

SUNNY, DRY, CALM MONTH

Atlantic Coast Observers Network MARYLAND / DELAWARE CHAPTER

July 1998 was the driest month of the year so far. The only day to see a good soaking rain across the region was the 8th. The rain shield moved from the west to the east. The western portions of the two states saw afternoon sunshine which permitted rise into the 70's while the clouds prevented temperatures in the eastern portion from climbing out of the 60's. Heating degree days, that is right -heating- were recorded in **Bear 2 SW, DE, Wilmington 4 NNE, DE, Thurmont Middle Mountain, Union Mills 2 SE, and Owings Mills 2 SE. St. Marys County** was the only area to observe 80 degree temperatures that day.



The strongest thunderstorm of the month hit Montgomery County on the afternoon of the 21st. **Forest Glen and Gaithersburg 2 WNW** reported the strong winds and tree damage. See page 2 for more details.



The National Weather Service reported a tornado in Harford County on the 31st. It was located 1 mile WSW of Perryman (which is SW of Aberdeen) on the northeast shoreline of the Bush River. One home was damaged along with dozens of snapped treetops.

Following the pattern of June, the first half of the month was quite cool while the second half of the month was above normal. Overall temperatures averaged slightly below normal to slightly above normal. This was a very sunny month. The lack of good soaking rainfall permitted the bright strong sun to quickly dry out the ground turning yards brown in some areas while creating moisture stress with some crops.

EXTREME REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Whaleysville	101
Baltimore 2 SE	99
Jug Bay Wetlands	99
Millersville 1 SE	98
South Bowie	98
Hollywood	98

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	49
Whaleysville	52
Westminster 4 NNE	52

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	80.2
Ridge	79.9
Hollywood	77.1

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	69.1
Thurmont, Middle Mt.	71.2
Millers 4 NE	73.1

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Eagle Rock	3.98
Baltimore 2 SE	3.85
Thurmont, Middle Mt.	3.66

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Morganza	1.32
Whaleysville	1.35

NOTE:

WONDER WHY YOUR DATA IS NOT IN THIS REPORT? I USED DATA RECEIVED AS OF 8/13 INSTEAD OF 8/15, THE NORMAL CUTOFF DATE AND MAILED THE COMPLETED REPORT TO KEVIN ON 8/14 DUE TO MY VACATION. HOPEFULLY KEVIN RECEIVED THE REPORT IN TIME SO HE CAN ADD HIS TOUCHES AND MAIL IT OUT BEFORE HIS BUSINESS TRIP. DATA RECEIVED AFTER 8/13 WILL APPEAR IN AUGUST'S REPORT.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT THE AUGUST REPORT MAY BE UP TO TWO WEEKS LATE NEXT MONTH DUE TO A POTENTIAL BUSINESS TRIP.

GARY & KEVIN

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR JULY 1998

Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE

July 1998 ended up one of the cooler July's of recent. With only eight 90-Degree days, the typical long stretches of hot and humid did not occur, or at least not as intensely. July was also a dry month with less than half the average rainfall occurring. measurable precipitation fell on only 4 days (as opposed to 19 days last month). No intense storms passed over the station during the month.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

Sufficient precip and warm weather provides good growing season. Corn 6 feet tall. Fewest days with thunder since 1957.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

Another uneventful summer month. Several periods without much needed rainfall have prevailed.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2 SE

Normal temperatures and normal precipitation resulting from mostly two thunderstorm days.

30th - Partly cloudy, hot, humid with late PM thunderstorms. 1.87" of rain fell.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 ENE

Excellent mid-summer month. Crops in excellent condition. Fewest days with thunder for July.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

8th - 12th day of 1" plus precipitation for 1998.

Jack Thomas of Middle Mt, Thurmont

23rd - Three showers for a total of 0.18" today.

31st - Heavy early morning rain

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

21st - Quite notable as a very severe fast moving thunderstorm blew through the area. I lost all the data stored for the day in my Weatherman digital recording weather station, including what I am sure was my peak wind gust for the month. Many tree branches and limbs fell, littering the ground in our neighborhood.

All in all a dry month with plenty of sunny to partly cloudy days and a notable lack of thunderstorms.

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW

Below normal precipitation brought with it brown yards and moisture stressed crops. Low barometric pressure was set 0001 hrs on the first and the high barometric pressure was set at 2359 hrs.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

21st - Thunderstorms were not predicted today, yet an intense storm rapidly moved in from the NW around 1900 hours preceded by an impressive shelf cloud and accompanied by the highest wind gust of the year of 42 MPH and the heaviest rain (~0.50" in 5 minutes). While driving through my neighborhood during the storm, I encountered numerous large branches and small trees that were blown into the road. My own street was completely blocked by a fallen tree. Lightning was probable the most severe of the year with many nearby cloud to ground strokes. due to the strong gust front, the highest and lowest pressure of the day occurred with about 10 minute period during the storm. Despite this storms very short duration, it created considerable inconvenience; power was unavailable for 16 hours, (longest that I've ever experienced).

30th & 31st - Welcome rains. Heavy evening thunderstorm on the 30th dumped 0.63" in 10 minutes (2147 - 2157 hours). Another, weaker, thunderstorm dropped 0.02" between 2230 and 2300 hrs. A few hours of steady moderate rain fell near dawn on the 31st.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

8th - Heavy rain began during night. It rained in the morning ending 1000 hrs. Rain again 1830 - 1900 hrs.

30th Broken overcast, thunderstorm 2300 hrs with frequent lightning, no rain.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

Driest month of the year. Only 0.19" fell during the last 23 days.

Marlene Walchli of California 3 NW

Only three days this month with measurable precipitation. Ground cracking open here!

John Zyla of Ridge

11 90 degree days, not windy, only two thunderstorm days.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

July was the driest month of the year so far. This year is 13 inches above normal.

Compiled by Gary Gallaher, MD,DE ACON Data Collector and Report writer from data received from dedicated observers like you