

Weather of 2001

Warm, Dry Year with Little Snowfall, Summer Flash Floods then Drought Conditions with Forest Fires

2001 will be well remembered as one of the driest years on record over much of Maryland. Drought conditions dominated early and especially late in the year, when forest fires broke out in November due to the persistent warmth and dryness. However, late spring and summer were wet, in fact with several flash floods affecting the area.

The first third of January was much like December 2000: Cold, windy and dry. Following this period, temperatures warmed up, before a cold front that passed through on the 19th. Low pressure along the front brought 5 inches of snow on the 20th. The final few days of January were mild. The 30th was the warmest day (54 F), which was also the month's wettest day with 0.73" of rainfall.

February was quiet with a very mild and dry weather pattern. The only significant weather event was a quick-moving winter storm on the 22nd that dropped 5.5" of snow in a short period of time. Temperatures quickly rebounded, reaching a balmy 72 F on the 25th.

Winter hanged tough in March, which actually had a lower average maximum temperature than February – very unusual. On March 4th-5th, a coastal storm brought heavy wet snow and ice. 6.3" of snow/ice fell, melting down to 1.27" precipitation. Temperatures in March were consistently below normal, only reaching 58 for a monthly high. Lows reached the teens on the 26th, 27th and 28th. Despite a cold, wet weather pattern, only another half-inch of snow fell after the 5th.

All of April's precipitation fell during the first 16 days of the month. Showers and thunderstorms were frequent. The wettest day was Easter Sunday, the 15th, when .93" of rain fell. But the final two weeks were bone dry. Temperatures varied quite a bit through the month. A low of 26 on the 19th was followed by a summer-like 87 on the 23rd. The final week had warm, sunny days and cool, frosty nights.

May's weather pattern was a mirror image of April. The first half of May continued dry and unseasonably warm. 6 of the first 11 days reached the 80s. However, the second half of May was quite cool, in fact cooler than the first half, and became rather wet with several heavy rain events from the 18th on. A thunderstorm on the evening of the 22nd dropped 1.28" of rain in an hour, causing minor flooding.

The wet weather pattern continued in June, the wettest month of 2001 with 6.08" of rainfall. Flash flooding occurred from heavy rain and thunderstorms on the 6th-7th. 2.38" of rain fell here, and over 4 inches fell just south of the area. Another flash flood hit the southwest portion of the county on the 22nd, when training thunderstorms dropped 2.03" of rain on this station. After a cool first week, temperatures were consistently warm, generally in the 80s, and with high humidity, summer came on strong.

However, unseasonably cool temperatures greeted the area in July for the second consecutive year. July 2001 was in fact the coolest July on record with a mean temperature of 68.7 F, beating the record set just last year. Following a strong cold front on the 1st, low temperatures reached the mid to upper 40s on four of six nights. An active weather pattern brought frequent thunderstorms, leading to above normal precipitation. One of those storms was severe on the 10th, producing damaging winds, hail and funnel clouds in the Creasaptown area. After a brief hot streak and a high of 94 on the 25th, over an inch of rain fell in a half-hour on the 26th. The final six days of July were cool, with a high of only 63 on the 29th.

Heat and humidity returned in August, the hottest month of 2001 by far, with a mean temperature of 73.2 F. More flash flooding hit the southwestern part of the county from slow-moving thunderstorms on the 3rd and 4th, where over 3 inches of rain fell in some areas. Showers and thunderstorms were frequent throughout the month, but without any particularly high amounts from any one storm.

September 2001 will be remembered more for the deadly terrorist attacks on the U.S. on 9/11 than the weather, which was dry, warm and sunny. While daytime highs were warm, overnight lows were cool, with upper 30s by mid-month. However, a strong cold front on the 24th dropped an inch of rain here and spawned a freak F3 tornado in College Park, killing two students at the University of Maryland and causing massive damage to the campus and some surrounding areas of VA and MD.

