

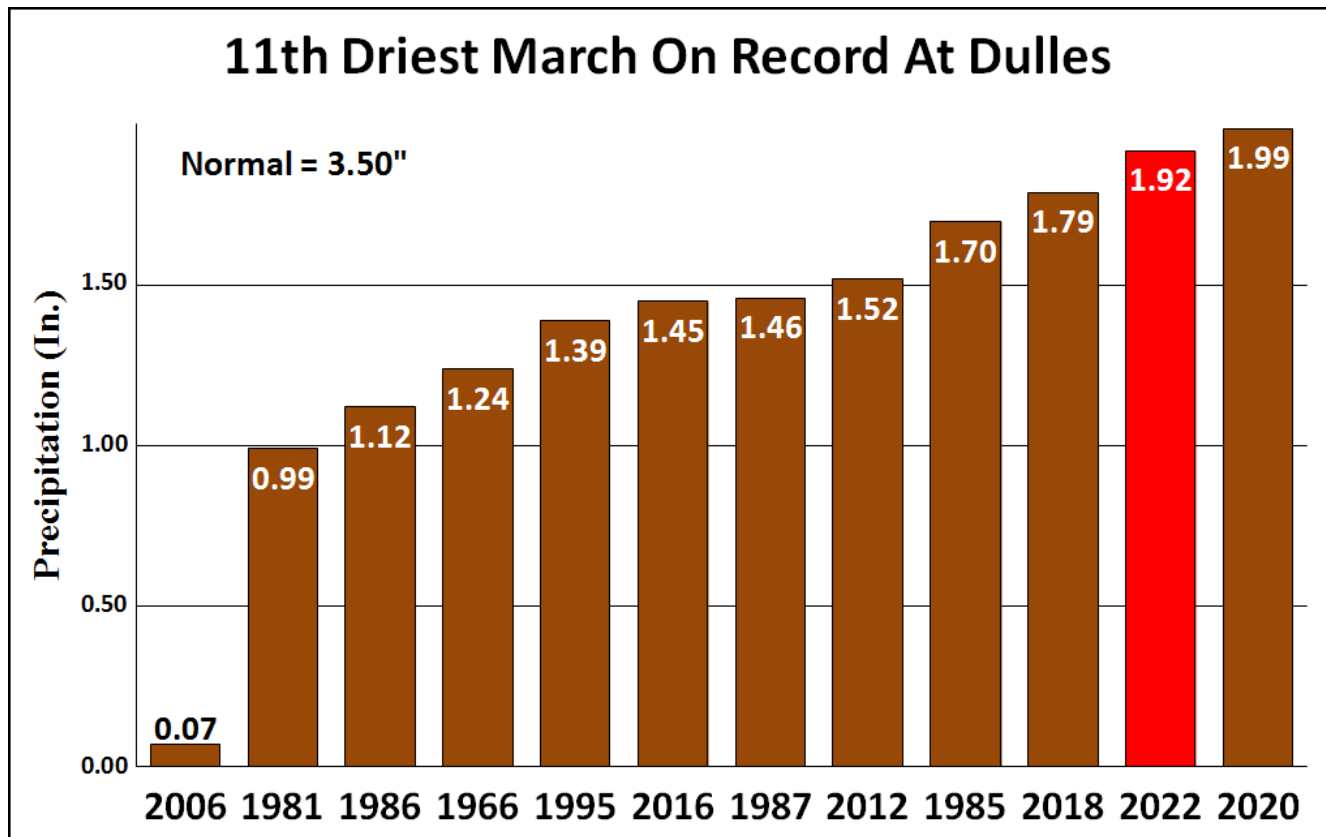


# PRESTO

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



## MARCH 2022: Warm & Generally Dry, Light Snow on 12<sup>th</sup>; 31<sup>st</sup>'s Storms Spawn Two EF-0 Tornadoes in Fairfax County, VA



### March Highlights

- Well above normal **temperatures**: DCA 47.6°F (+2.8°); BWI 47.8°F (+3.5°); IAD 44.2°F (+3.9°)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Record highs of **78°F** at both BWI and IAD; with IAD also recording a record high minimum at **50°F**
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Record highs set: **80°F** at DCA, **79°F** at BWI, and **77°F** at IAD; with a record high low also at IAD of **51°F**
- 19<sup>th</sup> – IAD set a record high of **77°F**, while DCA and IAD both set record high minimum at **57°F**
- Below normal **precipitation**: DCA 2.77" (-0.73"); BWI 3.13" (-0.88"); IAD 1.92" (-1.58")
- 12<sup>th</sup> – A general 3-5" snowfall N&W of the metros with ~1" or less near DC/Baltimore and S&E. Wind gusts near 50 mph and blowing snow
- 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> – These eight windy days each had gusts measured at over 40 mph at DCA, BWI and IAD. Wind gusts locally 50+ mph were also recorded on these days.
- 26-28<sup>th</sup> – Several rounds of upslope flow produced **12"+** snowfall in many mountain locations of MD, VA and WV
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Severe thunderstorms with two **EF-0 tornadoes**: in Fairfax County, VA: Centreville and Tysons Corner

Author: Wayne Presnell; Editor: Monica Parker; Contributors: Alexander McGinnis, Andy Horvitz

NWS Analyze Forecast and Support Office, contact: [Wayne.Presnell@noaa.gov](mailto:Wayne.Presnell@noaa.gov); PRESTO online at: <http://www.weather.gov/publications/presto>

## March 2022

**March Temperatures:** March was a warm month, with all stations observing well above normal temperatures. Deepest late-winter type troughs were persistently over the western US, more often promoting ridging, or at least southwesterly flow into the Mid-Atlantic, especially earlier in the month. The record warmth on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> was most anomalous, although unseasonably mild conditions were more persistent throughout the 15<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>.

