

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WEATHER BUREAU  
**LOCAL CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA**

RICHMOND VIRGINIA (Byrd Field)

May 1956

Latitude 37° 30' N. Longitude 77° 20' W. Elevation (ground) 162 ft. EASTERN Standard time used

Date	Temperature (°F)			Precipitation		Snow, Sleet, Hail or Ice on ground at 7:30 AM (In.)	Snow, Sleet, Hail (In.)	Prevailing direction	Wind			Sunshine		Sky cover		Thunderstorm or distant lightning	Weather restricting visibility to 1/4 mile or less	James River Stage at 8:00 AM	Date
	Maximum	Minimum	Average	Departure from normal	Degree days (base 65°)				Total (Water equivalent) (In.)	Average speed (m. p. h.)	Fastest mile Speed (m. p. h.)	Direction	Total (hours and minutes)	Percent of possible	Sunrise to sunset (tenths)				
1	69	50	60	-1	5	T	0	NE	9.9	27	NE	8:56	65	6	5			1.3	1
2	72	44	58	-3	7	0	0	ESE	8.9	23	NE	15:46	100	1	0			1.3	2
3	75	46	60	-2	5	0	0	E	7.4	13	NE	8:03	58	5	6	DL		1.0	3
4	85	52	68	+6	0	0	0	S	4.8	9	SE	13:50	100	2	3			1.2	4
5	91	59	75	+13	0	0	0	SW	5.8	17	NW	10:47	78	5	4	DL		1.0	5
6	82	51	67	+4	0	0	0	NW	6.9	15	NW	13:49	99	4	2			1.0	6
7	82	44	63	0	2	0	0	SSW	7.8	14	S	15:56	100	1	1			1.0	7
8	79	59	69	+6	0	.03	0	SW	9.0	14	S	2:18	16	9	6	T		1.0	8
9	72	44	58	-6	7	0	0	NW	7.1	16	NW	12:44	91	3	4			1.0	9
10	85	50	68	+4	0	0	0	SSE	6.2	14	SW	15:12	94	6	6			1.0	10
11	78	58	66	+2	0	.05	0	NNE	5.5	11	NE	5:34	40	9	9			1.0	11
12	78	58	66	+2	0	T	0	ESE	6.9	12	SE	9:22	66	4	6			0.8	12
13	63	59	61	-4	4	.13	0	E	7.6	14	E	0:09	1	10	10			1.0	13
14	65	54	59	-6	6	.29	0	N	7.0	14	NE	0:00	0	10	9			1.1	14
15	68	47	58	-8	7	0	0	E	9.7	18	NE	7:13	51	6	5		F,L,R	1.7	15
16	78	42	60	-6	5	0	0	SW	5.5	9	S	13:37	96	4	4			1.0	16
17	63	45	54	-12	11	T	0	NNE	9.0	20	N	5:08	38	7	5			1.0	17
18	74	39	57	-10	8	0	0	SSW	6.8	12	SW	14:17	100	0	0			1.0	18
19	86	50	68	+1	0	0	0	WSW	8.1	16	NW	14:18	100	0	0			1.0	19
20	89	55	72	+5	0	0	0	NW	5.5	11	SW	9:46	68	3	4			1.0	20
21	87	62	75	+7	0	0	0	E	6.7	17	SE	11:09	78	4	6			1.0	21
22	78	66	72	+4	0	.23	0	SSE	10.7	24	SE	1:53	13	10	9			1.0	22
23	64	67	78	+8	0	.18	0	SW	9.6	15	SW	5:08	36	8	8	DL		1.0	23
24	91	68	80	+11	0	T	0	SW	7.9	22	SW	10:14	71	7	6	DL		1.0	24
25	86	54	75	+6	0	0	0	WSW	9.5	16	SW	9:48	68	7	5	DL		1.0	25
26	84	61	73	+4	0	0	0	NW	6.9	15	NW	14:08	98	2	1			1.0	26
27	90	58	74	+4	0	0	0	S	6.8	19	E	14:00	97	1	1			1.0	27
28	91	64	78	+8	0	0	0	S	11.6	17	SE	10:30	72	4	5			1.0	28
29	91	67	79	+9	0	.74	0	SSW	11.2	22	SW	9:05	62	6	6	T,DL		1.0	29
30	82	64	73	+2	0	.14	0	SW	4.9	17	E	6:00	41	8	8	T,DL		0.8	30
31	74	57	66	-5	0	0	0	WNW	7.1	14	NW	6:28	44	7	6			1.0	31
Sum	2460	1704				1.79	0		238.7			289:08		159	151			32.2	Sum
Avg.	79.4	55.0							7.7	Fastest	Dir.	Possible	%	5.1	4.9			1.0	Avg.
									Misc.	27	NE	440:02	68						Misc.

T in columns 7, 8, and 9 indicates amount too small to measure.

**TEMPERATURE: (°F)**  
 Average monthly 67.2  
 Departure from normal +1.4  
 Highest 91 on 29th  
 Lowest 39 on 18th  
 Number of days with -  
 Max. 32° or below 0  
 Max. 90° or above 5  
 Min. 32° or below 0  
 Min. 0° or below 0  
 \* Also on earlier dates

**HEATING DEGREE DAYS (base 65°):**  
 Total this month 67  
 Departure from normal +1  
 Seasonal total (since July 1) 3872  
 Seasonal departure from normal -85

**PRECIPITATION: (In.)**  
 Total for the month 1.79  
 Departure from normal -1.85  
 Greatest in 24 hours 0.88 on 29-30th  
 Snow, Sleet and Hail -  
 Total for the month 0  
 Greatest in 24 hours 0 on -  
 Greatest depth on ground 0 on -  
 Dates of - Hail 0  
 Sleet 0 Glaze 0

**BAROMETRIC PRESSURE (In.)**  
 Avq. station (elev. 164 feet, m. s. l.) 29.835  
 Highest sea level 30.29 on 2nd  
 Lowest sea level 29.74 on 29th

**Symbols used in columns 18-19**  
 A - Hail  
 BS - Blowing snow  
 DL - Distant lightning  
 D - Dust  
 E - Sleet  
 F - Fog  
 H - Haze  
 K - Smoke  
 L - Drizzle  
 N - Sand  
 R - Rain  
 S - Snow  
 T - Thunderstorm  
 ZL - Freezing drizzle  
 ZR - Freezing rain

This was the fourth consecutive month with mean temperature above normal and the third consecutive month with below normal precipitation. It was also the driest May since 1944 when only 1.12 inches fell. The reading of 39° on the 18th was the lowest of record for the date and also the lowest of record for so late in the season. No excessive precipitation occurred.

**HOURLY PRECIPITATION**

Date	A. M. Hour ending at												P. M. Hour ending at												Date
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
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