

The Pennsylvania Observer

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April 2011 – Pennsylvania Weather Recap

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The good old phrase, “April showers bring May flowers” has certainly been true this April! The month started out cloudy, rainy and dreary for the whole state as a low pressure system off the coast of New England spread its moisture over a large area. On the 5th, a stationary front made its way through the region, bringing scattered showers to much of the area. Temperatures were also below normal for much of the state during the first week. This same weather pattern held into the second week.

While the second week started out very similar to the first week, it eventually saw a few days that were dry. The 9th-11th were the lucky days, as an area of high pressure prevailed over the region, bringing clearer skies, and an overall better feel outside. Most of the state was within a warm sector on the 11th, which consequently brought unseasonably high temperatures, including some record highs, such as in Harrisburg. On the 12th, an area of low pressure, riding along a cold front slowly moved its way across the region, significantly cooling things off. This same system brought numerous showers and even some rumbles of thunder to a good portion of the state. Most areas received between a quarter and a half inch of rain. Some lingering showers on the 13th made conditions rather wet again as some locations received locally higher amounts, upwards of half an inch. After that low moved through, an area of high pressure was the next weather-maker, bringing much improved conditions to the Commonwealth on the 14th.

The third week of the month, started out with fairly seasonable conditions and virtually no rainfall recorded. However, a powerful low in the upper Mid-west associated with a strong cold front pushed its way eastward. This system brought a heavy dosing of rainfall to many locations on the 16th. Some sites even recorded record-breaking rainfall. For instance, the state’s capital collected 3.46 inches which broke an all-time record high for that day! The 19th was a bit improved with temperatures reaching the 60’s, but a few showers still remained for some areas.

An elongated front stretching from eastern Canada down to Texas was the next significant story. Ahead of the front, warm, southerly winds created summer-like conditions throughout much of the Northeast from the 25th to the 28th. Many locations reached the 80’s during this time period! Scattered strong to severe thunderstorms accompanied this warm weather, and as a result numerous severe thunderstorm warnings and even some tornado warnings were issued for some counties. Another front behind it brought some scattered showers to a few locations on the 29th. The month concluded on a very pleasant note.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (observations taken at 8AM EDT) during April 2011 from the NWS Cooperative & ASOS Networks. The extremes occurred in the 24-hour period prior to the date listed.

Parameter	Location	Value	Date (8 AM EDT)	County
Highest Temperature	Neshaminy Falls	87°F	April 26 th	Bucks
Lowest Temperature	Curwensville Lake	20°F	April 6 th	Clearfield
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Sylvania	11.9"	-	Bradford
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Nether Providence Township	4.84"	-	Delaware

Weather Stories

Three tornadoes confirmed in Pennsylvania

<http://www.mcall.com/news/breaking/mc-tornado-pennsylvania-york-lebanon-20110429,0,830178.story>

Rain putting Pa. farmers on the sidelines

<http://www.timesunion.com/default/article/Rain-putting-Pa-farmers-on-the-sidelines-1355118.php>

Strawberries, corn among crops hurt by spring rain

http://www.ydr.com/business/ci_17908952

Weather puts a wet blanket on baseball and softball seasons

<http://meadvilletribune.com/sports/x69806476/Weather-puts-a-wet-blanket-on-baseball-and-softball-seasons>