**Reading 4 SW**; Berks County, PA; Lat 40.316251, Lon -75.988661, Elev 320 feet ASL

CoCoRaHS ID: PA-BR-2, Reading 3.5 SW; CWOP ID: FW1703 Observation time: 2359 EST

Observer in Charge: Jeffrey R. Stoudt

Period of Record: Precipitation/Snow - January 1983, Temperatures - June 1984

**May 2021**

DAILY DETAILS (Sundays, monthly extremes in **bold**)

 TEMPERATURES

DAY MAX MIN OBS PCPN SNOW DEPTH REMARKS (all times are military EST)

 1 68 44 59

 **2** 88 49 69

 3 71 56 56 0.45 Periods of rain, mostly after 1900

 4 84 55 68 0.02 Sprinkles long before dawn

 5 74 52 52 0.32 Light rain 0600 to 1900 except heavy ~ 1020

 6 65 47 48

 7 65 41 48 0.12 Occasional light rain 1300 to 0100 (8th)

 8 58 40 **40** 0.02 Few light showers mid to late afternoon

 **9** 54 38 49 0.04 Occasional light rain PM…

10 64 46 46 T …till shortly after midnight

11 67 43 48 T Late afternoon sprinkles

12 69 41 44 T Light shower mid-afternoon, almost 0.01

13 72 **37** 46

14 76 40 48 T Few drops at times early evening; rainbow

15 79 43 60

**16** 73 50 50 0.01 Little rain early evening

17 77 44 53

18 83 47 60

19 89 53 64

20 86 57 58

21 88 51 66

22 92 60 **76**

**23** 92 **70** 72 Shower to SW toward sunset

24 72 58 58

25 78 57 66

26 **93** 65 68 0.52 3 rounds of TSTMs after 1500, very brief +SHRA

27 83 64 65 0.01 Stray light shower predawn

28 70 50 51 **1.19** Rain, heavy at times, after 1500

29 **51** 47 48 0.49 Occasional rain/drizzle, mostly 0400-0900

**30** 54 48 50 0.23 Occasional rain/drizzle, mostly late AM-midday

31 75 48 54 Beautiful Memorial Day after March-like weekend

SUM 2310 1541 3.42 0.0 0

MONTHLY STATISTICS

Average Monthly Temperature (Dep): 62.1 (-0.7)

Average Maximum Temperature (Dep): 74.5 (+0.6)

Average Minimum Temperature (Dep): 49.7 (-2.0)

Extreme Daily High Max Temp (Dep): 93 (+2) on 26th (record 98 on 80 May 1987)

Extreme Daily High Minimum Temp: 70 on 23rd (record 72 on 30 May 2011)+

Extreme Daily Low Min Temp (Dep): 37 (-0) on 13th (record 31 on 14 May 1996)

Extreme Daily Low Maximum Temp: 51 on 29th (record 48 on 09 May 2020)

Heating Degree Days (Season): 164 (4607)

Cooling Degree Days (Season): 80 (94)

+ Most recent of more than one occurrence

 -- more --

Total Monthly Precipitation (Dep): 3.42 (-0.73)

Total Annual Pcpn through Month: 16.95 (-2.80)

Greatest Calendar Day Pcpn: 1.19 on 28th (record 3.12 19 May 1988)

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Pcpn: 1.67 on 28th-29th (rec 4.10 04-05 May 1989)

Total Monthly Snowfall (Dep): 0.0 (-0.0)

Total Season Snowfall (Dep): 42.8 (+14.5)

Greatest Calendar Day Snowfall: 0.0 on (record 0.0 on 09 May 2020)\*

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Snowfl: 0.0 on (rec 0.0 on 09-09 May 2020)\*

Maximum Depth of Snow/Ice: 0 on \* few flurries above 400’ ASL

Days with Hail: 0

Days with Thunder (Dep): 1 (-4)

Highest Wind Gust (MPH): 24 on 1st

Maximum Barometric Pressure: 30.54 on 21st

Minimum Barometric Pressure: 29.64 on 5th

HIGHLIGHTS

Rain-wise, this May was dominated by a streak of 16 days (10th to 25th) with very little or no rain. After a few days of only light to moderate rain and a March and April which were below normal, most grasses and other plants were quite thirsty by the 25th. Substantial rains fell after the 25th, but were not enough to make up the May deficit, let alone those of March and April. The final total of 3.42” (-0.73) included 2.44 after the 25th keyed by 1.67 within 24 hours PM of 28th into AM of the 29th. Last May (2020) was drier at 2.59. Some areas of Berks County did accrue enough near the end to reach or surpass the May normal. County totals ranged from 2.7 to 5.7, with the least in a SW to NE swath which included the Greater Reading Area. Officially, Reading (RDG) accrued 3.40. Durations of downpours from thunderstorms on the 26th accounted for much of the variability.

Temperature-wise, this May contained some large daily departures both above and below normal and trended in “roller-coaster” fashion. Some early warmth turned chilly and then hot, including three days in lower 90s, toward end of above-mentioned dry spell. By the 27th, the running average was slightly above normal. Then very anomalous chill the last weekend dropped the average to slightly subnormal, ending at 62.1 (-0.7). RDG averaged close at 62.2. Rather early in the month, Mothers’ Day (9th) was miserably cool with low/high of 38/54 with near total cloud cover but little rain. That chill was to be outdone in high temperatures during the Saturday, Sunday of the Memorial holiday with highs of 51 and 54 with periods of rain, drizzle. Memorial Day (31st) became much nicer with temperature recovering to 75 with sunshine. Historical data shows the 51 (52 at RDG) was coolest for so late in spring since 1898 except low/high 47/51 on 2 June 1907. May 2020 also contained some very anomalously cool temperatures, including new record for coolest May day overall (32/48) on 9th, key to cool average of 60.7.

RANKINGS AND EXTREMES FOR THIS MONTH (MAY)

Avg Temp 62.1 – 15th coolest of 37 (57.7 in 2005 to 68.4 in 2015)

Precip 3.42 – 11th driest of 39 (1.15 in 2005 to 12.66 in 1989)

Snowfall 0.0 – Least of 39 Last widespread May flurries, 9 May 1977

Statistical spring (months MAM) averaged 53.9 (+1.2) in temperature, consisted of a warm (relative to normal) March and small plus/minus departures of April/May, and included extremes of 19 on 8 March and 93 on 26 May. Precipitation totaled 9.01 (-3.71), of which all three months were moderately subnormal, and included as much as 1.67 in 24 hours on 28-29 May. The “snow machine” shut down before March began and allowed only traces, the last occurrence late evening of 1 April.