

The Pennsylvania Observer

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July 2012 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap

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After one of the warmest first half of a year in state history, July did not disappoint with a fair share of hot days and exciting storms throughout the state.

The month kicked off with statewide 90-degree heat, and with humidity deposited from showers and thunderstorms surrounding the state, being outside was not a pleasant ordeal. A front helped cool us down just in time for the 4th of July, but the air provided its own fireworks with thunderstorms popping us in some sections of the state. None of these storms persisted into the nighttime festivities however, as the rain did not dampen our patriotic spirits. The heat returned the following day, almost like it never left, starting what turned out to be a five-day heat wave, with northern parts seeing cooler, 80-degree highs on July 10.

The heat then left us alone for the next week, returning briefly from the 17th to 19th. This hot spell concluded with storms scattered throughout the eastern US, and this was followed by a weekend of mid 70 highs statewide. Beyond this, a warm-up back to the 80s persisted until Thursday July 26, where a line of strong storms along a front took down trees and power lines in various valleys in counties clustered to the southwest and northeast. Some of these storms spawned tornadoes near Williamsport and Hazleton that afternoon. The front became stationary, and it remained stalled for the next few days, allowing more thunderstorms to dump more much-needed rain. The month concluded muggy with sluggish thunderstorms drenching some towns and leaving other communities a mile away high and dry!

Severe thunderstorm counts for the month of July: 59 hail reports, 4 tornado reports, and 207 wind reports. The most active severe weather days were July 26th (98 total severe thunderstorm reports) and July 7th (54 severe thunderstorm reports).

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during July 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 | Harrisburg 1 Mi. NE | 104°F | July 8 th | Dauphin |
| Lowest Temperature | Chandlers Valley 1 Mi. SE | 45°F | July 11 th | Warren |
| Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation | Pleasant Mount 1 Mi. E | 9.71" | July 1 st -July 31 st | Wayne |
| Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation | Roseville 6 Mi. ENE | 1.83" | July 1 st -July 31 st | Bradford |

Links to Pennsylvania Weather Stories during July, 2012

More aftermath from Tropical Storm Lee

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2012/07/fema_designates_nearly_3_milli.html

So hot, stealing an AC seemed like a cool deal

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2012/07/man_gave_boy_5_to_steal_air_co.html

Mild winter turns into a sweet summer, corn-wise

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2012/07/sweet_corn_crop.html

Warmer winters, more CO2 leads to more favorable growing conditions for risky plants

<http://mindaberbeco.scienceblog.com/2012/07/10/ye-olde-biowarfare-how-climate-change-is-affecting-hallucinogens-part-1/>

PA Tornado Story

http://www.nj.com/gloucester-county/index.ssf/2012/07/weather_service_storms_spawned.html