



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



DROUGHT WARNING CONTINUED IN MARYLAND

May saw a strengthening of the drought which has gripped the area since last summer. During the last twelve months, precipitation has been 15.67" below normal at the Baltimore-Washington Airport National Weather Service office and 11.56" below normal at Ronald Regan National Airport. The only areas to escape this drought is extreme western Maryland.

This month the least rain fell southeast of Washington DC where totals were less than an inch. The following observers recorded less than one inch of rain this month: **Joe Manfre** of Baltimore 2 SE, **Floyd Abell** of Hollywood, **Clinton Bubb** of Morganza, **Marlene Walchli** of California, **John Zyla** of Ridge, and **Kenny Boggs** of Whalesville.

On the flip side of the coin, two observers reported greater than 4 inches of rainfall: **Rebecca Harvey** of Eagle Rock, and **Jim Canavan** of Wilmington 4 NNE. **Jim Canavan** also reported that a nearby school's automated station recorded 4.62".

The heaviest rains of the month fell on the 24th. Showers and thunderstorm that moved northeast through Maryland and into northern Delaware grew heavier and more severe. Rainfall totals of 2 inches or more were recorded by **Jim Canavan** of Wilmington 4 NNE and **Gary Gallaher** of Bear 2 SW (see a picture of **Gary Gallaher's** recording rain gauge chart on page 2) and the NWS at Wilmington. Four periods of heavy rain occurred. Between 3 and 3:30 PM a severe thunderstorm moved through the area bringing with it a wind gusts of 61MPH at ILG NWS. Hail fell along the path of the storm. This storm knocked power out to upwards of 40,000 customers in New Castle County Delaware.

Temperatures this month held fairly constant. There was no wide swings or extremes until the end of the month. The coldest temperatures generally occurred on the first where a few stations fell below 40 degrees. Temperatures were generally in the 40's at night and the 70's during the day.

The lack of precipitation along with the absence of winds from the southwest combined to hold down humidity levels again this

EXTREMES REPORTED BY ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

7 ACON Stations	93
Jug Bay Wetlands	92
Olney	92
South Bowie	92
Hollywood	92

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	35
Hanover 2 S PA	35
Jug Bay Wetlands	36
Parkton 5 SW	36

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	68.9
Ridge	67.4
Hollywood	65.4

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	59.2
Westminster 4 SSE	61.5
Parkton 5 SW	61.7

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Wilmington 4 NNE, DE	4.23
Eagle Rock	4.06
Bear 2 SW, DE	3.14

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

California 3 NW	0.48
Baltimore 2 SE	0.50
Morganza	0.61

month. These allowed for a larger than normal mean temperature diurnal. **Joe Terry** noted in his comments that there was a quite large mean temperature diurnal of 25.5 degrees. Memorial Day weekend brought the first summertime heat to the area. Temperatures rose to 90 or above in all areas except for Carroll County, northwest of Baltimore, and in extreme western Maryland.

The dry weather limited the number of thunderstorms this month. Hail was observed by the three following observers: **Rebecca Harvey** of Eagle Rock on the 8th (pea size), **Joe Terry** of Forest Glen on the 24th (pea size), and **Bobby Miller** on the 12th (small size).

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR MAY 1999

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

1st - Clear and windy.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

An extremely dry month with warmer than normal temperatures. Very low field moisture hampering Agriculturists.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2 SE

A very dry month. 0.50" monthly precipitation.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

22nd - Sunny, cool, breezy, and bone dry.

24th - 0.94" between 7 & 8 AM in thunderstorms.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

A pleasant spring month. Precipitation 1.61" below normal, temperatures about a degree above normal.

Spring 1999 precipitation 2.68" below normal, while temperatures averaged 0.2 degrees above normal.

12th - Thundershower with some small hail at 8:55 PM.

13th through 18th - Beautiful mid month easterly flow of clear cool air.

24th - Heavy shower with thunder 7 AM to 9 AM. Heaviest 0730 - 0800. Mid PM gusty thundershower.

1st daily precipitation of 1" plus since 1/24/99.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

8th - Pea-size hail

14th - Snow flurries.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

5th - AM for, burning off by 8:15 AM.

Rich Giannola of Olney

22nd - Solar halo at 12 noon.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

Sunny, dry month. Many comfortable days but very cool nights (large 25.5 degree mean diurnal temperature range). Except for significant rains on the 22nd through 24th, rain has been very limited since late April.

24th Two AM thunderstorms with RW+ produced 0.30" and 0.14" respectively. These were followed by a very brief thunderstorm around 1345 which produced 0.28" of rain in 5 minutes and one minute of pea sized hail.

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

24th - Heavy AM showers and thunderstorms (see picture of recording rain gauge at right).

Approx. 1.95" fell between 9 AM and Noon. Windy brief thunderstorm around 3:30 PM brought a wind gust of 41 MPH here and 61MPH at NWS ILG. Dime size-hail north of my station.

30th - 90 degrees tied Memorial Day max temp station record set in 1969.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

Although a generally dry and uneventful month. I recorded only 0.52" in 1986.

7th - Dense fog and drizzle till 1200, then broken skies. Thunderstorm to the west 2300 hrs.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

Driest May (0.93") in station history (20 years).

25th - 31st Sunny fair weather.

Clinton Bubb of Morganza

Very dry month, 0.61".

Marlene Walchli of California 3 NW

1st - Smokey/foggy 0730. Mostly sunny day, very thin overcast 1700.

16th - 0.02" of rain the past 23 days.

29th - Beautiful clear sunny day, unrestricted visibility, but dry.

John Zyla of Ridge

4/21-6/1 1.04" of rain in 62 days.

7th - Thick fog in AM, 68 degrees at midnight.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

8th - Periods of showers and thunderstorms overnight. An intense storm this morning 7:45-8:15 AM with some wicked lightning and brief heavy downpours 0.50" of rain fell.

24th - Rain and showers 5-11AM 0.23" fell. Very windy today with WSW winds gusting to 42 MPH.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 3 NE

8th - Three (3) thunderstorms: 12 AM, 3 AM, & 8 AM.

Kenny Boggs of Whaleysville

2 dry months, - Apr 2.8", May 0.72" - 3 1/2" below normal.

