

The Pennsylvania Observer

November 3, 2009



October 2009 – Pennsylvania Weather Recap

Written by: Shannon Hefferan

The first two weeks of October were on the warm side across the Commonwealth. A passing occluded front brought monthly high temperatures for many cities on October 3rd (Allentown: 74°F, Mt. Pocono: 69°F, Harrisburg: 74°F) along with some heavy showers on October 2nd in the northwestern and central part of the state (Pittsburgh: 0.27'', Williamsport: 0.52''). Throughout the second week of October, temperatures ranged from the mid-60s during the day and into the mid-40s at night. A passing cold front at the end of the week, October 9-10th, brought another wave of rain for the state.

During the middle of October, a deep upper air trough dug its way into the Great Lakes and caused the earliest snowfall on record for some places in central Pennsylvania. The heavy snowfall, which started Thursday evening, October 15th, and lasted till Friday, October 16th, created transportation problems in University Park, PA with a number tree limbs and power lines down. As much as 6 inches fell in State College; higher amounts were reported in the mountainous regions of Northern Centre County, Clinton County, Lycoming County, and Potter County. Mainly rain fell in the southern half of the state. The very chilly air and thick cloud cover lead to numerous record low maximum readings and it was the coldest 'homecoming' for Penn State in its history.

This taste of winter, however, was short lived. Temperatures mellowed out and rose back toward the 70s the following week. Heavy rain fell over the state on the weekend of October 24th-25th with the passing of a cold front from the Great Lakes; 1.38'' of rain was measured at Philadelphia in a 24 hour period and State College measured more than 2 inches on that weekend.

Overall, the month of October was relatively cool on average despite the warm spells at the beginning and end of the month. The departure from the normal average temperatures was around -1.5°F (Pittsburgh: -1.9°F, Harrisburg: -1.2°F, Scranton: -2.5°F, Philadelphia: -0.6°F). Precipitation amounts were well above average for the month (Harrisburg: +3.04'', Williamsport: +2.75'', Philadelphia: +1.25'', Scranton: +1.16'').

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during October 2009 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	Everett	81°F	October 24 th	Bedford
Lowest Temperature	Mt. Davis	15°F	October 27 th	Somerset
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Willow Grove	10.22"	-	Montgomery
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Butler	1.56"	-	Butler
Greatest Cumulative Snowfall	Coudersport	10.0	-	Potter

Weather Stories

More snow predicted than in recent years

http://www.tribune-democrat.com/local/local_story_305233045.html

Global Warming Cycles Threaten Endangered Primate Species

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/10/091028090530.htm>

Experts: El Niño might not have impact on area weather

<http://www.valleynewsonline.com/viewnews.php?newsid=87131&id=1>

This little bug is causing a big stink

<http://www.pottstownmercury.com/articles/2009/10/20/news/srv0000006630701.txt>

Early snow hits hard in PA

<http://www.oleantimesherald.com/articles/2009/10/18/news/doc4ad927bf64f5c896583051.txt>

Wet weather carves dent in pumpkin crop

http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/breaking/article_92d9d10c-b5e8-11de-9d73-001cc4c03286.html