

DRYING CONDITIONS


Atlantic Coast Observers Network
MARYLAND / DELAWARE CHAPTER
 With Data from Nearby Areas



FOR MORE INFORMATION
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April was a pretty quiet month this year. Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW hit it on the nose with this comment from his monthly summary: "All in all a very humdrum month with not much spectacular going on, records wise."

Temperatures this month did not vary much. It was not very hot or very cold. Most of the month saw temperatures right around the normal mark, i.e. maximum in the 60's and minimum in the 40's. Brief periods of warm temperatures occurred ahead of the few frontal systems that passed through the area this month. The first one was on the 4th which was Easter. The first 80 degree temperatures of the year were observed at some of the ACON stations. Marlene Walchli of California 3 NW and John Zyla of Ridge, both in St Marys County recorded 85, the warmest in the region. Rain also fell that day. Clinton Bubb of Morganza and Floyd Abell of Hollywood, the other two St Marys County observers, recorded the heaviest amounts, 1.29" and 1.27" respectively.

The next warm spurt was on the 8th. This time more 80 degree plus temperatures were observed. Many of these were the highest of the month.

Afterwards a blocking upper air pattern, which lasted well into May, began to set up. Rains which fell during the balance of the month were generally light. The strongest weather occurred on the 23rd. Thunderstorms, some with hail, occurred. Bill Hudelson of noted that a severe thunderstorm watch and warning. After the 23rd no more rain fell this month.

The last 12 days saw some light scattered frost at many observing stations. Temperatures mainly remained above freezing so damage to early crops was not reported. Dry air during this period permitted the temperatures to rise rapidly on many days from the 30's to the 60's and 70's. Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E on the 26th reported a morning low of 32 and an afternoon high of 76, a 44 degree temperature rise. He also recorded an afternoon relative humidity of 15%.

Many thundershowers and thunderstorms occurred this month. Some of these had hail. Hail was observed by the following observers: Marty Sharrow of Owing Mills on the 11th (1/2"), Jack Thomas of Thurmont Middle Mountain on the 16th, Greg Keefer of

EXTREMES REPORTED BY ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

California 3 NW	87
8 ACON stations	86

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	26
Smithsburg 3 NE	29
3 ACON stations	30

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge	58.0
Baltimore 2 SE	57.5
California 3 NW	56.2

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	50.2
Hanover 2 S PA	50.2
Thurmont Middle Mt.	50.6M

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Eagle Rock	5.76
Hanover 2 S PA	4.17
Owings Mills 2 SE	4.13

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

South Bowie	1.84
Millersville 1 SE	1.94
Olney	2.12

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Eagle Rock	3.0
Hanover 2 S PA	T

Hagerstown 1E on the 9th (pea size) and 16th (pea size), Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 3 NE on the 23rd (1/4"), and Rob Rickell on the 11th. Floyd Abell of Hollywood reported that golf ball size hail fell in Northern St. Marys County but not at his station on the 9th.

The only measurable snowfall to be reported was by Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock. 2" fell on the 18th and 1" on the 19th. The only other observer to report any snow at all was Rob Rickell of Hanover 2 S, PA was a trace on the 11th.

Brian Papa, duPont Circle NW DC is having location problems with his thermometer. He discovered that the sun was hitting his thermometer early in the morning. We all hope he can find another suitable location soon.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR APRIL 1999

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

22nd - Thunderstorm moderate heavy rain 3:43 AM

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

11th - Thunderstorm with 1/2" hail at 1709 hours

Am frost on the following mornings: 6th, 13th, 17th, 19th, 21st, 24th & 25th.

Mild and breezy month. Higher than normal number of thunderstorms.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2 SE

Slightly lower than normal precipitation and temperatures.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

1st - Very heavy fog at 11PM, zero visibility.

27th - Halo around moon.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

No freezing temperatures this month.

1st - All day soaking rain.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

Dry final week. Precipitation needed.

Jack Thomas of Middle Mt, Thurmont

2nd - Bright moon through clouds

16th - Thunder, small hail

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

18th & 19th - Snow

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

23rd - Thunderstorms 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Rich Giannola of Olney

4th & 5th - Rain began late afternoon on 4th, continuing overnight and ending early in AM on 5th.

24th - Partial solar halo at 1:55 PM. Circumzenithal arc at 6:20 PM.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

April 1999 was milder and drier than normal, but not overly so, especially on the temperature side. A lack of cold days combined with just a few warm days gave us the slightly milder than normal temperatures. All in all a very humdrum month with not much spectacular going on, records-wise.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

11th - Overcast, rain occasionally heavy, cold and damp.

22nd - Late AM clearing, much warmer.

Jim Canavan of Wilmington 4 NNE, DE

6th - Frost

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

Sunny, dry month. Temperatures almost a degree above normal while precipitation was close to an inch below normal. The last 19 days brought only 0.95" of rain. Temperature briefly spiked to 75 or higher on the 4th, 8th, 22nd, and 26th.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

23rd - Mostly overcast severe thunderstorm watch and warning. Thunderstorm at 1420 Hours.

A generally uneventful month except for the severe weather on the 23rd.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

4th - Daily record high temperature

4th - 1.22" of rain 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM.

9th - Golf ball size hail in parts of North St Marys County.

25th - 34 degrees at 6:00 AM - frost

Marlene Walchli of California 3 NW

19th - Fog rising high from creek 0700.

25th - Beautiful day, crystal clear, azure blue, unrestricted visibility, dry.

27th - Mostly clear, sunshine all day. Really need a good rain!

John Zyla of Ridge

8th - Beautiful day, 67 degrees at midnight.

9th - Thunderstorm at 7:55 PM.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

9th - Showers all day with a rather intense thunderstorm 5-6 PM with a trace of pea sized hail. Showers continued into the evening.

16th - Thunderstorm this afternoon 1 PM - 1:30 PM. 0.21" of rain fell and some pea size hail. Windy with NW winds gusting to 39 MPH today.

26th - Another low of 32 F with light to moderate frost. A very rapid recovery to a very warm high of 78 F. today. Very low humidity today down to 15%

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 3 NE

23rd - Two thunderstorms (1 & 5 PM). 1/4" hail with the second one.

Rob Rickell of Hanover 2 S, PA

11th - Fog / Thunder, also some wet snow mixed with the rain during the early AM and some hail in an evening thunderstorm.

25th - Heavy AM frost.