

May 2014 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap

By: Kyle Imhoff

After a very wet and eventful end to the month of April, the weather for the beginning of May was relatively tame across the commonwealth. A disturbance well to the north of Pennsylvania resulted in a few spotty showers for the first few days of the month with temperatures hovering near to slightly below normal. A slow-moving front provided a focus for enhanced precipitation in regions along the boundary from the 8th -11th . The amount of precipitation that fell was highly variable spatially across the state during this time with 4-day totals ranging from around 1-1.5” across southern portions of the state to less than a quarter of an inch in parts of north-central Pennsylvania.

Southerly winds ahead of a cold front approaching from the west resulted in moderating temperatures and consecutive days with thunderstorms over the region. Severe weather reports were numerous across the state for the period from the 13th -15th, with even a weak tornado spotted on the 15th near Lock Haven, PA. As the front passed late on the 15th into the 16th, a widespread substantial rain of 1-2” fell across much of the state during this time. Prior to this, most of the state was running below average for month-to-date accumulated precipitation.

Behind the front, much cooler and more tranquil conditions prevailed across the state as a large high built into the region. Showers and a few isolated thunderstorms returned to the state on the 21st and 22nd as a cold front approached from the west. On the 22nd, numerous severe thunderstorms with northwest-southeast trajectories resulted in numerous hail damage reports across the eastern half of the state. The roller-coaster ride of temperature swings continued as temperatures dropped again to below normal temperatures behind the front as high pressure built in. They would rebound quite quickly, however, as a southerly flow brought warm and moist air into the region from the Gulf of Mexico for the period of the 25th -27th. Similar to what happened on the 22nd, many storms again formed that propagated from northwest to southeast across the state, this time bringing numerous wind damage reports to the state. Following this last round of severe weather, beautiful weather capped off the end of the month with mostly sunny skies and near normal temperatures, providing for great weather for outdoor activities.

May severe weather summary: 1 tornado report (15th), 50 hail reports (mostly on the 22nd), 33 wind reports (mostly on the 27th).

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (observations taken at 8AM EDT) during May 2014 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	Altoona	91°F	May 14 th	Westmoreland
Lowest Temperature	Oswayo 1 Mi. ENE	26°F	May 6 th	Potter
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Springtown 1 Mi. NNE	9.68"	May 1 st – May 31 st	Bucks
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Duryea 0.3 Mi. SE	2.58"	May 1 st – May 31 st	Luzerne

Links to Pennsylvania Weather Stories during May, 2014

Cool, damp spring slows down spread of gypsy moth

<http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/item/68309-spraying-against-gypst-moth-set-for-4-pacounties>

Unusual hail storm damages medical helicopters

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2014/05/one_damaged_geisinger_chopper.html

Pennsylvania to become the vegetable bowl of the Northeast

http://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/economy_and_business/business_topics/agriculture/too-wetto-plow-climate-change-is-here-and-we/article_2fb24d21-d54c-5f03-97bb-f886597e362d.html

\Freak accident; strong wind gust and an inflatable bounce house causes injuries near Pittsburgh

<http://www.wtae.com/news/kids-hurt-when-wind-blows-bounce-house-into-air/25957694?absolute=true>