Two Bizarre May Snowfalls in Kentucky

May 20, 1894

Cold Canadian air poured southward between high pressure over the Upper Plains and low pressure moving up the East Coast. The East Coast low threw copious amounts of Atlantic moisture as far west as Kentucky's Blue Grass. Snowfall amounts from that day:

• Lexington, Harrodsburg, and Mount Sterling: 6"

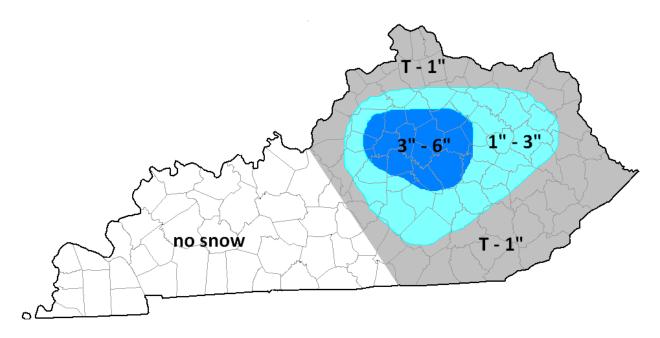
• Shelbyville and Richmond: 4"

• Burnside and Eubank: 3"

Sandy Hook and Shelby City: 2"

• Hendricks: 1"

• Carrollton, Louisa, Middlesboro, and Louisville: Trace



Comments from observers:

Greendale (northern Fayette County): "Snow was heavy – flattened all the wheat to the ground, breaking much of it".

Harrodsburg: "A remarkable snowstorm. Peach trees as well as many other kinds – vegetables, grains are bent to the ground. Great destruction to fruit and shade trees as well as rye wheat." Richmond: "There was probably more snow fell on the 20th than four inches yet it melted so fast next to the ground."

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May 6-7, 1898

High pressure over the Great Plains teamed up with low pressure over the southeast United States to provide enough moisture and cold air to spark light snow across portions of Kentucky.

Shelbyville: 2"
Irvington: 1.5"
Lexington: 1.2"
Louisville: 1.0"

• Elizabethtown: 0.5"

• Caddo, Greensburg, Leitchfield, Owenton, Loretto, Shelby City, and Scott: Trace