**March Precipitation:** Overall dry, with DCA and BWI observing ~80% of normal precipitation, while IAD totaled only 55% of normal. This lacking was more pronounced farther west, where Martinsburg, WV and Hagerstown, MD's readings were nearly 2.00" below normal. However, light measurable precipitation was somewhat frequent, with the majority of the region reporting 0.01"+ on 14 days, especially during the 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> and most of the month's final 9 days.

Appreciable rainfall totals of 1.00" or more were isolated. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, nearly 1.00" fell on Fredericksburg, VA and east, with **1.10"** in Leonardtown (St. Mary's Co.), MD. The 12<sup>th</sup>'s reports were generally modest, although **1.07"** was observed in Ridge (St. Mary's Co.), MD. The 17<sup>th</sup> saw the heaviest rainfall of the month (only in southern MD), with **2.40"** observed at Ancient Oaks (St. Mary's Co.). The 23<sup>rd</sup>'s widespread rain included **1.81"** at North Garden (Albemarle Co.), VA and **1.01"** in Adams Morgan (Northwest), DC. The month ended with scattered heavier rain north of Washington, DC as **1.18"** was reported in MD from near both Kensington (Montgomery Co.) and Taneytown (Carroll Co.). Monthly precipitation totals approached normal levels over the southern MD Coastal Plain, amid several reports of 4-5".

Accumulating snow on the 12<sup>th</sup> ranged from a thin coating across the Coastal Plain to generally 2-6" over the MD Piedmont, with **6.1"** reported near both Clarksburg (Montgomery Co.) and Thurmont (Frederick Co.). This event increased seasonal snowfall totals to **13.2"** (0.5" below normal) at DCA, **14.4"** (4.9" below) at BWI, and **15.8"** (5.1" below) at IAD. These were the second-greatest totals of the last 6 seasons for both DCA and IAD (since 2015-16), trailing only 2018-19's above-normal measurements. Winter weather was otherwise mainly tame, with non-accumulating snow showers falling over most of the region through much of the 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, while upslope snows brought 10-12"+ in many mountain locations of MD, VA and WV.

**March Severe & Miscellaneous Weather:** On the 7<sup>th</sup>, storms downed numerous trees and power lines in Cumberland (Allegany Co.), MD, as well as several trees across northern MD, before a second squall brought isolated severe gusts to southern MD, with **69 mph** measured on the Thomas Johnson Bridge (Calvert Co.). On the 26<sup>th</sup>, scattered strong storms brought a few reports of marginally-severe maritime gusts along the Potomac River.

March then ended like a lion on the 31<sup>st</sup>, when **two EF-0 tornadoes** briefly touched down in Fairfax County, VA just after dark. The first impacted a residential portion of Centreville, with estimated wind gusts of **85 mph**, maximum width of 30 yards and track length of 80 yards, and damage confined to uprooting/snapping several pine trees. The second **EF-0** had estimated winds of **85 mph**, maximum width of 50 yards and track length of 200 yards, causing minor damage to two gas stations just northwest of Tysons Corner Mall. Other severe events included winds downing trees from the mountains to the MD Piedmont, with 3 reports from Carroll County of trees falling on homes and/or roof damage from winds. Several reports of **1.00" hail** included enough to cover the ground in Pendleton County, WV.

There were also many windy days in March, with frequent wind gusts over 40-50 mph: the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>. DCA recorded a peak gust of 55 mph from the south-southwest on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

### March 2022 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	Year To Date	Snow	Season
National (DCA)	60.5	40.4	50.4	47.6	+2.8	80/7	21/13	2.77	3.50	-0.73	8.78	0.9	13.2
Baltimore (BWI)	59.1	36.4	47.8	44.3	+3.5	79/7	20/13	3.13	4.01	-0.88	9.71	0.4	14.4
Dulles (IAD)	59.9	36.2	48.1	44.2	+3.9	78/6	19/13	1.92	3.50	-1.58	8.12	3.5	15.8

**Looking Ahead:** La Nina conditions in the equatorial Pacific are predicted to continue into this summer. The current La Nina produced a warm and dry March, but how will it affect April?

16 of the 72 years since 1950 have seen La Nina conditions present through both March and April, during which April at DCA, BWI, and IAD generally saw below normal temperatures and below normal precipitation (a cool, dry month).

Out of these 16 Aprils, both DCA and BWI observed **8 with below normal temperatures** (half the cases), while **below normal precipitation** frequency was **11** at DCA and **13** at BWI. Since Dulles' records only go back to 1963; out of **13 Aprils**, Dulles was below normal in monthly temperature **9** times and below normal in precipitation **8** times.