

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEATHER BUREAU

CHARLES F. MARVIN, Chief

In Cooperation with Maryland State Weather Service

# CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA

## MARYLAND AND DELAWARE SECTION

ROSCOE NUNN, Meteorologist and Section Director

VOL. XXXII BALTIMORE, MD., DECEMBER, 1927 No. 12

### GENERAL SUMMARY

This was the first mild December since the remarkably warm December of 1923, and was warmer by 5° than December, 1926. Precipitation was mostly in the form of rain, and nearly all of it occurred during the first 16 days. Precipitation was above normal, except in the region between the Allegheny and the Blue Ridge Mountains. There was little snow, and it was confined to the Allegheny Mountain region. Monthly sunshine was slightly below normal, while relative humidity was normal. The month was rather windy, with notably strong winds on the 1st, 8th, 19th, 20th, and 31st. There was a general sleet storm, preceded by a glaze storm, on Sunday, the 4th. The 29th-31st was a very damp, foggy period.

The cold spell of the 9-10th was a brief one, but produced the lowest temperatures of the month, ranging from zero at Grantsville to 19° at Crisfield. Highest temperatures were recorded on the 1st generally and ranged from 63° at Oakland to 73° at Cumberland and Western Port.

Monthly precipitation averaged one-half inch above normal. The area of least monthly precipitation comprised Allegany and Washington Counties where the totals were mostly between 2 and 3 inches. In Garrett County monthly amounts were between 3 and 5 inches. They were between 3 and 4 inches generally in north-central and southern Maryland and the western half of the Eastern Shore; between 4 and 5 inches in Delaware; and between 5 and 6 inches in Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties, except between 6 and 8.2 inches in eastern Worcester County.

Precipitation was heavy over the section, except moderate in western Maryland during the northeasters of the 2-3d and 4-5th.

Monthly snowfall averaged only slightly more than one-half the normal, though the greatest in December since 1922. Except in the Allegheny Mountain region, the monthly amounts reflect the fall of sleet on the 4th.

The sleet storm of Sunday, the 4th, embraced the entire section. The depths were less than 1 inch near the coast and between 1 and 3 inches generally elsewhere, except 3 to 6 inches in extreme northern New Castle County, Del. A glaze storm, rain freezing upon falling, preceded the sleet storm. At Baltimore the ice-coat upon streets, sidewalks, trees, wires, etc., was 0.2 inch.

The cold spell of the third decade produced ice in the rivers and in upper Chesapeake Bay; the ice disappeared during the warm weather at the close of the month.

A 3-day period of dense fog, that set in early in the night of the 29th and dissipated in the evening of the 31st, interfered with railroad, electric railway, and steamboat schedules, caused automobile accidents, and tied up the fish and oyster industries.

The glaze or ice-storm of the 4th caused telephone and telegraph wires to break locally over the section, but the damage was slight as a rule. Somewhat greater damage resulted in Talbot, Caroline, and Dorchester Counties, where a number of poles went down, causing breakage of the Eastern Shore telephone trunk lines.

Wheat, rye, grasses, and pastures continued green and in good condition, except they turned brown during the last week in western Maryland. During the second half of the month butchering, cutting wood, hauling

fodder and manure, pruning fruit trees and vines, shelling corn, and stripping tobacco were in progress.—*J. B., jr.*

### WORK OF COOPERATIVE OBSERVERS APPRECIATED

(Resolution unanimously adopted at the meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Nashville, Tenn., on December 30, 1927)

The members of the American Meteorological Society here assembled heartily indorse the action of the program committee in planning a session in the interest of and participated in by the cooperative observers of the State of Tennessee. They recognize fully the fine spirit and the unselfish service of these faithful servants of the public and appreciate the valuable contribution they are making to local and national weather history.

While enjoying personal contact with a number of these observers, the Society regrets, of course, that the entire force could not be present. To those of Tennessee unable to attend this meeting and to the several thousand other such observers scattered throughout the United States, the Society wishes to extend its greetings and its best wishes for the new year, and also to express its appreciation of the important part they are playing in establishing the climatology of our country.

### PRESSURE

The monthly mean sea-level pressure at Washington and Baltimore was 30.10; at Aberdeen, 30.09 inches. The highest at Washington, Baltimore, and Aberdeen was 30.64 inches—all on the 10th. The lowest at Washington was 29.34 on the 31st; at Baltimore, 29.18; at Aberdeen, 29.21 inches—both on the 16th.

### TEMPERATURE

The monthly mean for the section, 37.3°, is 2.2° above normal. The highest monthly mean was 41.2° at Crisfield; the lowest, 29.8°, at Grantsville. The highest temperature, 73°, occurred at Cumberland on the 13th and at Western Port on the 1st; the lowest, Zero, at Grantsville on the 9th and 26th. The greatest local monthly range was 67° at Friendsville; the least, 46°, at Crisfield. The greatest daily range was 44° at Friendsville on the 8th.

