

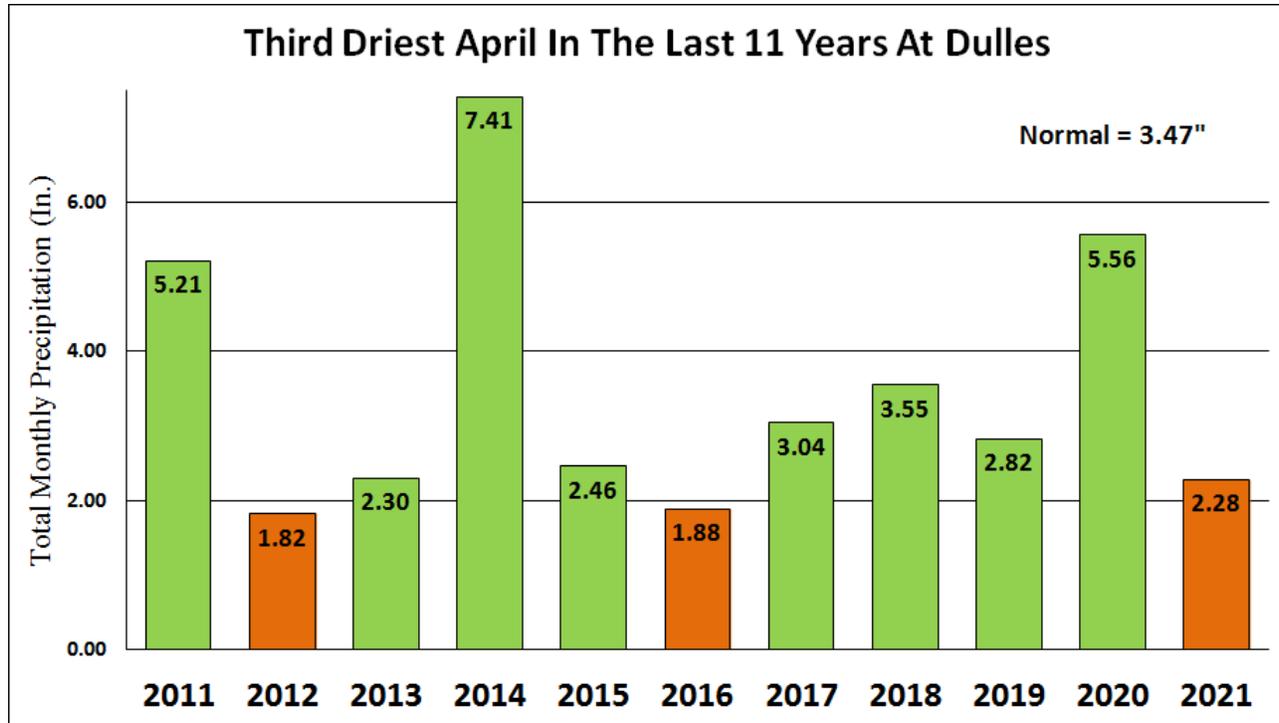


# PRESTO

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



## APRIL 2021: Large Temperature Swings, Quite Dry, Damaging Wind Event at Month's End



### April Highlights

- ☁ Near normal temperatures\*: DCA 58.2°F (+0.0); BWI 56.5°F (+1.5); IAD 55.5°F (+0.5)
- ☁ Late season freezes recorded at IAD on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ☁ Unseasonably warm on the 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, with IAD tying record highs on the 28<sup>th</sup> (88°F) and 29<sup>th</sup> (maxi-min 65°F)
- ☁ Below normal precipitation\*: DCA 2.20" (-1.01); BWI 2.07" (-1.32); IAD 2.28" (-1.19)
- ☁ Third driest April since 2010 at DCA and IAD, as both sites finished with slightly more rain than their 2012 and 2016 counterparts
- ☁ Late season snow reaches the MD Piedmont, accumulating at higher elevations: 0.3" near both Damascus (Montgomery Co.) and Millers (Carroll Co.), with 0.1" of graupel at Pimlico (Baltimore City)
- ☁ 21<sup>st</sup>: intense convective straight line winds, estimated at 90 mph, hit Clements (St. Mary's Co.), MD where a tree was snapped, a barn roof partially ripped off, and 10 other large trees were blown down
- ☁ 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>: widespread severe synoptic wind event brings gusts of 58+ mph to 17 counties; over 100 reports of downed trees, including 1 fatality near Rawley Springs (Rockingham Co.), VA and 3 injuries in North Bethesda (Montgomery Co.), MD; as well as reports of downed power lines, including a fire in Keymar (Carroll Co.), MD

\*PRESTO is now using the new NCEI 30-yr temperature and precipitation normals (1991-2020), released on 5/4/2021

## April 2021

**Temperatures:** Overall near normal, DCA 58.2°F (+0.0); BWI 56.5°F (+1.5); IAD 55.5°F (+0.5), despite several anomalous days due to a generally amplified pattern -- all three airports had at least 8 days average 10°F +/- normal. The 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> brought a chilly start, with only the mid 40s reached on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, while DCA and BWI probably recorded their last freezes on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, respectively. Very warm conditions followed on the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, IAD set a new record maxi-min of 60°F on the 11<sup>th</sup>. A seasonable mid-month preceded a Canadian blast with very cool mornings on the 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, ranging from the mid-30s inside the beltways to a hard freeze for some of the VA Piedmont, with IAD dropping to 30°F and 32°F on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, readings rose by 45-50 degrees for sites that started near 40°F across the mountains and some of the Piedmont. The month then ended with near-record warm mid-to-upper 80s for nearly all sites on the 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, with IAD tying record highs on the 28<sup>th</sup> (**88°F**) and 29<sup>th</sup> (maxi-min of **65°F**).

