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

**March 2020**

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

 TEMPERATURES

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

 **1** 46 **24** 30

 2 66 27 51 0.05 Light rain after 2100 to near midnight

 3 59 43 46 0.43 Periods of rain midday, PM; squall ~2030

 4 59 43 46 T Few drops early evening

 5 53 34 34

 6 43 30 38 0.29 Steady light rain noon to around midnight

 7 47 29 **29** T Rain ended soon after midnight

 **8** 59 25 46

 9 73 33 57

10 69 48 54 0.02 Light rain mid-morning, mid-evening

11 57 37 37 T Few drops late afternoon to dusk

12 59 35 47 T Drizzle around 0700

13 72 47 49 0.24 Rain predawn, dawn

14 57 40 41 0.02 Light rain after 2300

**15** 56 37 38 0.03 Light rain long before dawn, sunny afternoon

16 53 28 42

17 56 40 43 0.04 Occasional light rain predawn to forenoon

18 60 32 44 0.21 Rain after 2000

19 53 42 51 0.74 Rain till near dawn

20 **78** **51** **62** 0.03 Drizzle, fog AM; light rain forenoon, early-aft

21 62 34 34

**22** 50 29 39 predawn

23 **42** 35 41 0.61 T Light to mod rain till 1630; feeble snow/sleet

24 55 41 44

25 46 41 42 0.09 Light rain forenoon, early afternoon

26 59 34 50 T Sprinkle toward midnight

27 68 47 48 T Sprinkles well before dawn

28 49 45 46 **1.59** Rain heavy at times, little gentle thunder

**29** 51 46 49 0.02 Occasional drizzle; moderate fog

30 61 46 48 T Sprinkle around 1215

31 48 43 43 0.03 Period of light rain forenoon

SUM 1766 1166 4.44 T 0

MONTHLY STATISTICS

Average Monthly Temperature (Dep): 47.3 (+5.3)

Average Maximum Temperature (Dep): 57.0 (+4.8)

Average Minimum Temperature (Dep): 37.6 (+5.7)

Extreme Daily High Max Temp (Dep): 78 (+4) on 20th (record 89 on 30 Mar 1998)

Extreme Daily High Minimum Temp: 51 on 20th (record 63 on 16 Mar 1990)

Extreme Daily Low Min Temp (Dep): 24 (+8) on 1st (record 5 on 06 Mar 2015)+

Extreme Daily Low Maximum Temp: 42 on 23rd (record 25 on 14 Mar 1993)

Heating Degree Days (Season): 540 (3995)

Cooling Degree Days (Season): 0 (0)

+ Most recent of more than one occurrence

 -- more --

Total Monthly Precipitation (Dep): 4.44 (+0.12)

Total Annual Pcpn through Month: 10.63 (-0.63)

Greatest Calendar Day Pcpn: 1.59 on 28th (record 3.12 21 Mar 2000)

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Pcpn: 1.60 on 28th-29th (rec 3.62 21-22 Mar 2000)

Total Monthly Snowfall (Dep): T (-4.8)

Total Season Snowfall (Dep): 3.6 (-25.4)

Greatest Calendar Day Snowfall: T on 23rd (record 14.0 on 13 Mar 1993)

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Snowfl: T on 23rd-23rd (rec 14.1 on 13-14 Mar 1993)

Maximum Depth of Snow/Ice: 0

Days with Hail: 0

Days with Thunder (Dep): 1 (-0)

Highest Wind Gust (MPH): 26 on 7th

Maximum Barometric Pressure: 30.64 on 22nd

Minimum Barometric Pressure: 29.47 on 3rd

HIGHLIGHTS

March 2020 followed the trend of January and February with significantly, though not extremely, above normal temperatures, ending with an average of 47.3 (+5.3), good for fourth warmest March of 36. January’s and February’s departures were nearly identical, +5.3 and +5.4 respectively. Officially for Reading (RDG), the average of 46.8 became eighth warmest March of 123. The average of the daily minimums (+5.7) contributed slightly more to the anomaly than the average of the daily maximums (+4.8). Warm days (maximums 70 or above) numbered three, greatest 78 on the 20th, and is only typical for March. The March mildness was persistent, seldom extreme, and occasionally interrupted by at worst moderate cold. It was the scarcity of cold weather that made this March quite warm overall. The month’s coldest of 24 on the 1st was one of only eight days with freezing temperatures (average is 17) which tied 2012 for fewest such days during March. Marches of 2010 and 2013 failed to dip below 26. Most Marches had one to several days with minimums below 20 and maximums below 40. The coolest maximum this March was 42 on the 23rd, one of only seven days which failed to rise to at least 50. March can have days with very large or small ranges of temperature, and this March did not disappoint. The 3rd saw a 39-degree surge from 27 to 66, but was outdone by a 40-degree surge from 33 to 73 seven days later. Both of these big rises resulted from the bright sun warming a very shallow layer against the surface which was strongly chilled the previous overnight as there was no change in air mass. Conversely, thick overcast, rain, and easterly flow during three full days limited temperature change to 5 degrees on the 25th, 4 degrees on the 28th, and 5 degrees on the 29th. Last March (2019) was much cooler at 40.1 with extremes of 11/75.

Rain was common throughout the month with 23 days with some rain, including 16 with measurable amounts. However, the daily amounts were minor to moderate except for a soaking on the 28th which brought 1.59 of the 4.44 total, which is within the normal range (+0.12). This wet day brought also the year’s first occurrence of thunder as a few faint to gentle rumbles. Snow was virtually no-show with feeble sleet and wet snow predawn of the 23rd and went unnoticed by most folks. This marked the fifth March of 38 with zero or trace of snow. March 2019 was wetter at 5.33 which included the melt of 10.8” of snow. Based on nearly 60 complete reports in Berks County, all but a few had monthly total precipitation within the range of 3.5 and 5.0. RDG was one of a few below this range at 3.28. Reports of a coating (0.1 or 0.2) of snow were rare in Berks. The mildness and rain has been favorable for early vegetative growth to advance about two weeks ahead of normal. Some did their first lawn mowing during the last week of March.

RANKINGS AND EXTREMES FOR THIS MONTH (MARCH)

Avg Temp 47.3 – 4th warmest of 36 (35.9 in 1993 to 52.3 in 2012)

Precip 4.44 – 21st wettest of 38 (0.69 in 2006 to 8.26 in 1993)

Snowfall T – 2nd least (4-way) of 38 (0.0 in 2012 to 16.4 in 1984)