

MONTHLY WEATHER DATA AND OBS - WESTMONT 1.1W PA

OCTOBER 2008

OBSERVERS NATE AND STEVE MULLINS

Special Observations: F=fog, T=thunder, H=hail,
S=sleet, G=glaze, DW=damaging winds
Observation time for this station is midnight.

| Date | Temperature, °F | | | Precipitation, In. | | | Special Obs. |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | 24-hour Max | Min | At Obs | Liquid Rain Equiv | Solid Snow/Ice | 7am Snow Depth | |
| 1 | 50 | 38 | 43 | | | | |
| 2 | 51 | 43 | 50 | 0.29 | | | |
| 3 | 60 | 47 | 47 | | | | F |
| 4 | 49 | 46 | 46 | | | | |
| 5 | 57 | 41 | 42 | | | | |
| 6 | 60 | 36 | 57 | | | | F, patchy frost |
| 7 | 62 | 45 | 45 | 0.12 | | | DW |
| 8 | 56 | 41 | 55 | 0.01 | | | |
| 9 | 69 | 51 | 58 | 1.02 | | | F |
| 10 | 58 | 42 | 42 | 0.21 | | | |
| 11 | 52 | 38 | 38 | | | | |
| 12 | 47 | 35 | 45 | | | | F |
| 13 | 53 | 38 | 38 | | | | |
| 14 | 39 | 31 | 35 | 0.01 | T | | F,S |
| 15 | 37 | 34 | 34 | 0.67 | T | | F,S |
| 16 | 36 | 33 | 33 | 0.08 | T | | F,S |
| 17 | 35 | 32 | 33 | 0.14 | T | | F,S |
| 18 | 43 | 32 | 34 | 0.02 | T | | F,S |
| 19 | 52 | 27 | 42 | | | | F |
| 20 | 59 | 38 | 48 | | | | |
| 21 | 69 | 45 | 51 | | | | |
| 22 | 70 | 48 | 56 | | | | |
| 23 | 56 | 52 | 52 | 0.28 | | | |
| 24 | 55 | 41 | 41 | 0.61 | | | |
| 25 | 54 | 37 | 41 | | | | |
| 26 | 55 | 33 | 45 | | | | F |
| 27 | 55 | 41 | 47 | 0.18 | | | |
| 28 | 51 | 46 | 46 | 0.50 | | | |
| 29 | 56 | 43 | 49 | 0.01 | | | F |
| 30 | 56 | 49 | 49 | | | | |
| 31 | 62 | 42 | 42 | 0.09 | | | |
| AVG/SUM | 53.7 | 40.2 | 44.6 | 4.24 | T | - | |
| EXT | 70 | 27 | - | 1.02 | T | - | |
| Date | 22 | 19 | - | 9 | 18* | - | |

*-=Also occurred on earlier dates

Miscellaneous Stats

Mean Monthly Temperature: 46.9 °F

Year precipitation to date: 37.52"

Season snowfall to date: Trace

Number of days with: Fog 12, Sleet 5, Glaze 0, Thunder 0, Hail 0, Damaging Wind 1

