

Weather of 1995

Nearly snow-less start, dry spring, June flash floods, record summer heat then an early winter arrival in November

Following two very active weather years with many records sets, the weather in 1995 nearly went by the wayside, but just when everyone thought the weather was getting boring, some major weather events unraveled from June onwards.

January was mild and wet, but with little snowfall. Only 2.2" of snow fell. The New Year began with a mild ice storm, while the middle of the month seemed more like spring, as temperatures hit the mid 60s on the 14th-15th with 1.44" of rainfall. A surprise thunderstorm rolled through in the early morning hours of the 20th. The first full inch of snow didn't fall until the evening of the 28th, very late indeed.

Winter finally made a brief but abrupt appearance in early February. 5.5" of snow fell on the 3rd-4th, and behind the storm, strong winds and temperatures dipping to zero on the 5th made for some brutal wind chills. This cold snap dragged temperatures below normal. Precipitation was also below normal.

March was mild and very dry, 2nd driest on record with only 1.04" of precipitation. On the 8th, a strong cold front brought strong winds and rain, sleet, and the month's only measurable snow (2 inches). The high on the 9th was only 29 degrees, after 74 had been recorded on the 7th. However, temperatures rebounded just as quickly after the brief shot of winter, reaching the 60s again by the 11th.

April was cool and windy with frequent rain events but well below normal precipitation. A thunderstorm on the evening of the 8th brought pea-sized hail to the area. The month's high reached 85 on the 19th; in contrast, 8 days failed to climb out of the 40s, including the final day with a high of only 46.

Precipitation finally returned to above normal in May, with precipitation relatively evenly distributed through the month. Temperatures gradually warmed through the month as expected, except for the 28th, which had a high of only 58. Nearly an inch (.87") fell that day, and 1.06" fell on the 14th.

June 1995 will be well remembered for its numerous thunderstorms and flash floods, particularly during the final week. Severe thunderstorms brought hail, damaging winds and flooding to the area on the 2nd, with 1-2 inches of rainfall in a short period of time over the west portion of the county. The weather dried out at mid-month, but heavy rains and flash flooding pummeled the area during the final week. The fireworks began the evening of the 25th, when a strong thunderstorm knocked out power and dumped over an inch of rain in an hour. Another inch fell late on the 26th from slow-moving thunderstorms, with nearly 2.5 inches reported in Cumberland in one hour, causing street flooding. The storms raged on overnight and into the midday hours of the 27th, with areas to our southwest near Westernport ravaged by flooding due to up to six inches of rainfall. Nearby Keyser, WV, reported 5.33" of rain on the 27th and a "wall of water" that severely flooded the city. Three days later, on the 30th, a huge thunderstorm stalled just east of Cumberland, dumping up to 5 inches of rain in some areas and causing massive damage at Rocky Gap State Park. Over 80 campsites were destroyed. June's 7.38" of rain made it the 2nd wettest on record.

While June's temperatures were warm with some high heat indexes, July and August were downright brutal. On July 15th, the mercury hit 100, with heat indexes well over 110. Even the night was hot, as the low only hit 77. That same evening, severe thunderstorms blew up overhead, producing damaging winds, hail, and a spectacular lightning show. More big thunderstorms on the 17th caused flash flooding and lightning damage, with 1.19" of rain recorded at this station in less than an hour.

Another streak of 12 consecutive 90-plus days began on July 24th, with little rainfall. The streak ended on August 5th, when heavy rain and thunderstorms associated with the remnants of Tropical Storm Erin dropped 2 inches of rain (Aug. 5th-6th). After a brief respite from the heat, 8 more consecutive days from the 12th-19th were 90 or higher. Also, the 17th began a record streak of 26 consecutive days without measurable rainfall. August 1995 was the hottest August ever with a mean temperature of 76.3 F, and the summer of 1995 tied 1991 for the hottest summer on record, with a mean temperature of 74.2 F.

Much-needed rain finally fell in mid-September, with 1.34" on the 16th-17th from the remnants of Pacific tropical system Ishmael. Temperatures finally returned to seasonal levels, and became downright chilly with an early season frost on the 23rd.

