record low maximum for the date, while IAD set new record low maximum on the 7th at 52°F and on the 8th at 51°F. The season's first freeze occurred in some areas on the 13th, including at IAD, which dropped to 30°F, a record low for the date.

Precipitation: Well above normal rainfall engulfed the region in large part due to Post Tropical Hurricane Sandy: dubbed Super Storm Sandy. Monthly totals were 5.82" (+2.42") at DCA, 8.92" (+5.59") at BWI and 8.87" (+5.62") at IAD. Sandy made landfall near Atlantic City, NJ, on the 29th, creating a devastating storm surge along with hurricane force wind gusts north of its center along the New Jersey, New York and southern New England coastlines. Locally, while the storm caused major impacts, conditions were less severe. The area was deluged with a general 4"-7" of rain and tropical storm force winds to 60 mph. Locations closer to Chesapeake Bay in Maryland received greater rainfall and stronger wind gusts. Total rainfall reached 9.50" near Churchton, (Anne Arundel County), 8.51" near Bryans Road (Charles County) and 8.40" near Dundalk (Baltimore County). In Virginia, highest totals included Purcellville 7.89" (Loudoun County) and 6.25" near Fairfax (Fairfax County). Numerous roads were flooded forcing road closures. Moderate flooding occurred on the Potomac and coastal flooding occurred near the Bay. All three major airports broke rainfall records on the 29th: DCA 3.85", BWI 5.51" (wettest October day on record) and 4.25" at IAD. Baltimore's sea level pressure dropped to 964 millibars, lowest on record; both DCA and IAD recorded their second lowest values: 969.5 mb at DCA, 971.5 mb at IAD, and their lowest pressure since the March 13, 1993, "Storm of the Century." The strongest wind gusts were near the Bay, including 79 mph near Highland Beach and 75 mph near Piney Point, MD. DCA measured 61 mph and BWI 60 mph. Meanwhile, temperatures were cold enough to result in heavy snowfall across portions of West Virginia, including 24.0" near Kitzmiller (Mineral County) and 22.3" in Bayard (Grant County).

A significant storm impacted the area at the beginning of the month. On the 2nd, heavy rainfall flooded numerous roads across the Maryland suburbs. Rainfall totals included 2.55" in Reisterstown (Baltimore County) with IAD setting a daily record of 2.35".

Two severe weather events also occurred in October. On the 18th, 1.0" hail struck Wolfsville, MD (Frederick County) and Kings Crossing, VA (Shenandoah County). Then on the 22nd, northern MD was impacted with severe weather including an EF-0 tornado near Jarrettsville (Harford County) with winds to 80 mph resulting in tree and minor property damage.

October 2012 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

| Location | Station Temperatures (°F) | | | | | Extreme/Day | | Precipitation (Inches) | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------|------|------|--------|-------------|-------|------------------------|------|--------|------------|
| | AvMx | AvMn | AvgT | NmiT | DepNml | Max | MinT | Total | Nml | DepNml | Yr to Date |
| National (DCA) | 68.9 | 53.0 | 61.0 | 59.5 | +1.5 | 84/24 | 41/13 | 5.82 | 3.40 | +2.42 | 28.82 |
| Baltimore (BWI) | 67.3 | 49.3 | 58.3 | 56.1 | +2.2 | 81/5,24 | 35/13 | 8.92 | 3.33 | +5.59 | 33.60 |
| Dulles (IAD) | 66.8 | 46.7 | 56.8 | 56.0 | +0.8 | 81/5,24 | 30/13 | 8.87 | 3.25 | +5.62 | 31.63 |

Looking Ahead to November: DCA did not record 1.0" or greater of snowfall during the 2011-12 winter season. The last inch of snow at DCA was during *Commutemageddon* on January 26, 2011. The earliest snow (>1") in Washington, D.C., fell on October 30, 1925, (2.2") and October 20, 1940, (1.4"). The earliest measurable snow ever recorded at DCA fell on October 10, 1979, (0.3"). DCA recorded less than 1" of snow during the 1997-98 and 1972-73 seasons. The first inch has occurred at DCA on December 5th on 4 of the past 10 years.

Snow Season: First 1" or Greater of Snowfall at DCA

| | | | |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------|------------|
| 2011-2012 | <i>Did Not Occur</i> | 2006-2007 | January 21 |
| 2010-2011 | December 16 | 2005-2006 | December 5 |
| 2009-2010 | December 5 | 2004-2005 | January 19 |
| 2008-2009 | January 27 | 2003-2004 | December 4 |
| 2007-2008 | December 5 | 2002-2003 | December 5 |