

Weather of 1993

Variable temperatures, massive March blizzard, spring floods, hot summer, cool, damp fall

1993 was a year of big weather events. From the March Superstorm to flooding rains and record spring wetness, to record summer heat and a cool, damp fall, the weather of 1993 will be well remembered.

January was a benign weather month, with a very mild start. Temperatures reached 65 on the 4th. Very little snow fell (1.8"). The most substantial event this month was an ice storm on the 21st that brought a half-inch of sleet and freezing rain and nearly an inch of precipitation.

Winter made a big comeback in February. After a quiet start, a series of light to moderate snow storms blanketed the ground, and windy, blustery conditions prevailed, particularly during the second half. The heaviest snow (5.3") fell on the 16th, and several inches of sleet and snow (3.6") fell on the 21st. Another 4" of fluffy snow fell on the 26th-27th. February wound up with an impressive 17.5" of snowfall.

March was a month for the record books. On the 4th, heavy rains changed to heavy wet snow late in the day. 2.39" of rain fell, with a storm total of 2.77" of precipitation on the 4th-5th and 3.3" of snowfall. Barely a week later, one of the greatest winter storms in modern history roared up the east coast, causing massive damage and causing over 300 deaths. Record snows fell as far south as the Florida Panhandle, while the rest of the state dealt with severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. The entire east coast was battered by heavy rain, high winds and coastal flooding. Inland, tremendous amounts of snow fell in a short period of time, particularly in the higher elevations, with 3 to 4 feet in some areas. 21" of snow fell here, 20.5" of that on the 13th, an all-time single day record for March. Only the "Ash Wednesday" storm of 1962 dropped more snow (25 inches). Barometric pressure from this 1993 "Superstorm" dipped to a record low 28.88" – typical of a category 1 hurricane! Strong winds and record cold temperatures brought blizzard conditions. The low reached a chilly 6 F on the 18th, an unusually cold temperature for so late in the season. Heavy rains on the 23rd and 31st caused some flooding on the Potomac and brought the month's total precipitation to a whopping 8.49 inches, making it the wettest March ever. 25.8" total snow fell, the 2nd snowiest March on record. 70.7" of snow fell during the 1992-93 season, the 4th snowiest to date.

The wild weather didn't let up in April. On the afternoon of the 1st, no April Fools, a surprise thunderstorm dropped pea to dime sized hail in the area. Snow flurries flew on the 3rd. Heavy rains (1.56") fell on the 10th. Less than a week later, on the 16th, record rains fell from two rounds of intense thunderstorms. 3.57" of rain caused severe flooding all over the area and set a new daily record for April and in fact for any spring month. Over an inch of rain fell on the 21st again, and strong damaging winds and snow squalls (which didn't accumulate) were observed on the 22nd. The month's final significant rain fell on the 26th, and was also accompanied by high winds. Temperatures, overall near normal, were up and down like a yo-yo, and the 7.76" of rainfall made this the second wettest April on record. The March-April rainfall total of 16.25" set a new record for most precipitation in back-to-back months.

May was quiet and brought a much-needed respite from the active weather of the previous few months. It was a warm, dry and sunny month. 7 of the first 12 days of May were in the 80s.

June began cool and wet. The low reached a chilly 40 on the 2nd, and 7 of the first 11 days had measurable rainfall. However, a warm front passing through on the 8th, accompanied by strong thunderstorms overnight (7th-8th) and heavy rainfall (1.35"), ushered in a heat wave that didn't seem to let up for the rest of the summer. Very little rain fell after the 11th.

July also began cool and wet, with 1.47" of rain on the 2nd, but ended up a very hot, dry month. An average temperature of 76.6 F made this the 3rd hottest July on record. 15 days were 90 or higher. The temperature peaked at 97 on the 9th and 28th. After nearly three weeks with almost no rainfall, strong storms brought pea-sized hail on the 26th, and heavy predawn thunderstorms rumbled through on the 29th.

True to the style of the summer of 1993, August also began somewhat cool and wet, only to wind up hot and dry once again. Nearly all of the month's rain fell in the first 11 days. On the afternoon of the 11th, a relentless thunderstorm moved southwards from Bedford County. It lasted two hours and dropped over an inch of rain along with nearly continuous lightning. After the 11th, only .15" of rain fell the remainder of August. Meanwhile, all of the final 8 days were in the mid-90s. Late in the evening of the 31st, an intense lightning bolt from a thunderstorm passing through the Cumberland area fried our TV.

