

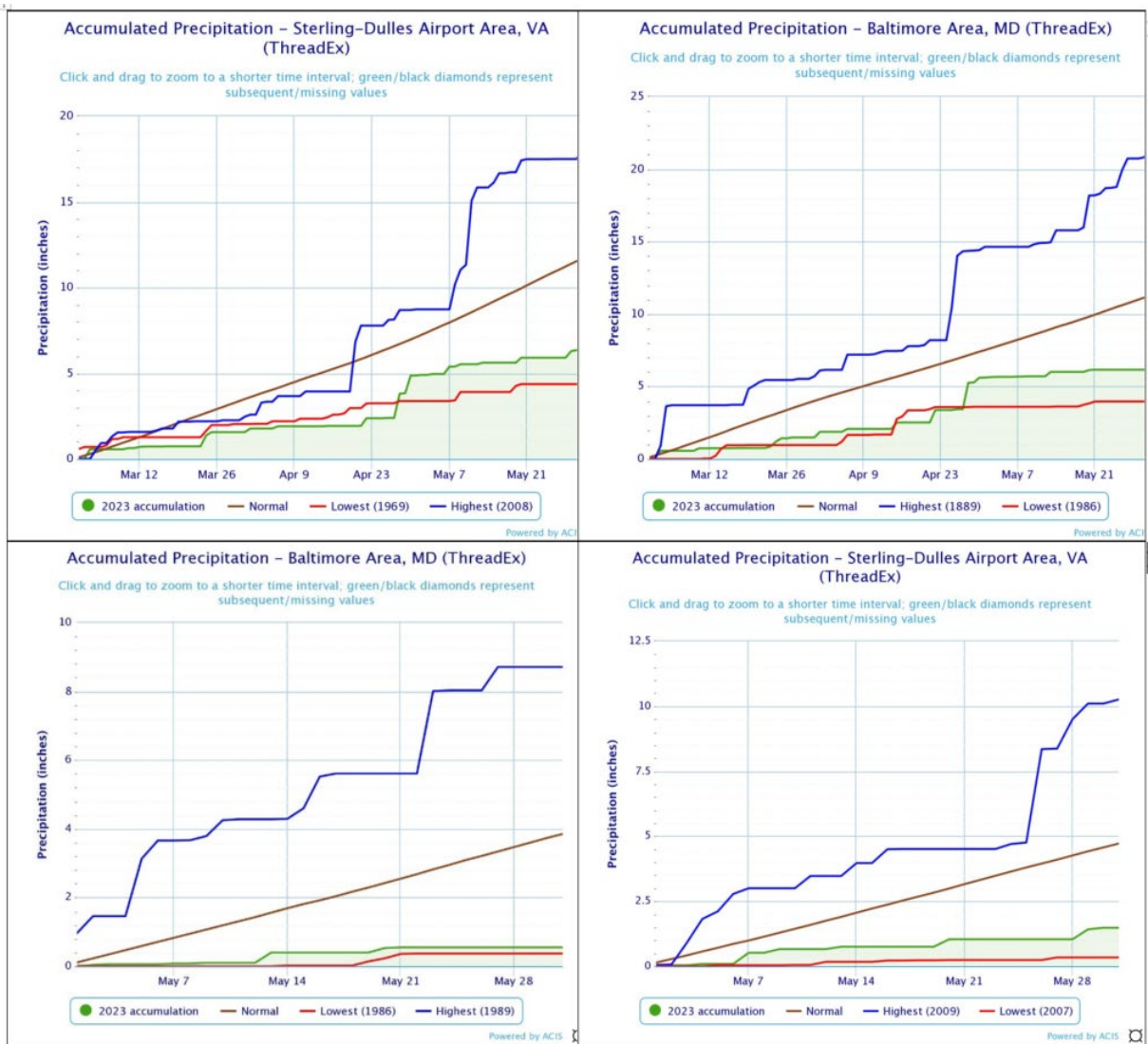


PRESTO



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

Spring: Dry Year Continues, Warm March and April, Cool May May: 3rd Driest May for Baltimore, 5th Driest for Dulles



Accumulated Precipitation for Sterling Dulles Airport Area during March, April, and May 2023 (upper left) and Baltimore Area observation sites (upper right). Rainfall for May 2023 at Baltimore (lower left) and Sterling Dulles (lower right) are also shown. For the spring (March, April and May), Sterling Dulles had its 2nd driest spring on record and Baltimore had its 7th driest on record. For May, Baltimore tied its 3rd driest May on record and Washington Dulles had its 5th driest on record.

