

May 2007 – Pennsylvania Weather Recap

The first line of last month's weather recap stated "If April showers are supposed to bring May flowers, then what are April snow showers supposed to bring?" As it turned out, in May 2007 the previous April snow showers brought generally warm and sunny conditions for the month of May. In State College, of all the days in the month, only 8 days failed to reach the average maximum temperature for that day.

May began with a low pressure system working its way across the state bringing rain to the majority of PA on May 2nd. In the wake of the low pressure system, a high pressure system built in across the region. This high pressure system created mostly sunny skies and temperatures hovering slightly above average for much of the first week. The beginning of the second week of the month, from May 7th through the 10th the high pressure system drifted east, off the Atlantic Seaboard. Counterclockwise flow around the center of high pressure caused winds to shift to the south. These southerly winds caused warm air to surge north, which brought very warm temperatures over the state. On May 9th the temperature in State College rose to 80 degrees, which is 15 degrees above normal for this time of year.

The most exciting weather for weather watchers in the month occurred on the 10th as showers and thunderstorms formed in a moist air mass over central PA during the late morning and early afternoon. These thunderstorms had little wind shear to make them move or to create wind damage, but the temperatures aloft were conducive to form hail. A cold front crossed the area on May 11th, which brought showers across the state and temperatures down to approximately normal levels for this time of year. After a brief warm up on the 15th, another low pressure system crossed the area and brought rainfall and cooler temperatures for a few days.

A gradual warm up began on Monday the 21st. From the 21st to the 25th temperatures soared well above averages and sunny skies prevailed. After the warm and sunny conditions, rain and thunderstorms occurred over the state on May 26th and May 27th. These thunderstorms produced over an inch of rain in some locations. To close out the month, the last few days were once again mostly sunny with warmer than average temperature prevailing.

Unlike April 2007, May turned out to be relatively tranquil with the exception of a few rumbles of thunder. May was warmer than average for the state and also drier than average. The highest temperature of the month of 93°F occurred in Lecontes Mills, Union County. The lowest temperature of 23 °F occurred in Sinnemahoning, Forest County on May 5th.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during May 2007 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	Lecontes Mills	93 °F	May 31 st	Union
Lowest Temperature	Sinnemahoning	23 °F	May 5 th	Forest
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Raystown Lake	5.14"	-	Huntingdon
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Charleroi	0.60"	-	Westmoreland