Dry weather persisted into October, with barely over an inch (1.12") of rain falling. Temperatures varied dramatically, particularly near the end of the month. After a record high of 84 on the 24th, an all-time monthly low maximum temperature of 34 was recorded on the 27th, along with high winds and snow flurries.

Drought conditions continued into November. Warm, sunny, breezy days led to the worst forest fires in years, which burned thousands of acres of forest near Westernport on the 8th and Wills Mountain near Cumberland on the 11th. The month's only significant rain of .94" fell on the 25th.

December had many more days with precipitation but was still dry. It was the fourth consecutive month with less than two inches of rainfall. Temperatures were quite mild, averaging 38.0 F, over 5 degrees above normal. A near-record of 73 was recorded on the 5th. Winter finally arrived after Christmas, with the season's first reading in the teens on the 26th, and the first inch of snow falling from a lake-effect snow squall around midnight on the 28th-29th.

2001 Weather Statistics

2001 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	37.7	22.7	30.2	54	30	8	23	0	7	28
Feb	46.9	25.3	36.1	72	25	12	19	0	1	24
Mar	46.0	26.8	36.4	58	22*	15	27	0	0	25
Apr	67.2	40.2	53.8	87	23	26	19	0	0	5
May	71.4	47.5	59.5	87	3	35	14	0	0	0
Jun	80.9	57.8	69.3	91	13	44	4	2	0	0
Jul	80.8	56.6	68.7	94	25	46	3	3	0	0
Aug	83.2	63.3	73.2	93	9	53	15	2	0	0
Sep	74.4	50.0	62.2	86	7	37	30	0	0	0
Oct	67.0	38.2	52.6	84	24	22	29	0	0	9
Nov	57.5	34.9	46.2	75	2	22	21	0	0	11
Dec	46.2	29.7	38.0	73	5	15	30*	0	3	17
Year	63.3	41.1	52.2	94	7/25	8	1/23	7	11	119

Precipitation, Inches				Number of days				Snow/ice, Inches		
Month	Total Precip	Max Day	Date	> 0.01" >	> 0.10" >	> 0.50" >	> 1.00" >	Total Snow	Max Day	Date
Jan	2.14	0.73	30	8	4	2	0	7.7	5.0	20
Feb	0.93	0.42	22	7	4	0	0	6.0	5.5	22
Mar	3.94	1.13	4	15	8	3	1	6.8	4.3	4
Apr	2.49	0.93	15	10	5	2	0	T	T	18*
May	4.58	1.28	22	13	9	3	1	0.0	-	-
Jun	6.08	2.03	22	14	8	3	2	0.0	-	-
Jul	4.42	1.02	26	12	8	5	1	0.0	-	-
Aug	3.14	0.64	3	13	8	3	0	0.0	-	-
Sep	1.64	0.94	24	7	4	1	0	0.0	-	-
Oct	1.12	0.71	14	6	3	1	0	T	T	27
Nov	1.41	0.94	25	6	4	1	0	T	T	20
Dec	1.90	0.67	8	12	4	2	0	1.2	0.5	29*
Year	33.79	2.03	6/22	123	69	26	5	21.7	5.5	2/22
Note: * = also occurred on earlier dates that month										
Number of days with										
Month	Fog	Sleet	Glaze	Thunder	Hail	Dmg wind				
Jan	5	3	1	0	0	0				
Feb	4	2	0	0	0	0				
Mar	8	2	0	0	1	0				
Apr	6	0	0	4	0	0				
May	13	0	0	3	0	0				
Jun	9	0	0	8	0	0				
Jul	15	0	0	7	0	0				
Aug	19	0	0	9	0	0				
Sep	10	0	0	1	0	0				
Oct	1	0	0	0	0	1				
Nov	7	0	0	0	0	0				
Dec	8	0	0	0	0	0				
Year	105	7	1	32	1	1				