**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 2023**

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

TEMPERATURES

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

1 63 46 46 **0.13** Showers ~1700 and post-dusk

2 55 44 47 0.01 Shower at midday

3 56 43 **43** 0.06 Shower ~0700 (0.01), midday (0.05)

4 **54** 39 52

5 67 44 47

6 75 41 49

**7** 77 44 61 T Feeble drops late afternoon

8 78 55 56

9 76 55 55

10 76 43 52

11 83 45 60

12 **89** 53 **70**

13 74 54 54 0.02 Periods of light rain dawn to early PM

**14** 77 45 55

15 77 43 61

16 82 48 61

17 68 46 46

18 71 **35** 51

19 75 47 66

20 75 52 60 0.03 Slight drizzle at times; light rain post-dusk

**21** 81 53 54

22 82 48 60

23 80 53 55

24 84 48 58 T Slight spray of rain toward dusk

25 72 47 52

26 78 44 56

27 84 45 56

**28** 81 48 64

29 **89** **59** 59 Delightful Memorial Day weather

30 82 52 53

31 86 44 55

SUM 2357 1463 0.25 0.0 0

MONTHLY STATISTICS

Average Monthly Temperature (Dep): 61.6 (-1.2)

Average Maximum Temperature (Dep): 76.0 (+2.1)

Average Minimum Temperature (Dep): 47.2 (-4.5)

Extreme Daily High Max Temp (Dep): 89 (-2) on 12,29 (record 98 on 30 May 1987)

Extreme Daily High Minimum Temp: 59 on 29th (record 72 on 30 May 2011)+

Extreme Daily Low Min Temp (Dep): 35 (-2) on 18th (record 31 on 14 May 1996)

Extreme Daily Low Maximum Temp: 54 on 4th (record 48 on 09 May 2020)

Heating Degree Days (Season): 123 (4269)

Cooling Degree Days (Season): 25 (57)

+ Most recent of more than one occurrence

-- more --

Total Monthly Precipitation (Dep): 0.25 (-3.90)

Total Annual Pcpn through Month: 13.13 (-6.64)

Greatest Calendar Day Pcpn: 0.13 on 1st (record 3.12 19 May 1988)

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Pcpn: 0.14 on 1st-2nd (rec 4.10 04-05 May 1989)

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

Total Season Snowfall (Dep): 3.7 (-24.6)

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): 0 (-5)

Highest Wind Gust (MPH): 26 on 1st

Maximum Barometric Pressure: 30.33 on 27th

Minimum Barometric Pressure: 29.17 on 1st

HIGHLIGHTS

May 2023 became historic for the paltry rainfall at Reading 4 SW and throughout the Reading PA area. The 0.25” (-3.90) month total at Reading 4 SW marked a new driest May during 41 years of record, far under the previous least of 1.15 from May 2005. Of that quarter-inch, 0.20 came during the first three days from occasional leftover light rains as the complex storm system which delivered 2.39 the last day of April slowly departed. Sprawling high pressure which followed persisted the remainder of the month and beyond. A few wet weather systems to the south and northeast were barred from entering this area, thus suppressing rainfall. The much needed soaking of 30 April (2.39) tapered only a few hours before the beginning of May. Only eight hours slower timing of the storm’s departure would have meant no new driest May. Therefore, timing was critical. Ironically, a new low barometer for May of 29.17 in\*Hg adjusted to sea level was set as May began, as the intense low center was still nearby. Further, this May’s 0.25 marked the second driest calendar month to only 0.22 of August 1995. Even more, year-through-May precipitation of 13.13” ranks second least to only 2009, which had only 13.04 through May, and just ahead of 1985 with 13.47. Year 2009 ended with total precipitation of 51.04. May 2022 was rather wet at 5.33. May rain totals in Berks County averaged near a quarter-inch and ranged mostly between 0.1 and 0.4 inch. Officially for Reading PA (RDG), the 0.09” total humiliated the previous driest May in at least 154 years which was 0.66 from 1880 and became second driest calendar month to only 0.04” during October 1924. An amazing parallel to this 30 April was a soaking of 2.48” on 30 September 1924.

After a few highs in the 50s early in May, highs reached at least 70, including twelve 80s (highest 89 on 12, 29) under plentiful sunshine most days. In between, clear nights with little wind and low humidity fostered strong nocturnal cooling. Day-to-night contrasts trended wider as this May progressed and became more desert-like. The month’s low of 35 on 19th came between highs of 68 and 71. During 40 years, days with a high of 80-something following a low in the 40s have been rare. This May had seven such days, including the 31st which had a rebound of 42 degrees from 44 to 86, and was one of a few days with early shiver and later swelter. This day seems to be a candidate for the greatest diurnal range without change in air mass in 40-plus years of record. These wide diurnal swings and early chill averaged to a slightly subnormal 61.6 (-1.2). The average of the daily lows, 47.2 (-4.5), more than offset the majority of warm daily highs which averaged 76.0 (+2.1). May 2022 averaged warmer at 65.8 and included extremes of 36/95.

RANKINGS AND EXTREMES FOR THIS MONTH (MAY)

Avg Temp 61.6 – 13th coolest of 39 (57.7 in 2005 to 68.4 in 2015)

Precip 0.25 – 1st driest of 41 (1.15\* in 2005 to 12.66 in 1989) \* previous driest

Snowfall 0.0 – Least of 41 Last widespread May flurries, 9 May 1977

Statistical spring (months MAM) averaged 54.0 (+1.3) in temperature, consisted of a warm (relative to normal) March and April and then a cool May, and included extremes of 22 on 20 March and 89 on 12 and 29 May. Precipitation totaled 7.79” (-4.93), which is second driest in 41 years, only to 7.07” in 2006, and was replete of long periods with little or no rain. In fact, 4.72” of it fell within three consecutive days in both early March and late April. The only wintry precipitation was a few brief occurrences of feeble snow or sleet in early March.