

# *The Pennsylvania Observer*

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## **October 2011 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap**

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The end of September was very wet for Pennsylvania, and this extreme precipitation pattern continued into early October. It was caused by a large low pressure system that had stalled over the Midwest and then slowly moved east into the Mid-Atlantic states. Some areas in the state even received snow in the beginning of October from the system. State College, for instance, measured a trace snowfall on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, which beat the previous earliest snowfall record from October 3, 2003. There were also some new rainfall records set mostly in the central and southwest portions of the state. For instance, Williamsburg received 1.22 inches of rain on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, breaking the record of 1.05 inches set in 1974. Precipitation persisted in the region until the 6<sup>th</sup> when high pressure began to build into the area, bringing warm air with it. The peak of the warm conditions occurred around the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of the month. The entire state experienced above-average conditions with highs in the 70s and 80s, and some areas even set some records. Bradford, for example, had a high of 78°F on the 9<sup>th</sup>, which broke the record of 77°F set back in 1984.

High pressure left the region by the 12<sup>th</sup>, and cool, wet conditions returned as low pressure began to move in. The cold front associated with the disturbance passed through Pennsylvania on the 14<sup>th</sup>. High temperatures across the state generally dipped into the 50s around the 15<sup>th</sup>, which was below average. The only big exception to this was the Philadelphia area, which managed to keep its highs in the 60s and lower 70s. Much of the state experienced windy conditions on the 15<sup>th</sup> after the front had passed. Erie reported wind gusts up to 49mph with a max wind speed of 32mph on that day. Many cities, particularly in the southwestern region of the state, set new rainfall records around this time. Johnstown was one of these places, which broke the record of 0.51 inches of rain set in 1975 with 0.62 inches falling on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Pennsylvania did not get much of a break from the rain as another disturbance moved in around the 19<sup>th</sup> just after the previous one had left. High temperatures remained generally in the 50's and 60's and were a bit below average for many areas. Erie only reached 50°F on the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month, which was 9 degrees below its average high for that day of 59°F. In general, dry conditions returned to the state until

the 26<sup>th</sup> when a strengthening low pushed its way toward the northeast. This drove temperatures down to the lower-to-mid 30's by the 29<sup>th</sup> and most of the state had a snowstorm on that day due to the Nor'easter. Many records for snowfall amount were set. 5.5 inches of snow was tallied at the Middletown Harrisburg airport, which put its old record of trace snow from 1971 to shame. Parts of northeast Pennsylvania had more than a foot of snow, which quickly melted during the last two days of the month. Remarkably, the state averaged slightly above normal temperatures due to the mid-month warm spell. It was another wet month in all but the southeast counties. Unlike the previous two months, October did not bring historic wetness, though the wettest sections were in the western counties.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during October 2011 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	Slippery Rock 1 Mi. SSW	87°F	October 10 <sup>th</sup>	Butler
Lowest Temperature	South Mountain	18°F	October 30 <sup>th</sup>	Franklin
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Erie 5.7 Mi. SSE	8.48"	October 1 <sup>st</sup> - October 31 <sup>st</sup>	Erie
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Hatfield 2 Mi. WSW	2.97"	October 1 <sup>st</sup> -October 31 <sup>st</sup>	Montgomery
Greatest Snowfall Depth	Laurel Summit	14.5"	October 1 <sup>st</sup> – October 31 <sup>st</sup>	Somerset

## **Links to Pennsylvania Weather Stories during October, 2011**

### **Late October snow causes more power outages than Hurricane Irene in Pennsylvania**

[http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2011/10/octobers\\_storm\\_power\\_outages\\_t.html](http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2011/10/octobers_storm_power_outages_t.html)

### **More than 150 municipalities have damaged water treatment plants as a result of TS Lee**

[http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2011/10/derry\\_township\\_votes\\_unanimous.html](http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2011/10/derry_township_votes_unanimous.html)

### **Early snows has led to new profits**

<http://www.lawnandlandscape.com/ll-1024-Growing-Green-Capital-Turf-Management-profiting-from-snow.aspx>

### **Former president snowed out of visit to Temple.**

[http://articles.philly.com/2011-10-29/news/30336646\\_1\\_weather-protesters-temple](http://articles.philly.com/2011-10-29/news/30336646_1_weather-protesters-temple)