**Precipitation and Severe:** Overall below normal precip, DCA 2.20" (-1.01); BWI 2.07" (-1.32); IAD 2.28" (-1.19), as April showers were numerous with most sites measuring rain on at least 10 days, however not significant, as the 3 airports saw only two events total over 0.50". Since 2010, it was the third driest April at both DCA and IAD, and the 4<sup>th</sup> driest at BWI. Percent of normal values ranged from 61-69% at the 3 airports.

The first of the two larger rainfalls occurred during the evening-overnight of the 8<sup>th</sup>, with many reports over 0.75" south/west of Culpepper, VA, including just over **1.00"** west of Charlottesville (Albemarle Co.), VA. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, scattered afternoon storms brought several reports of large hail, including golf-ball sized (**1.75"**) at the Petersburg High School (Grant Co.), VA; before a few strong late-day storms brought penny hail (0.75") to Chantilly (Loudoun Co.), VA. A rogue storm that night brought upwards of 1.00" of rain across Harford and Cecil Co., MD.

The following day, **1.77"** was recorded at Mustoe (Highland Co.), VA, **1.51"** near Falling Waters (Berkeley Co.), WV, and 1.15" at Hancock (Washington Co.) and near Thurmont (Frederick Co.), MD, with lighter totals elsewhere. The 11<sup>th</sup>'s evening rain totaled upwards of 1.00" along MD's northern Piedmont, including **1.31"** near Cecilton (Cecil Co.), MD; with downpours closing roads in Harford and Cecil Co. The showers of the 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, totaled 0.90-1.80" for most.

On the 19<sup>th</sup>, **1.23"** fell near St. Mary's City, MD. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, an early afternoon storm hit Clements (St. Mary's Co.), MD, where 90 mph winds snapped a tree, ripped off part of a barn's tin roof, and blew over 10 other large trees, while the supporting system brought strong wind gusts to the region. The 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> saw the other larger rainfall, with **1.56"** near Huntingtown (Calvert Co.), MD, **1.29"** at Stafford Airport, VA, and **1.01"** in Friendship Heights (Northwest), DC.

A potent jet streak brought a widespread and deadly severe synoptic wind event from late on the 29<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>, with **58+ mph** wind gusts in 17 counties, including **66 mph** in MD at both Forest Park (Washington Co.), and along the Francis Scott Key Bridge (Baltimore City). There were scores of downed trees, with **1 fatality** near Rowley Springs (Rockingham Co.), VA when a large branch fell on a vehicle, and **3 injuries** in North Bethesda (Montgomery Co.), MD from an accident when a tree fell on I-495. Several power lines were downed by damaging winds, including a fire in Keymar (Carroll Co.), MD.

As for snow, the month started with it falling through pre-dawn on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, with light accumulations in the mountains, as well as 0.3" near both Damascus (Montgomery Co.) and Millers (Carroll Co.), 0.1" of graupel at Pimlico (Baltimore City), and a trace across northern portions of the District. The highest mountains again saw isolated accumulating snow, under an inch, on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

### April 2021 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)			
	Av Max	Av Min	Avg T	Nml T	ΔNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml P	ΔNml	Snow
National (DCA)	68.7	47.6	58.2	58.2	+0.0	88/28	31/2	2.20	3.21	-1.01	0.0
Baltimore (BWI)	67.9	45.0	56.5	55.0	+1.5	89/28	29/3	2.07	3.39	-1.32	T
Dulles (IAD)	67.6	43.4	55.5	55.0	+0.5	88/28	24/3	2.28	3.47	-1.19	T

**Looking Ahead:** The late April warmth tied a couple record highs, yet no sites rose past the upper 80s. So when will the region hit 90°F for the first time this year? While the third week of May is normal, early-mid June is not uncommon. Below are the dates of the first 90+ day for each of the last 10 years at DCA and IAD.

Site	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
DCA	May 26	May 28	Apr 10	May 13	May 12	Jun 11	Apr 29	May 2	May 20	Jun 3
IAD	May 26	May 28	May 30	May 13	Jun 11	Jun 11	May 17	May 3	May 26	Jun 3
<i>Earliest/Nml/Latest ... WASHINGTON: 3-22-1907/May 16/7-12-1979 ... DULLES: 4-6-2010/May 19/7-14-1972</i>										