**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 2020**

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

TEMPERATURES

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

1 67 53 57 0.09 Intermittent light rain AM; sprinkle early eve

2 73 47 62

**3** 80 55 68 0.09 Showers before dawn

4 71 49 49 T Sprinkles long before dawn

5 59 41 50

6 55 45 45 0.17 Occasional light rain 0900 to 2100

7 67 42 58 T Few drops 210 hour and toward midnight

8 58 36 **36** **0.85** Occasional rain AM, more steady PM, ended late

9 **48** **32** 38 T Few drops ~1600, wet flakes above 400 feet ASL

**10** 65 35 51

11 60 43 44 0.02 Light rain at times daybreak to early afternoon

12 61 40 43

13 67 34 42

14 73 37 62 T Sprinkles early evening

15 87 62 69 0.01 Light shower ~0750; sprinkles after dusk…

16 77 60 60 0.01 …into wee hours

**17** 70 53 60 0.04 Light rain afternoon

18 72 54 56

19 71 49 53

20 66 46 46

21 76 38 58

22 67 57 66 0.57 Periods of rain, drizzle after 0800

23 80 61 61 0.12 Intermittent light rain till mid afternoon

**24** 74 56 57 T Very light drizzle early daylight

25 80 54 63 Pleasant weather for Memorial Day

26 87 58 67 Brief fog at daybreak

27 82 62 70

28 80 **69** **74** 0.02 Light rain at infrequent times AM, early PM

29 **88** 67 67 0.59 Late afternoon TSTM (0.43); showers late eve…

30 82 63 65 0.01 …till shortly after midnight EST

**31** 72 52 54

SUM 2215 1550 2.59 0.0 0

MONTHLY STATISTICS

Average Monthly Temperature (Dep): 60.7 (-1.7)

Average Maximum Temperature (Dep): 71.5 (-2.5)

Average Minimum Temperature (Dep): 50.0 (-0.9)

Extreme Daily High Max Temp (Dep): 88 (-3) on 29th (record 98 on 80 May 1987)

Extreme Daily High Minimum Temp: 69 on 28th (record 72 on 30 May 2011)+

Extreme Daily Low Min Temp (Dep): 32 (-5) on 9th (record 31 on 14 May 1996)

Extreme Daily Low Maximum Temp: 48 on 9th (record 49 on 02 May 1995)$

Heating Degree Days (Season): 197 (4640)

Cooling Degree Days (Season): 71 (71)

+ Most recent of more than one occurrence

$ Previous record

-- more --

Total Monthly Precipitation (Dep): 2.59 (-1.89)

Total Annual Pcpn through Month: 20.01 (+0.25)

Greatest Calendar Day Pcpn: 0.85 on 8th (record 3.12 19 May 1988)

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Pcpn: 0.85 on 8th-8th (rec 4.10 04-05 May 1989)

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

Total Season Snowfall (Dep): 3.6 (-25.9)

Greatest Calendar Day Snowfall: 0.0 on 9th (record 0.0 on 09 May 2020)\*

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Snowfl: 0.0 on 9th (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): 26 on 11th

Maximum Barometric Pressure: 30.42 on 20th, 21st

Minimum Barometric Pressure: 29.62 on 4th, 8th

HIGHLIGHTS

Like April, cooler than normal temperatures dominated, especially 8th to 14th. The average of 60.7 at Reading 4 SW was the same as the official average for Reading (RDG). A near-freezing low of 32.4 (32 rounded) on 9th matched the RDG low of 32, which undercut the old date record low of 34 from 1898, 1947, 1976. At Reading 4 SW, it was only the third 32 or below in May in the last 37 years. The high that same day was only 48 (same at RDG) and marked a new coolest daily high in May at Reading 4 SW, previously 49 on 2 May 1995. The simple daily average of 40 crushed the previous May record of 45 from 3 May 2005. The same 40 average at RDG beat the previous low May date average of 41.5 from 1 May 1978 in 123 years of record. Few days later, a low of 34 (also 34 at RDG), beat the old date record low of 36 from 1976, 1996. Eventually, a warm stretch late month, which included seven of eight days with highs of 80 or above (highest 88), offset much of the earlier chill. The key “chill kills” were the lows of 69 and 67 on the 28th and 29th respectively. Last May (2019) was much warmer at 65.2.

In sharp contrast with the sogginess of last May, 10.39” of rain and numerous thunderstorms, some very strong; this May produced only 2.59 (25 percent) and one thunderstorm, which was rather strong, stoked by the month’s high of 88 and mid 70s dew points, and prevented this May from being the first May with no thunder. Two other Mays in last 38 years had only one thunder day, 2005 and 2017. The greatest storm rainfall was only 0.85. While no snow occurred at Reading 4 SW or officially at RDG, flurries were spotted at numerous locations in Berks County above 400 feet ASL on the 9th. The previous occurrence of any snow at any elevation during May in the Reading area was 9 May 1977. Monthly precipitation totals this May in Berks County were low, mainly 2 to 3 inches. But Bethel Township of far western Berks County had around 4 inches. RDG collected 2.46.

RANKINGS AND EXTREMES FOR THIS MONTH (MAY)

Avg Temp 60.7 – 9th coolest of 36 (57.7 in 2005 to 68.4 in 2015)

Precip 2.59 – 6th driest of 38 (1.15 in 2005 to 12.66 in 1989)

Snowfall 0.0 – Most of 38 (> 400’) Last widespread May flurries, 9 May 1977

Statistical spring (months MAM) averaged 52.7 (+0.3) in temperature, consisted of a warm (relative to normal) March, which was nearly offset by cool April and May, and included extremes of 24 on 1 March and 88 on 29 May. Precipitation totaled 13.82 (+1.00), in which April contributed 6.79, nearly half, keyed by 2.93 within 18 hours from Easter night into Monday. Only snow was mere flurries on 23 March.