September began hot, with a high of 91 on the 2nd, along with severe storms just east of the area. However, temperatures gradually cooled throughout the month, and many showers and thunderstorms helped relieve parched lawns. In fact, a September record 20 days had measurable rainfall. Precipitation wasn't excessive, but was above normal (4.47") for the first time since April.

October began on a chilly, frosty note, with a near-record low of 30 on the 1st. After a quiet start, a series of storms pushed precipitation slightly above normal. The heaviest rain fell at the end of the month, 1.44" on the 30th-31st, and with wet snow flakes mixing in on Halloween. The snow didn't accumulate here, but several inches fell in the mountains to our north and west.

November began very cold and blustery with snow flurries, but temperatures rebounded to the mid 70s by mid-month. Not much rain fell until a 3.30-inch deluge on the 27th-28th, which caused more flooding on the Potomac. 3.08" of that rain fell on the 27th, the heaviest rain in November since 1985.

December was relatively mild through the first three weeks, with little snowfall. Temperatures reached 40 or higher on all but two of the first 21 days. However, winter arrived right on cue, with wet snow falling on the 21st, then an entire week from the 24th-30th of sub-freezing high temperatures. Frequent light snows also fell during this period. Precipitation was almost exactly normal, while the chilly final third of the month dragged temperatures slightly below normal. 1993 still average a half-degree above normal in temperatures, and 45.78" of precipitation made it the 5th wettest year since 1948.

1993 Weather Statistics

1993 Monthly and Annual Climate Summary LaVale, MD, Allegany County Observer Nate Mullins Station Observation Time: Midnight Lat: 39.657780°, Long: - 78.821871°, Elevation 1016'										
Month	Temperature, ° F							Number of days		
	Mean Max	Mean Min	Mean Temp	Max Temp	Date	Min Temp	Date	Max > 90	Max ≤ 32	Min < 32
Jan	41.8	27.8	34.8	65	4	13	20	0	1	23
Feb	39.2	21.1	30.1	63	10	6	19	0	6	28
Mar	47.4	28.6	38.0	69	30	6	18	0	4	18
Apr	64.5	37.0	50.7	84	25	28	7	0	0	6
May	75.3	49.0	62.1	89	10	35	21	0	0	0
Jun	82.6	56.5	69.6	92	18	40	2	6	0	0
Jul	88.5	64.6	76.6	97	28*	54	23*	15	0	0
Aug	87.4	62.0	74.7	96	28*	53	8	9	0	0
Sep	73.7	54.3	64.0	91	2	35	30	3	0	0
Oct	62.3	41.6	51.9	80	7	29	11	0	0	3
Nov	51.8	34.0	42.9	73	15	23	8	0	0	11
Dec	38.7	25.3	32.0	56	3	11	26	0	7	25
Year	62.8	41.8	52.3	97	7/28*	6	3/18*	33	18	114

Precipitation, Inches			Number of days				Snow/ice, Inches			
Month	Total Precip	Max Day	Date	> 0.01" > 1	> 0.10" > 1	> 0.50" > 1	> 1.00" > 1	Total Snow	Max Day	Date
Jan	1.92	0.92	21	13	7	1	0	1.8	1.2	10
Feb	2.83	0.88	21	13	4	3	0	17.5	5.0	16
Mar	8.49	2.39	4	17	9	4	3	25.8	20.5	13
Apr	7.76	3.57	16	12	7	4	3	T	T	22*
May	2.44	0.85	18	8	6	1	0	-	-	-
Jun	2.28	0.70	8	10	6	2	0	-	-	-
Jul	2.59	1.47	2	7	4	2	1	-	-	-
Aug	2.61	1.09	11	9	4	2	1	-	-	-
Sep	4.47	1.00	27	20	9	4	1	-	-	-
Oct	3.11	1.04	30	13	5	2	1	T	T	31
Nov	4.31	3.08	27	7	5	1	1	T	T	28*
Dec	2.97	0.77	4	14	7	2	0	7.2	3.0	21
Year	45.78	3.57	4/16	143	73	28	11	52.3	20.5	3/13
Note: * = also occurred on earlier dates that month										
Month	Number of days with									
	Fog	Sleet	Glaze	Thunder	Hail	Dmg wind				
Jan	6	2	2	0	0	0				
Feb	0	3	0	0	0	0				
Mar	8	2	0	1	0	0				
Apr	3	1	0	3	1	1				
May	8	0	0	3	0	0				
Jun	10	0	0	6	0	0				
Jul	6	0	0	5	1	0				
Aug	14	0	0	6	0	0				
Sep	11	0	0	7	0	0				
Oct	12	0	0	0	0	0				
Nov	4	0	0	1	0	0				
Dec	4	0	0	0	0	0				
Year	86	8	2	32	2	1				