



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



October 1998

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
----------	------	----------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DCZ001

District Of Columbia

01	0000EST								
31	2359EST			0	0				Drought

Persistent high pressure over the Southeast U.S. forced most rain producing low pressure centers to steer north of the region during the month. This resulted in unusually dry weather for the District of Columbia, creating the fourth straight month of drought conditions. Only 0.59 inches of rain fell at Reagan Washington National Airport during the month, 2.43 inches below normal. To put the severity of this drought in perspective, only one other year on record (1930) had ever come close to the lack of rainfall National Airport saw from July 1st to October 31st. The 4 month total at the airport was only 4.80 inches. According to records kept at the airport site, this October was the 2nd driest since the Civil War.

MARYLAND, Central

MDZ002>004-006>007-009>011-013>014-016>018

Allegany - Washington - Frederick - Northern Baltimore - Harford - Montgomery - Howard - Southern Baltimore - Prince Georges - Anne Arundel - Charles - St. Mary'S - Calvert

01	0000EST								
31	2359EST			0	0				Drought

Persistent high pressure over the Southeast U.S. forced most rain producing low pressure centers to steer north of the region during the month. This resulted in unusually dry conditions across Central and Northern Maryland, creating the fourth straight month of drought conditions. Only 1.06 inches of rain fell at the Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI) in Anne Arundel County during October, 1.92 inches below normal. The Maryland Science Center in Baltimore reported a monthly total of 1.25 inches. Other monthly rainfall totals from affected counties included 2.0 inches in Howard and Montgomery, 1.8 in Northern Baltimore, and 1.1 in Anne Arundel.

To put the severity of the drought in perspective, only one other year on record (1930) had ever come close to the lack of rainfall the Baltimore area saw from July 1st to October 31st. The 4 month rainfall total at BWI was only 4.66 inches. According to records at the airport, this October was the 5th driest since 1871. In addition, the U.S. Geological Survey reported the flow of freshwater into the Chesapeake Bay was 41% of normal during October. Groundwater levels across Central and Northern Maryland were also reported below average during the month.

The agricultural community continued to be hard hit by the persistent drought. By October 31st, 82% of topsoil moisture across the state was rated short or very short. Some farmers were feeding livestock at mid-winter levels during the month. Some late fall crops such as wheat, barley, and rye were not planted or planted late due to dry conditions. Six counties in South-Central Maryland were declared federal disaster areas to help compensate for losses in crop yields and damage to pasture land.

VIRGINIA, North

Nelson County

4 NW Lovingston

31	0000EST								
	2359EST			0	0	6K			Wild/Forest Fire

The Virginia Department of Forestry reported a fire on White Mountain in Central Nelson County that burned 250 acres. It was discovered on October 31st and was contained by November 3rd. The fire flared up again on November 4th and November 24th, requiring additional attention from fire fighters.

WEST VIRGINIA, East

WVZ048>055

Grant - Mineral - Hampshire - Morgan - Berkeley - Jefferson - Pendleton - Hardy

01	0000EST								
31	2359EST			0	0				Drought

Persistent high pressure over the Southeast U.S. forced most rain producing low pressure centers to steer north of the region during the month. This resulted in unusually dry conditions across Eastern West Virginia, causing the fourth straight month of drought conditions. October rainfall totals from affected counties included 0.5 inches in Pendleton, 1.3 inches in Mineral, 1.1 inches in Morgan, 0.7 inches in Berkeley, 0.9 inches in Hardy, and 1.0 inches in Hampshire, Jefferson, and Grant.

The agricultural community across Hampshire, Pendleton, and Hardy Counties continued to be hard hit by the persistent drought. By October 31st, 75% of topsoil moisture across the state was rated short or very short. Many farmers across Eastern West Virginia were feeding livestock at mid-winter levels. Late season crops such as wheat, rye, and barley were said to be almost non-existent in some areas. Substantially lowered crop yields from fall harvests, damaged pasture land, and lack of winter livestock feed reserves were all attributed to the lack of rainfall.