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March 2010 – Pennsylvania Weather Recap

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March did come in as a lion cub this year. The 1st proved to be a calm day; however most of Pennsylvania saw snow on the second and third days of March with accumulations of a trace to an inch of snow. Northeastern parts of the state saw greater amounts of snow on the 3rd due to a deepening low pressure system that inched its way up the coast. These amounts ranged between 1 and 4 inches with Sullivan County receiving the most amount of snow with 3.6 inches. After this snowy start to March, conditions cleared with an upper level ridge and surface high pressure system dominating the region east of the Mississippi River. This caused Pennsylvania to go through a dry spell from March 4th through March 11th seeing no precipitation except occasional flurries in some counties. This also allowed for a gentle compaction and melting of the state's deep snow pack. On the 12th another low pressure system from the Midwest moved south of Pennsylvania causing rain to fall throughout the state. This rain continued through the 13th with rainfall amounts ranging from a trace to almost two inches in some places. One of those places was Philadelphia which received 1.94 inches in less than 24 hours. Rain continued to fall on the 14th as the low pushed eastward. The low moved off the coast on the 15th causing minimal rain amounts to fall. The rain during this period caused rapid snow melting which resulted in river flooding for many counties in Pennsylvania, but major flooding was restricted to the Delaware River and points east. Nice weather persisted until the 21st when yet another low pressure system moved through the Commonwealth. Philadelphia once again received a significant amount of rain of 1.12 inches in a 24 hour period. The 25th brought more rain to the region; this time with the most rain falling on the opposite side of the state in the Pittsburgh area. The 28th-29th of March was wet for all of the state. The last rain of the month, effecting only eastern parts of the state, came in on the 30th and 31st from a low pressure system that curled back inland after moving off the coast. Although it seems like a very rainy month, precipitation totals in the northwestern third of the state were well below average.

Temperatures averaged well above normal. The first week of March had below average temperatures with highs in the 30's and lows in the 20's, but March quickly warmed up. In mid March, temperatures exceeded 70 degrees in some parts of the state and in some case the low temperature surpassed the average high. At the end of March, temperatures once again dropped a bit below average.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during March 2010 from the NWS Cooperative & ASOS Networks. The extremes occurred in the 24-hour period prior to the date listed.

Parameter	Location	Value	Date (8 AM EDT)	County
Highest Temperature	Pottstown	78°F	March 21 st	Montgomery
Lowest Temperature	Oswayo	-1°F	March 6 th	Potter
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Sellersville	8.86"	-	Bucks
Greatest Monthly Snowfall	Laporte	10"	-	Sullivan

Weather Stories

Sugar season sours: Producers say early heat sharply cuts 2010's sap run

<http://www.gazettenet.com/2010/03/27/sugar-season-sours>

Winter of 2009-10 melts away

http://www.timesonline.com/bct_news/news_details/article/1373/2010/march/21/winter-of-2009-10-melts-away.html

Another regional weather record falls

http://www.philly.com/philly/health_and_science/89490922.html

Massive Nor'easter Rips Through Northeast

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2010/March/Massive-Noreaster-Rips-Through-Northeast/>

Cleanup continues after record rains

<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/breaking/87621617.html>