

This morning, May 15th, the ground was white, and it was snowing hard. The cold north wind felt more like March than mid May. I know that our weather is very changeable, and we often get unseasonably cold weather in the spring and can as easily have summer temperatures in late fall. So, I decided to take a look back at some years in my journal to see if I had made any notes concerning weather on the fifteenth of May in the past.

On May 15th in 2007, I made no mention of the temperature, but it was raining. Two days later, though, I wrote that it was cold, that it would probably freeze over night, and the next day, May 18th, I noted that it had been 25 degrees F.

In 2009, I did not note the temperature on the fifteenth, but the day before was "sunny, windy, and cold."

The next year, I once again neglected to write about the weather. But, on May 16th, I mentioned that it looked as if it would be the nicest day so far this spring.

On May 15th, 2011, I wrote that it was 40 degrees F. in the morning and that there was a cold northeast wind all day. We had built a fire in the basement stove to keep the house warm.

In 2012 it was 35 degrees on this date. I worked in the garden, so it must have at least felt a bit like spring. Two days later, though, it froze over night again.

May 15th, 2013 had a morning temperature of 38 degrees F. I noted that it was a "nice evening." Ten days later, however, we had two consecutive hard frosts. I must have been optimistic, though, as I also wrote that I had planted several beds in the garden on the 25th.

The 15th of May in 2014 was not a nice day. I wrote: "A cold, nasty day. It rained, blew, and finally, snowed. Hard on the sheep flock, since we'd sent out the smallest lambs only the day before."

Last year, May 15th, 2015, I made this entry in my journal: "40 degrees. Raining when we got up." And, five days later, on May 20, I noted: "21 degrees. Froze hard last night. Was very clear this morning." It didn't improve immediately, either. 30 degrees on the 21st, 23 the next day, and 25 degrees on the 23rd of May. It warmed up over the next

several days, but on the first of June last year, we had 32 degrees and patchy frost and another light frost the next morning, as well.

May is often an "up and down" month. Perhaps the fact that we are anxiously awaiting weather to plant a vegetable garden makes us less tolerant of the situation.

The past couple of days have definitely been a "down" part of the month. I covered up all of the plants in our unheated greenhouse, and they suffered no damage. Just to be on the safe side, however, I did not uncover them today.

We are moving toward the warm part of the year, not the favorite season for those of us who enjoy cooler temperatures, but even we appreciate the summer, knowing that we need the warmth to successfully grow the foods we must have to sustain ourselves during the next year. And growing what we eat is one of our main goals. So, although some of us mop our brows and drink copious amounts of iced tea, we have a certain grudging desire for tomato weather.