The Pennsylvania Observer

PENNSYLVANIA STATE CLIMATOLOGIST

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July 2008 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap

Written by: Matthew Rydzik

After a stormy end to June, July started out dry with temperatures sinking down below normal across the state. Fourth of July celebrations were chilly as the high temperature did not break the 70 degree mark from Harrisburg westward. The chilly temperatures were attributed to a weak cold front that passed through the Commonwealth midday on the Fourth. The cold front triggered scattered showers which left trace amounts of precipitation across the state. The celebrations signaled an end to below normal temperatures and ushered in temperatures that returned to above normal for the next five days. The lack of precipitation across the state led to an increasing rainfall deficit for the month of July.   On the eighth, another weak cold front moved into the western portion of the state triggering severe weather which resulted in numerous damaging wind reports along the Ohio-Pennsylvania border. The front also helped to erode some rainfall deficits in the western counties. Meadville, in Crawford County, picked up almost an inch of precipitation which brought their July precipitation total back up to the normal threshold. The next few days remained mainly calm. However, as temperatures rose, the atmosphere became more unstable, which lead to isolated severe weather on the 12th. Much of the state recorded some rainfall that day, but the interesting weather occurred in Lebanon County where an EF0 tornado occurred. As the middle of July neared, temperatures returned back to normal.

The middle of July saw a weak high pressure system centered over the state which allowed temperatures to begin their rise above normal. Over the next few days, temperatures soared into the upper 80's in the western and central parts of the state and to the lower 90's in the southeastern region. As tropical storm Cristobal churned off the Atlantic coast, a front that meandered over upstate New York for a few days moved far enough south to trigger severe weather on the 20th. There were widespread severe wind reports across the central and western regions of the state. The front finally moved through on the 23rd resulting in rain showers and an EF0 tornado in Butler County. Pittsburgh saw a half an inch of rain with the passage, while Scranton picked up 1.43 inches of rain. The rain resulted in stations across the state creeping towards normal values or even exceeding them. Behind the front, temperatures dipped to well below normal and high pressure built in resulting in pleasant weather. As July came to a close, temperatures returned to normal with scattered rain showers.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during July 2008 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	Philadelphia NE	**97°F**	July 19th	Philadelphia
Lowest Temperature	Clarence	**37°F**	July 7th	Centre
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Lancaster	**10.52"**	July 1st – July 31st	Lancaster

Links to Pennsylvania Weather Stories during July, 2008

Pennsylvania Assembly Passes First Global Warming Law
http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jul2008/2008-07-03-093.asp

Penn State University Dean: U.S. Farmers Adapting to Varying Weather Patterns is Crucial
http://www.grainnet.com/articles/Easterling__U_S__Farmers_Adapting_to_Varying_Weather_Patterns
_is_Crucial-60829.html

Dry Weather Helps Corn Supply Stay on Target
http://www.meadvilletribune.com/local/local_story_202225358.html

Uninsured Damage; Recent Hailstorm Raises Tricky Question
http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews+articleid_2455199&title=Uninsured_Damage_.
html

Weathering the Damage (Storm Report)
http://www.vindy.com/news/2008/jul/24/weathering-the-damage/