DETAILED OBSERVATION NOTES

- 1: Partly to mostly cloudy early, then mostly sunny with light W winds.
 - 2: Overcast with occasional breezes from the SE to SW. Evening showers dropped .29" of rain.
 - 3: Light fog early, then mostly sunny, followed by variably cloudy skies and breezy conditions.
 - 4: Mostly overcast, cooler and breezy with temperatures steady in the upper 40s.
 - 5: Clear early with light W winds, partly cloudy midday, then clear again during the late afternoon and evening hours.
 - 6: Pockets of dense fog this morning with a low of 36 and widespread patchy frost, the season's first. Mostly sunny skies through the AM hours with increasing afternoon and evening clouds and SW/W winds increasing to 15-20 mph.
 - 7: Overnight showers (.12") with an early high of 62 then slowly falling temperatures, mostly cloudy skies and very windy conditions with sustained NW winds 15 to 30 mph and gusts over 40, causing scattered tree damage.
 - 8: Mostly clear early with a red sunrise then becoming variably to mostly cloudy. Much calmer winds.
 - 9: Mild overnight with rain, heavy at times, developing pre-dawn and continuing through mid-morning with .62" by 10:15 am and fog. A break in the clouds and gusty SW winds during the mid-afternoon with a mild high of 69, before a heavy downpour around sunset brought another .40" of rain in a short time.
 - 10: A mild 58 at midnight was the high for the day. Overnight rain ended another .21" fell. Temperatures slowly fell and winds became northwest gusting 25+ mph.
 - 11: Mostly cloudy early, with clearing skies during the PM hours and near calm W winds.
 - 12: Cool AM with valley fog and overcast skies. Winds shifted to SE (up to 15 mph) for most of the day with mostly cloudy skies.
 - 13: An overnight warm-up to 53 then falling temperatures and breezy conditions with W winds gusting to 25 mph. Mostly cloudy with partial clearing after sunset and diminishing winds.
- UNUSUALLY COLD - MIXED PRECIP - RECORD HEAVY SNOWS NORTH/NORTHEAST OF AREA
- 14: Fair early with valley fog and the season's first freeze (31 F). Clouds moved in quickly, keeping the temperatures in the 30s with a high of only 39 F. Light rain/sleet mix by 3:30pm was very light with a light coating of ice on the ground. Calm to light E winds made for a very raw, chilly day.
 - 15: A cold, steady light to occasionally moderate rain fell all day with light SE/E winds and the rain mixing with some sleet and snow this evening, but no accumulation. Heavy snow fell N & E of the area.
 - 16: Temperatures held steady at 34 F overnight with drizzle and occasional flurries or ice pellets through the day. Temperatures in the mid-30s all day. Record-setting heavy wet snows fell to our north and northeast, especially over Centre County where 4-9" of snow fell in the State College area.
 - 17: Very chilly again high only 35 with lows briefly reaching freezing but precipitation continuing as mostly light rain and drizzle, until late evening when it changed over to mostly light snow with some sleet also, but still did not accumulate.
 - 18: Mixed light precipitation (snow/sleet) ended overnight with no measurable accumulation. Mostly cloudy and only slightly warmer but still blustery with temps in the low 40s and breezy north winds.
 - 19: Clear skies this morning with a chilly 27 F and heavy frost. Valley fog again. Mostly sunny with light to moderate W breezes and temperatures rebounding to the low 50s by mid-afternoon.
- MILD AND PLEASANT
- 20: A cool start with a low of 38 F then a very pleasant sunny, mild day with a high of 59, passing high clouds and light SW winds, occasionally gusty (15-20 mph). Increasing PM clouds
 - 21: Another beautiful clear sunny day with a mild high of 69 and light SW winds. 100% sunshine.
 - 22: Partly to mostly sunny and mild again, occasionally gusty SW winds, increasing PM cloudiness
 - 23: Becoming overcast and breezy, steady light rain began around 2pm .28" fell by midnight.
 - 24: A period of moderate rain overnight and through 9:30am, ended abruptly with another .61" falling. Some areas to our east had 2 to 4 inches of rain and flash flooding from training bands of heavy rain. Temperatures fell slowly through the day with overcast skies and gusty west winds.
 - 25: Sunny/clear all day with near 100% sun and light W to NW winds.
 - 26: Cooler this morning low 33 F with clear skies. Low temps were quite variable with sub-freezing lows

just a few blocks away but the low was only 40 at the airport. Sunny and pleasant day.
27: Increasing clouds with light rain developing around sunset and continuing through the evening .18" fell by midnight.
28: Light to moderate rain overnight, overcast, periods of light rain and drizzle continued on and off through the day another .50" rain fell. Winds shifted from SW to W and gusted to 25 mph at times.
29: Early drizzle (.01") and fog ending by 8am then breezy NW to NE winds and remaining mostly overcast.
30: Mostly cloudy once again with winds shifting to S/SE and occasionally gusting 15-20 mph.
31: Mild early with a few peaks of sun but mostly overcast. Light rain showers from 11 am to 2:30 pm and becoming very windy with falling temperatures. Winds shifted back to the west and gusted 35+ mph. Low reached 42 F by midnight.

MONTHLY SUMMARY

October was a very cloudy month with frequent moderate precipitation events, pushing monthly precipitation above normal for the first time since May. The weather pattern was quite active, with eight weather systems affecting the area. The first weak front passed through on the 2nd, with the season's first frost on the 6th. On the 7th, a strong front passed through with showers and damaging winds gusting around 45 mph. The month's heaviest rain of 1.23" fell on the 9th-10th. The middle of the month had an unusual 4-day stretch with max temperatures only in the 30s from the 14th-17th. Five consecutive days had ice pellets (sleet), which is rare for October. Wet snow fell every day from the 15th-18th but did not accumulate. During this time, areas to our north and east, particularly the State College area, had a record early-season heavy snowfall with 4 to 9 inches in Centre County. An strong Low just north and east of our area was responsible for the snow over northern and central PA. The western fringes of a coastal storm on the heels of the first storm dropped up to 2 inches of wet snow in the higher elevations (over 2,000 ft) of the Laurel Highlands. Frontal systems brought more moderate rainfall on the 23rd-24th and again on the 27th-28th. The first storm caused flooding just to our east on the 24th, when a training band of heavy rain dropped 2 to 4 inches of rain in a short time from the WV/MD panhandle through central and northeast PA. The final weather system of the month passed through during the midday hours on the 31st (Halloween), with light rain showers, falling temperatures and high winds gusting around 35 mph.

For the umpteenth month, max temperatures were below normal, but above normal min temperatures offset the below normal daytime highs, and overall temperatures were near normal. Some of this can certainly be attributed to the frequent, often persistent cloudiness, but this trend, particularly for above normal mins, has become a prevalent pattern over the past several years. The streak of days in the 30s from the 14th-17th was unusual, and the month's low of 27 was set on the 19th. However, a strong high pressure system brought fair skies and southerly winds from the 20th-22nd, and temperatures quickly rebounded well into the upper 60s, reaching the month's high of 70 on the 22nd, just 3 days after the month's low of 27. Temperatures moderated from the 23rd on, with most days in the mid 50s. In general, we did not see the typical October trend of mild temperatures early in the month with the gradual cooling trend as the month went on. Instead, temperatures during the first and second halves of October were nearly equal.