

# *The Pennsylvania Observer*

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## **March 2012 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap**

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Winter was a letdown for those who enjoy tranquil, snowy weather. Those who enjoy warm weather and blooming plants can rejoice, because spring is here!

The beginning of the month harbored slightly above average temperatures; with rainfall over most of the state and some snowfall in the northeast.

A warm front to the south brought warmer temperature to the area on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and much of Pennsylvania experienced temperatures in the 50's and 60's, as well as light rainfall over most of the state. The respite was short lived as a low-pressure system passed to the north. Frigid temperatures returned on the 6<sup>th</sup> with 3 or more inches of snow in sections of the Laurel Highlands.

Southwesterly winds carried warm air to the area on March 7<sup>th</sup>, and the weather was fair and unseasonably warm. A cold front passed through on the 9<sup>th</sup>. It rained that day, and temperatures dropped below average, particularly in the north west.

By March 12<sup>th</sup>, the entire state was basking in unseasonably high temperatures. A crescendo of warmth persisted until the 24<sup>th</sup>, with high temperatures in the upper 80's in a few spots. There was light rainfall on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and western PA had some heavier showers on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures were slightly cooler in eastern PA March 19-23, due to clouds and onshore winds. It started raining on the 24<sup>th</sup> in western Pennsylvania, with as much as 2 inches near Pittsburgh. The rains continued the next day in eastern sections and air temperatures dropped.

By the 27<sup>th</sup> temperatures were below seasonable levels statewide with a hard freeze in many sections. Temperatures rebounded on the 28<sup>th</sup> as a few thunderstorms and gusty winds marked the passage of a cold front. Seasonable to cool conditions ended the month with a final period of rain that raised monthly totals above seasonal levels in the southwest quarter of the Commonwealth.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during March 2012 from the NWS Cooperative & ASOS Networks of which our office receives routine observations. The extremes occurred in the 24-hour period prior to the date listed.

Parameter	Location	Value	Date (8 AM EDT)	County
Highest Temperature	Slippery Rock 1 Mi. SSW	<b>87°F</b>	March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Butler
Lowest Temperature	Coudersport 7 Mi. SE	<b>8°F</b>	March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Potter
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	West Mifflin 1.3 Mi. SW	<b>5.31"</b>	March 1 <sup>st</sup> -March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Allegheny
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	West Hazelton 3.2 Mi. NNE	<b>0.93"</b>	March 1 <sup>st</sup> -March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Luzerne
Greatest Snowfall	Springboro	<b>5.1"</b>	March 1 <sup>st</sup> -March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Crawford

## Links to Pennsylvania Weather Stories during March, 2012

**Midstate orchard owners say cold temperatures likely didn't harm stone fruit trees**

[http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2012/03/midstate\\_orchard\\_owners\\_say\\_co.html](http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2012/03/midstate_orchard_owners_say_co.html)

**Warm weather often means an increase in burglaries, Harrisburg-area police say**

[http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2012/03/warm\\_weather\\_often\\_means\\_an\\_in.html](http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2012/03/warm_weather_often_means_an_in.html)

**Very favorable weather, not so favorable for Pennsylvania Dairy Farmers**

[http://www.agrview.com/favorable-weather-has-helped-reduced-favor-in-dairy-prices/article\\_06b14de4-73ab-11e1-8b38-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.agrview.com/favorable-weather-has-helped-reduced-favor-in-dairy-prices/article_06b14de4-73ab-11e1-8b38-0019bb2963f4.html)

**Many Golf Courses Open Weeks Early**

<http://www.worldgolf.com/newswire/browse/70817-Spring-Fever-Pocono-Mountains-Opens-Courses-Weeks-Ahead-Schedule>