Drought-busting rains finally arrived in October, which ranked 5th wettest with 6.12" of rainfall. The remnants of Hurricane Opal, a devastating Category 4 when it hit the Florida panhandle, dropped 2.31"

of rain on the 4th-5th. Later in the month, 2.48” of rain fell on the 20th-21st, the heaviest of 1995. October was also a mild month with temperatures nearly 3 degrees above normal.

The mild weather came to an abrupt end in November, which became the coldest on record to date. On the 8th, snow squalls fell (dropping a quick inch of snow) and temperatures plummeted into the 20s. What followed was a downright wild stretch of weather, including a cold front on the 11th that brought 1.03” of rain in a short period of time, sleet, thunder-snow and damaging winds. Then on the 14th-15th, an unusually early season Nor’ Easter brought 8.5” of heavy, wet snow, with upwards of 2 feet at higher elevations, and 1.57” of precipitation. Another unusually heavy snow, 8 inches, fell in only 5 hours overnight on the 28th-29th. A total of 18.3” of snow fell in November, more than the entire 1994-95 season (12.8”), and setting a new November snowfall record.

Little snow or rain fell in December, but it was a cold month, with 14 days failing to reach above freezing. Many of those followed an ice storm on the 18th-19th that dropped 2 inches of sleet, freezing rain and snow. The cold temperatures kept the snow around long enough for a white Christmas.

1995 Weather Statistics

1995 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	39.0	26.5	32.8	65	14	6	5	0	8	24
Feb	39.3	19.8	29.5	60	20	0	5	0	7	26
Mar	55.8	32.0	43.9	75	16*	14	9	0	1	16
Apr	61.4	37.9	49.7	85	19	21	5	0	0	5
May	72.1	48.7	60.4	87	24	38	3	0	0	0
Jun	80.7	59.8	70.3	93	20	47	13	3	0	0
Jul	87.7	64.4	76.0	100	15	50	9	14	0	0
Aug	87.1	65.5	76.3	96	14	54	24*	14	0	0
Sep	75.6	50.7	63.1	87	6	37	23	0	0	0
Oct	68.0	44.1	56.0	82	6	30	17	0	0	2
Nov	45.4	28.9	37.1	70	2	18	25	0	1	23
Dec	36.8	22.1	29.5	61	1	7	10	0	14	29
Year	62.4	41.7	52.1	100	7/15	0	2/5	31	31	125

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	3.16	1.37	15	12	4	3	1	2.2	1.0	28
Feb	1.67	0.40	15	11	8	0	0	7.3	3.0	3
Mar	1.04	0.44	8	7	3	0	0	2.0	2.0	8
Apr	2.14	0.45	24	16	6	0	0	-	-	-
May	4.42	1.06	14	13	8	4	1	-	-	-
Jun	7.38	1.18	2	15	9	8	4	-	-	-
Jul	2.39	1.19	17	9	6	1	1	-	-	-
Aug	2.92	1.51	6	8	4	2	1	-	-	-
Sep	1.97	1.12	17	8	4	1	1	-	-	-
Oct	6.12	2.05	20	10	5	2	2	-	-	-
Nov	3.80	1.38	14	12	8	2	2	18.3	7.5	14
Dec	2.10	0.83	19	10	5	2	0	3.5	2.0	19
Year	39.11	2.05	10/20	131	70	25	13	33.3	7.5	11/14
Note: * = also occurred on earlier dates that month										
	Number of days with									
Month	Fog	Sleet	Glaze	Thunder	Hail	Dmg wind				
Jan	8	1	3	1	0	0				
Feb	2	2	0	0	0	0				
Mar	3	1	0	0	0	0				
Apr	5	0	0	3	1	1				
May	5	0	0	3	0	0				
Jun	4	0	0	12	1	0				
Jul	15	0	0	9	1	1				
Aug	10	0	0	7	0	1				
Sep	3	0	0	1	0	0				
Oct	8	0	0	1	0	0				
Nov	2	4	0	1	0	1				
Dec	4	3	3	0	0	0				
Year	69	11	6	38	3	4				