



ATLANTIC COAST OBSERVER NETWORK, MD / DE / DC CHAPTER WITH DATA FROM NEARBY AREAS

WHERE DID THE RAIN GO? EARLY SEASON FLAKES FALL

October 2000 will be remembered by its dryness and mild temperatures. The lack of precipitation lead to abundant sunshine.

DRYNESS

This month the National Weather Service Stations in the two state region (Washington, Dulles, Baltimore, and Wilmington DE) each reported their second driest October as well as their second driest month on record. Wilmington's driest is 0.06" set in 1924 while Washington, Dulles, and Baltimore each recorded a "Trace" in 1963.

The driest station in the region was University Of Delaware Research and Education Center in Georgetown De (0.00"). The driest ACON station was **Morganza** (0.03"). Many ACON observers reported their driest October and month on record. See the Observer Notes Section for details.

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures this month were mild and very pleasant for October. They averaged normal to a little above. There were many clear mild days and cool nights.

The warmest occurred on the 3rd and 4th where 80+ degree temperatures were common east of the mountains. **Stan Rossen** of **Glenmont 1 NNE** reported 89 on the 4th which tied his record monthly maximum set on 10/6/97. Four days later on the 8th he reported 33, his coldest temperature so early the season.

The only other days to see temperatures near 80 was the 14th & 21st. Mild temperatures remained until the 28th when a strong cold front

moved through bringing windy conditions and freezing temperatures to many areas.

SNOWFALL

This month **Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock** in Garrett County was the only ACON observer to record measurable snow. 1.1" fell on the 9th & 10th.

The 9th saw rain showers mixed with wet snow and sleet at some ACON station north and west of Washington DC while others across the region reported had just rain. Many observers reported that this was the earliest and the only October snow that they have observed. Details are in the Observer Comment Section.

DRIEST STATIONS

U of D Res. Ctr. Georgetown DE	0.00"
NWS Washington DCA	0.02"
Clinton Bubb of Morganza	0.03"
Joe Terry of Forest Glen	0.04"
Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2 SE	0.05"
John Zyla of Ridge	0.06"
NWS Washington Dulles	0.06"
Jug Bay Wetland	0.07"
Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1NNE	0.08"
NWS Wilmington DE	0.08"
NWS Baltimore	0.08"
Tony Scafide of Bethesda	0.09"
Rockville Mont. College	0.11"
Maryland Science Center	0.13"

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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EXTREMES REPORTED BY ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Glenmont 1 NNE	89
Jug Bay Wetlands	88
Baltimore 1 SE	88
Manchester 1 SW	87
Forest Glen	87

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	24
Jug Bay Wetlands	27
Five Stations	28

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	61.9
Ridge	61.1
Bryans Head 2 ESE	59.3
Hollywood	59.3

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Hanover 2 S	53.0
Eagle Rock	53.9
Westminster 4 SSE	54.4
Owings Mills	54.4

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Smithsburg 3 NE	0.63
Westminster 4 SSE	0.63

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Morganza	0.03
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WETTEST STATIONS

Jim Vaughn Smithsburg 3 NE	0.63"
Ralph Hartsock Westminster	0.63"
Jim Canavan Wilmington 4 NNE	0.57"
Robert Rickell Hanover 2 S	0.52"
Al Kreinik Parkton 5 SW	0.51"
Greg Keefer Hagerstown 1 E	0.45"
Herb Close Manchester 1 SW	0.42"

NOTES

Catch Floyd Abell's weather forecast at www.wlpconsulting.com/Floyd/Floyd.htm

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR OCTOBER 2000

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

Driest October on record (since 1962). Old record was 0.17" set in 1963. Third driest month on record. Mild days and cool nights. Light winds most of the month. High average barometric pressure this month of 30.17".

9th - Frost singed the top of my tomatoes and Lima Beans. They continued to produce until the 30th.

30th - Winds and below freezing temperatures killed the garden. Not all areas had a freeze this month.

Jim Canavan of Wilmington 4 NNE, DE

26th - Heavy Fog

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

1st - Dense AM fog slow to dissipate.

23rd - Clear frosty morning. Highest pressure of the month.

26th - Dense AM fog. Visibility zero.

27th - Heavy AM fog, not as bad as yesterday.

28th-31st - Windy period due to storm in NE. Strong front passes on 28th.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

4th - More hazy sunshine and warm weather.

8th - Frosty start; sunshine & breezy, cool.

10th - Overcast and rather raw.

15th - Sunshine with unseasonably warm temperatures.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

A very autumn like month is so far as temperatures are concerned, but without any appreciable moisture.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

9th - First scattered light frost.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

9th - Cold - Heavy frost then snow and rain showers.

16th - Finally it rained!

28th - Brief sprinkle with windy frontal passage.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

Driest month record (records date back to August 1981). Excellent harvesting conditions, but precipitation needed.

9th - Earliest trace of snow on record.

11th - Minimum relative humidity of 27%.

16th - Visibility at 6 PM 2 1/8 miles in smoke. PM max 62.

21st - Frosty / high barometer 30.61"

Marty Brumback of Bryans Road 2 ESE

Amazing low precipitation and mild temperature for October 2000. Fall colors muted this year. No freeze during the month.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL, Laurel

27th - Light AM fog, lifting by 9:30 AM. Solar halo at 11:15 AM.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

Driest month on record.

4th - Record October maximum temperature.

9th - Very light AM frost. Afternoon showers briefly mixed with sleet and snow, earliest observation of snow ever.

Rich Giannola of Olney

Two records were set since I began observations 14 years ago: 1.) October 9th earliest snowfall and the only time it has snowed in October, and 2.) October was the driest month - only 0.30" surpassing June 1998's 0.73".

9th - Changeable skies with occasional virga in afternoon. RW 3:00 -3:25 PM mixing with S in beginning. Moderate SW fell alone for about 1 minute at 3:07 PM. Precip from this event totaled 0.03".

28th - Cold frontal passage in AM. Sky very dark NW at 10:30 AM.

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

I had my driest month here since I set up my rain gauge on 8/4/76. It broke the old record of 0.39" set in April 1985.

4th - 89 degrees tied record October max temp set on 10/6/97.

8th - 33 degrees set a record for the coldest so early in the season.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

Driest month since station inception. Numerous sunny, warm days. Unusually early first frost on the 8th, but first freeze not until the 29th. Very high month mean pressure.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

4th - Clear, Light fog early morning.

9th - Rain showers afternoon and evening.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

Reports of rooftop frost on the 9th & 10th--first freeze of the season on the 29th--a station record driest Oct.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

October 2000 was the 3rd driest on record with only 0.45" of precipitation. The record driest was in 1963 with 0.24" and the second driest was in 1924 with 0.34".

4th - Fog overnight. A very warm day with a high of 86 F.

9th - Moderate frost with freeze overnight with a low of 30. It was below freezing for 4 hours so this was a moderate killing freeze.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 3 NE

Driest October surpassing 0.91" set in October 1992. Least monthly precip since 0.58" fell in November 1998.

9th - Earliest recorded snowfall.

Robert Rickell of Hanover 2 S, PA

October was mild and extremely dry. The first killing frost and snowfall occurred on the 9th.