

October 2018

Glen Allen

October started out dry and very warm until the 11th when the remnants of hurricane Michael gave 4.03 inches rain. Michael was followed by ten days of near normal temperatures and the end of October had below average temperatures. The average maximum was 72.0°F, a 1.3°F departure, and the average minimum was 51.9°F which was a 2.4°F departure. The monthly mean temperature was 61.9°F a departure of 1.8°F and the fourth warmest October on record in the past 10 years. This October had one day with a temperature of $\geq 90^\circ\text{F}$ on the 4th which was 91.2 °F, the warmest maximum temperature on record for October. There were 11 days the temperature was $\geq 80^\circ\text{F}$; the previous record was only 8 days. The lowest minimum temperature was 31.1°F on the 22nd. This was with a moderate frost and it was surprising that many temperature sensitive plants survived the frost of the 22nd. Glen Allen also had an average ground temperature at one foot of 67.8°F a new high record for October; the previous record was 67.3°F.

The 4.03 inches of precipitation on the 11th was from tropical storm Michael. Both the calendar day rainfall and the 24-hour rainfall record were broken for October. The total October precipitation was 6.41 inches which was a 2.67 inch departure and a new record for October. But there were only 9 days with measurable precipitation the third least on record. The 2.17 inches of rain that fell in one hour was also a new record for October. With all the rain in October it was the 4th cloudiest on record and had a 79% average humidity a new record for October. The humidity never dropped below 40% which was a new record high minimum relative humidity for October. The average temperature range of 20.6 °F was the fourth lowest on record.

The maximum wind gust of 38 mph on the 11th was from Michael which tied the record maximum wind gust for October with tropical storm Matthew in 2016. The highest one-day wind run was also on the 11th with a wind run of 146 miles. Michael was worse in SE Virginia than Central Virginia but the afternoon of the 11th was unsettling because of ten tornadoes in our area. One tornado on Hull Street was rated a F2 and killed one worker in a flooring building that was destroyed.

Richmond International Airport

The Richmond International Airport's average mean temperature was 62.5°F a departure of 2.8°F and the 13th hottest since 1897. The average maximum was 72.5°F, a 1.5°F departure, and the average minimum was 52.6°F which was a 4.3°F departure and tied for the 9th warmest since 1897. This October had 2 days with temperatures of $\geq 90^\circ\text{F}$. October had 17 days the high temperature was $\geq 70^\circ\text{F}$. The maximum daily temperature range for the month was 32°F on the 23rd and only 13 years have a lower maximum temperature range for the month. The highest minimum range was 12°F on the 5th, 20th, 26th, 27th and in only 9 years has Oct had a higher minimum temp. range for the month. The highest monthly temperature was 92°F on the 4th and only 5 Octobers since 1897 have had a higher maximum for October. The lowest maximum temperature was 57°F on the 26th.

The Airport had 6.04 inches of precipitation, a departure of 3.06 inches, making October the 17th wettest October since 1897. The Airport had only 7 days though with measurable precipitation. This was the 5th greatest daily rain in the month of October since 1897.

The Richmond International Airport had 1 daily record for the month of 3.69 inches of precipitation on Oct. 11th associated with tropical storm Michael; the previous record was 1.91 inches just last year.