May Highlights

- ☁ **Month (temperature)** – All three stations were below normal in monthly temperature, with DCA having a -2.2F anomaly, IAD having a -1.9F anomaly, and BWI having a -1.6F anomaly.
BWI was the driest being 3.30 inches below normal, IAD was 3.24 inches below normal, while DCA was 2.60 inches below normal. BWI's total of 0.55 inches ties for its 3rd driest May on record. Dulles had its 5th driest May on record, while DCA had its 9th driest on record
- ☁ **2nd and 3rd** – Heavy snow in the mountains of western MD and eastern WV, with 9 inches reported in Cherry Grove, WV.
- ☁ **3rd** – IAD sets record low maximum temperature of 56F. Marine wind gusts up to 43 mph (Eastport, MD) over the Chesapeake Bay.
- ☁ **12th** – Thunderstorm wind damage near Gordonsville, VA.

Spring Highlights

March

- ☁ **3rd and 4th** – Damaging winds with gusts over 60 mph in western MD and eastern WV, including a 69 mph gust near Streby, WV (Grant County) on the 3rd, a 72 mph gust near Keyser, WV, and a 74 mph gust in Frostburg, MD on the 4th.
- ☁ **14th** – Widespread wind gusts > 50 mph across much of the area. Mountain snows (3-7 inches) in western MD and eastern WV, including 7 inches near Cherry Grove, WV and 7.5 inches in Frostburg, MD.
- ☁ **23rd** – Thunderstorm wind damage in eastern WV panhandle (Berkeley and Jefferson Counties) including nickel-sized hail in Martinsburg and a possible microburst that downed several large trees near Shepherdstown, WV.

April

- ☁ **1st** - Widespread strong winds and hail. 72 mph gust at Buoy 1 ESE of Bowley's Quarters, MD, 71 mph gust in Cecil NE MD Landfill, 70 mph gust at Patuxent River Naval Air Station, and a 68 mph gust at IAD. 1.5-inch hail observed in Cecil and Harford Counties, MD.
- ☁ **5th** - DCA and IAD set record highs with 87F and 88F respectively, and BWI tied a record high with 84F.
- ☁ **6th** - Widespread strong winds and hail. 1.75 inch hail observed in Leonardtown and Hughesville, MD (St Mary's and Cecil Counties) along with a 69 mph gust (marine) 14 miles east of Bay Bridge and a 61 mph gust at Patuxent River Naval Air Station.
- ☁ **13th** – BWI and IAD tie record highs of 89F and 87F respectively. 15th -DCA and IAD set record warm minimums with 65F and 62F respectively. 1.25 inch hail fell in Reisterstown, MD.
- ☁ **20th** - IAD tied record high with 88F.
- ☁ **22nd** - A line of severe thunderstorms produced an EF0 tornado along its leading edge as it passed over Fork, Fallston, and western Bel Air Maryland during the mid-afternoon.
- ☁ **28th** - DCA and BWI set daily rainfall records of 1.53 inches and 1.82 inches respectively. Widespread flooding in central VA.

May Summary

Temperatures:

It was a cool month with below normal temperatures for the first time since December 2022. All three stations were below normal in monthly temperature with DCA having a -2.2F anomaly, IAD having a -1.9F anomaly and BWI having a -1.6F anomaly. Outside the metros it was even more below normal with Martinsburg, WV having a -4.2F anomaly. Dulles set a record low maximum temperature of 56F on the 3rd.

Precipitation:

The entire area was well below normal in rainfall for May. BWI was the driest at 3.30 inches below normal; IAD was 3.24 inches below normal, and DCA was 2.60 inches below normal. Each month in 2023 has generally been below normal in precipitation. BWI's total of 0.55 inches ties for its 3rd driest May on record. Dulles had its 5th driest May on record, while DCA had its 9th driest on record.

Spring Summary

Temperatures:

March and April were well above normal in temperature, but the spring ended with May being well below normal.

