

The Pennsylvania Observer

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October 2014 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap

By: Ashley Ellis

The tenth month of the year brings beautiful sights and a much needed change of scenery weather-wise as well. As the colors on the trees change and leaves fall, the summer temperatures begin to simmer down and we begin to transition into cooler temperatures. Generally speaking this October has been relatively calm, but repetitive in terms of weather patterns, alternating between high-pressure and low-pressure every couple days.

October began under the influence of a ridge bringing warm, dry weather to the state for the first 2 days of the month. During the next few days, conditions deteriorated as low pressure moved through on the 3rd - 4th bringing rainfall totals of as much as 0.6 inches to the State College area. The rain subsided on the 5th, but that did not last long as more rain moved through the state on the 6th - 7th due to a disturbance near the Great Lakes. During these few days, temperature fluctuated between slightly below average and slight above normal.

By the 10th, the area was under high pressure, but the nice weather was short-lived as much of the eastern part of the state saw rainfall that was associated with a low-pressure off the east coast. During the next few days the state switched between dry and rainy conditions. Much of the region experienced a trace or more from the 13th-18th, with the heaviest rainfall occurring on the 14th and 15th.

The most talked about weather event of the month was a Nor'easter that developed between the 21st and 23rd. This storm brought with it some rain and wind. Temperatures were much too warm for snow, thankfully! On the 21st the low-pressure center was over Pennsylvania. It moved off the coast by the 22nd, and began to strengthen. This caused the area to see windy conditions the 22nd-23rd as the pressure gradient associated with the Nor'easter tightened. By the 24th the low had moved out to sea and high pressure began moving into the region bringing along with it more settled conditions.

The end of October was fairly quiet due to a ridge that settled over the area on the 25th. The pressure pattern didn't change much after the ridge moved in, keeping the weather uneventful and tame through the end of the month. What did vary were temperatures though. During the last week of October the area

saw large temperature swings seeing a brief warm up on the 28th with highs in the upper 70s. That changed quickly, though, as high temperatures dropped back down to the low 50s for the last few days of the month. By Halloween, the low temperatures dropped to the mid 40s, meaning that cold air was beginning to arrive.

Overall, October did not bring many weather surprises with it. October temperatures were slightly above normal. Most of the state saw departures from normal of about 0-2 degrees Fahrenheit. As for precipitation, Pennsylvania saw amounts that were above normal. Regionally, north central, the Erie area and extreme eastern Pennsylvania saw rainfall amounts a bit below normal. South central and parts of extreme western Pennsylvania saw almost twice the normal rainfall totals. Overall, September was a very dry month with near to slightly above normal temperatures. Precipitation departures for the major reporting stations ranged from 1.67" below normal at Bradford (KBFD) to 3.39" below normal at Wilkes-Barre (KAVP). Temperatures ranged from 0.1 degrees above normal at Altoona (KAOO) to 2.5 degrees above normal at Harrisburg (KMDT).

Severe weather summary: 0 reports

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during October 2014 from the NWS Cooperative, ASOS, and CoCoRaHS 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 | McKeesport | 83°F | October 15 th | Allegheny |
| Lowest Temperature | Clarence | 24°F | October 28 th | Centre |
| Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation | Pleasant Mount 1 Mi. E | 7.56" | October 1 st – 31 st | Wayne |
| Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation | Canton | 1.80" | October 1 st – 31 st | Bradford |

Links to Pennsylvania Weather Stories during October, 2014

Decent Fall Foliage despite dry September

<http://www.timesleader.com/news/local-news/50413430/Fall-colors-to-glisten>

Wolly worm caterpillar portends a snowy winter

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2014/10/woolly_worms_predict_kids_will.html

Falling leaves may help solve manhunt

<http://www.mcall.com/news/nationworld/pennsylvania/mc-eric-frein-manhunt-leaf-cover-20141017-story.html>

Stink bugs costing PA orchards millions

<http://www.titusvilleherald.com/articles/2014/10/13/news/doc543b30ee2a73f548153033.txt>