

EASTER CLIMATOLOGY -- READING 4 SW, PA (LPWB)

YEAR	DATE	TEMPS	PCPN/SNOW	YEAR	DATE	TEMPS	PCPN/SNOW
				1983	4/03	cool	0.92
1984	4/22	cool	0.15	1985	4/07	57/39	T
1986	3/30	84/44		1987	4/19	79/55	T
1988	4/03	63/51	T	1989	3/26	68/37	
1990	4/15	64/47	0.54	1991	3/31	54/20	
1992	4/19	48/42	T	1993	4/11	59/42	0.02
1994	4/03	67/47	0.12	1995	4/16	68/34	
1996	4/07	40/33	0.58/ T	1997	3/30	70/53	0.04
1998	4/12	67/32		1999	4/04	77/48	0.22
2000	4/23	55/44		2001	4/15	67/41	0.34
2002	3/31	60/47	0.25	2003	4/20	69/37	
2004	4/11	50/44	0.04	2005	3/27	49/40	0.46
2006	4/16	70/49		2007	4/08	42/30	T / T
2008	3/23	48/27		2009	4/12	52/35	
2010	4/04	75/49		2011	4/24	80/60	0.82
2012	4/08	71/33		2013	3/31	56/35	0.10
2014	4/20	65/40		2015	4/05	65/41	
2016	3/27	58/43	0.01	2017	4/16	87/54	0.04
2018	4/01	60/42	T	2019	4/21	71/55	
2020	4/12	66/32	0.13	2021	4/04	69/39	
2022	4/17	52/33	T	2023	4/09	62/30	
2024	3/31			2025	4/20		

The snowy Easter of 1970: Rain, early this Easter morning, **29 March**, changed to snow during the 6 AM hour while the traditional Easter Dawn service atop Mount Penn was in progress. Snow continued till near dusk, accumulating about a half foot. The night became clear and calm. Most of the snow melted the next day after a record breaking low of 10 for Reading PA, coldest so late, early that morning. This is the only Easter Sunday since at least 1898 in Reading to have more than a slight coating of snow on the ground from either new or old snow for most of the day.

The hot Easter of 1976: An unusually early heat wave baked the region from 17 to 20 April 1976 and peaked on Easter Sunday **18 April**. While this was several years prior to regular observations at Reading 4 SW, some casual observations were done. Cognizant of unusual heat, observer carried a typical "hardware store" thermometer with known bias to extended family Easter afternoon gathering at nearby West Reading, 2.5 miles ENE of Reading 4 SW at similar elevation. Adjusting for bias, the thermometer at mid-afternoon showed a maximum of 97°F under a porch roof overhang on the east side of the house, a very well shaded site. Quite likely, the temperature reached 98 or 99 at a location of standard siting with adequate shielding. The RDG Airport FAA (not the official climate site for Reading area at the time) reported 97 for the 2 PM and 3 PM EST hourly observations. Intra-hourly RDG observations were not available.

The rainy, almost icy, Easter of 1978: A cold rain began before dawn this Easter, **26 March**, and continued, heavy at times, all day. A casual wedge gauge catch showed nearly 3.5 inches. Temperatures hovered in mid 30s. The 9 AM view of Mount Penn above the city showed a sharp ice line near the top with heavy glaze on the highest 200 feet. The long-running (since 1914) Easter Dawn service, which is held at the summit, was canceled for the first time for any reason. The only cancelation since was 2020 due to Covid-19.