Monthly temperatures generally averaged from 1.5F to 2.5F above normal during March. There was no extreme cold or warmth or records set or tied during the month. April continued the warm trend of 2023, with all stations reporting positive temperature anomalies of 3.9F or greater. DCA tied for its third warmest April on record (63.8 in 2017 is the record) while BWI had its third warmest April on record (the record is 60.5F in 1941). IAD also tied its third warmest April (record is 61.0F in 2017). Widespread record high temperatures occurred on the fifth, 13th and 20th.

Monthly temperatures for May were generally 1.5 to 2 degrees below normal near the metros. Temperatures were even further below average outside of the metros with Martinsburg, WV and Hagerstown, MD, having -4.2F and -2.9F monthly temperature anomalies

Precipitation:

Monthly precipitation was well below normal in March and May, while April had near average precipitation for many areas. The only snow fell in the mountains of MD and WV, with the greatest accumulations occurring on May 2nd and 3rd. Overall, the local area was well below average in precipitation for the spring, with IAD having its 2nd driest spring on record, BWI having its 7th driest, and DCA having its 13th driest.

April was dry for most of the month but heavy rains over the last 3 days of the month pushed totals to near average.

Yearly precipitation deficits for 2023 are generally 6 inches or greater with deficits of greater than 7 inches around the metro (BWI and IAD). However, the rainfall has been just enough and occurred frequently enough that [drought conditions](#) in our area are “abnormally dry” in most places with small areas of moderate drought.

Severe Weather:

Spring 2023 was quiet as far as severe weather was concerned. March only had one day with severe weather and it was localized in the eastern WV panhandle. On March 23rd, thunderstorms produced wind damage in eastern WV panhandle (Berkeley and Jefferson Counties) including nickel-sized hail in Martinsburg and a possible microburst that downed several large trees near Shepherdstown, WV.

April was a little more active. On April 1st, widespread strong winds and hail occurred, including a 72 mph gust at Buoy 1 ESE of Bowley’s Quarters, MD, a 71 mph gust in Cecil NE MD Landfill, a 70 mph gust at Patuxent River Naval Air Station, and a 68 mph gust at IAD. 1.5-inch hail was observed in Cecil and Harford Counties, MD.

On the 6th, widespread strong winds and hail occurred again, including 1.75 inch diameter hail in Leonardtown and Hughesville, MD (St Mary’s and Cecil Counties), a 69 mph gust (marine) 14 miles east of Bay Bridge, and a 61 mph gust at Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

On April 22nd, a line of severe thunderstorms produced an EFO tornado along its leading edge as it passed over Fork, Fallston, and western Bel Air Maryland during the mid-afternoon.

May Stats:

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)			
	Av Max	Av Min	Avg T	Nml T	ΔNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml Dep	Yearly Precip	Yearly Departure
National (DCA)	74.8	55.3	65.0	67.2	-2.2	85/12	47/4-5	1.34	-2.60	10.22	-5.91
Baltimore (BWI)	74.9	50.6	62.8	64.4	-1.6	85/12	40/4	0.55	-3.30	10.02	-7.21
Dulles (IAD)	74.6	49.6	62.1	64.0	-1.9	87/12	39/5	1.48	-3.24	9.98	-7.26

Spring Stats:

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)				
	Av Max	Av Min	Avg T	Nml T	ΔNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml	Nml Dep	Snow	Norm Snow
National (DCA)	68.7	48.7	58.7	57.7	1.0	88/Apr 13-21	29/Mar 19	6.49	10.65	-4.16	T	2.0
Baltimore (BWI)	68.0	45.2	56.6	54.6	2.0	89*/Apr/13	26/Mar 20	6.06	11.25	-5.19	T	2.8
Dulles (IAD)	68.2	43.6	55.9	54.4	1.5	88*/Apr/20-21	23/Mar 20	6.65	11.69	-5.04	T	4.0

* - Record

Looking Ahead: Normals for June

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)			Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)		
	Max	Min	Monthly	Record Max/Date	Record Min/Date	Nml	Precip. Max/Year	Precip. Min/Year
National (DCA)	85.1	67.5	76.3	104/29/2012	43/2/1897	4.20	14.02/2006	0.86/1940
Baltimore (BWI)	84.4	62.2	73.5	105/29/1934	40/11/1972	3.98	13.09/2015	0.15/1954
Dulles (IAD)	83.1	61.9	72.5	102/29/2012	36/8/1977	4.30	18.19/1972	0.52/1988

* - Latest of more than one occurrence