

# *The Pennsylvania Observer*

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## **May 2010 – Pennsylvania Weather Recap**

This month completed one of the warmest springs on record in Pennsylvania. With about 75% of the days averaging above normal, May will rank in the top quarter of warmest fifth months as most climate divisions were between 2 and 4 degrees above normal. It was moist in the western half of the state and rather dry in the eastern counties. When combined with a very dry April, most of the state has a one month rainfall deficit for 2010 and some parts of northwest Pennsylvania are nearly two months behind in rainfall.

The month started quite warm with southeast sections reaching 90F on a few occasions. A cooler air mass arrived on May 8-9 accompanied by showers and thunderstorms. Brisk breezes and an abundance of clouds produced the chilliest day of the month on the 11<sup>th</sup> with even some wet snow falling from the Laurel Highlands to the higher elevations of the Poconos. As much as 3” of slushy snow accumulated outside of Ebensburg. Readings averaged more than 15 degrees below normal in the mountainous sections.

A narrow wedge of very warm and humid air arrived on the 14<sup>th</sup> helping to spawn an outbreak of severe thunderstorms, some with large hail and damaging winds. A cooler, more settled weather pattern ensued for the middle of the month. Warmth returned on May 20<sup>th</sup> and continued until the end of the month. The week of Memorial Day was quite hot as readings reached near 90F in many sections. A back-door cold front pushed into the eastern half of the state as the holiday weekend began, but it rained out of steam by the time it reached the central mountains.

May concluded with potent thunderstorms curtailing some Memorial Day picnics in the western half of the state. May 2010 was another warm month in the state with slightly above average rainfall in the western sections.

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

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Date (8 AM EDT)</b>	<b>County</b>
Highest Temperature	Schenley Lock*	<b>95°F</b>	May 27th	Armstrong
Lowest Temperature	Cowanesque Dam	<b>20°F</b>	May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Tioga
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Tionesta Lake	<b>6.67"</b>	-	Forest
Greatest Cumulative Snowfall	Cresson	<b>2.0"</b>	-	Cambria

## ***Weather Stories***

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