### PRECIPITATION

The monthly average for the section, 3.78 inches, is 0.49 inch above normal. The greatest monthly amount was 8.20 inches at Public Landing; the least, 1.62 inches, at Picardy. The greatest 24-hour amount was 2.70 inches at Wilmington on the 4-5th. The monthly average snowfall for the section, 2.4 inches, is 2.1 inches below normal. The greatest monthly snowfall was 13 inches at Grantsville; the least, 0.2 inch, at Millsboro. The number of days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more, 12, is 3 above normal.

### RELATIVE HUMIDITY

The average percentages were: Washington, D. C., 8 a. m., 74; 12 noon, 61; 8 p. m., 62. Baltimore, Md., 8 a. m., 73; 12 noon, 64; 8 p. m., 66. Aberdeen, Md., 8 a. m., 79; 4 p. m., 66. Philadelphia, Pa., 8 a. m., 74; 12 noon, 63; 8 p. m., 66.

### WIND

The prevailing direction for the section was northwest. The total movement at Washington was 6,274; at Baltimore, 8,766; at Aberdeen, 6,892 miles. The maximum velocity at Washington was 38 miles from the northwest; at Baltimore, 44 miles from the southwest; at Aberdeen, 36 miles from the northwest—all on the 1st.

### SUNSHINE AND CLOUDINESS

At Washington and Baltimore, 48 per cent of the possible sunshine was recorded; at Aberdeen 42 per cent. For the whole section the average number of clear days was 12; partly cloudy, 5; cloudy, 14.

(Continued on page 46)

Climatological Data for December, 1927

Table with columns: Stations, Counties, Elevation, Length of record, Temperature (Mean, Departure from normal, Highest, Date, Lowest, Date, Greatest daily range), Precipitation (Total, Departure from normal, Greatest in 24 hours, Total snowfall), Number of days (With precip., Clear, Partly cloudy, Cloudy), Prevailing direction of wind, Observers.

The departures from normal temperature and precipitation are computed only for such stations as have 10 or more years of record, but all complete reports are used in determining section or division means. Data in italics determined from surrounding sections. T. Precipitation is less than 0.01 inch rain or melted snow. Reference letters, a, b, c, appearing in the table indicate number of days missing: For example, b represents two days, etc. \*Record incomplete. \*\*Post office addresses of these stations are as follows: Of Bell, Glendale; of Coleman, Worton; of Fallston, Bagley; of Ferry Landing, Owings; of Great Falls, Bethesda; of Pleasant Hill, Owings Mills; of Public Landing, Snow Hill. †Also on other dates. \*Customhouse Building, Gay and Water Streets. \*\*Weather Bureau Building, 24th and M Streets.

(Continued from page 45)

MISCELLANEOUS PHENOMENA (WITH DATES)

Fogs, dense.—Entire section, except western Maryland, night 12-13; northeastern portion of section, 16; entire section, night 29 to evening 31. Glaze, or ice storm (rain freezing upon falling).—Entire section, 4.

Robin.—Pocomoke City, 21. Sleet storm.—Entire section, 4. Thunderstorm.—Westminster, early morning 1. Winds, high.—Entire section: Northwest, 1, 8, 14, 31; westerly, 9, 16, 19, 20. Eastern portion of section: Northeast, 3, 4.

Daily Precipitation for December, 1927

Table with columns for Stations, Watersheds, Day of month (1-31), and Total. Rows list various locations in Maryland and Delaware with their respective precipitation values for each day.

Except as otherwise indicated, observations are generally made late in afternoon, near sunset, and precipitation recorded is for the 24 hours ending at time of observation.
\*\*\*Regular Weather Bureau station; precipitation is for the 24-hour period, midnight to midnight.
\*\*\*Precipitation measured in the morning; amount then recorded is for the preceding 24 hours.
T. Trace, or less than 0.01 inch.
Data in italics determined from surrounding stations.

COMPARATIVE DATA FOR MARYLAND AND DELAWARE FOR DECEMBER

Table comparing climate data for Maryland and Delaware for December. Columns include Year, Temperature (Mean, Departure from normal, Highest, Lowest, Average), and Precipitation (Departure from normal, Greatest local, Least local, Greatest in 24 hours, Snowfall, Number of days with 0.01 inch or more).

Daily Temperatures for December, 1927

Table with columns for Stations, days 1-31, and Mean. Rows list stations like Annapolis, Baltimore, etc., with their respective temperature data for each day.

a, b, c, etc., indicate, respectively, 1, 2, 3, etc., days missing from record. Instruments are read in the morning; the maximum temperature then read is charged to the preceding day, on which it almost always occurs. Temperatures at Aberdeen, Baltimore, and Washington are from midnight to midnight; at other stations, except Cumberland, they are for the 24-hour period ending late in the afternoon, near sunset. Data in italics determined from surrounding stations. (WB-2-7-28-800)