

May 10, 2020: Sunday. As we started toward the barn for morning chores, I remarked to Runo that there were snowflakes in the air. By the time I came out after feeding Effie and Lily, I could barely see the road. As the morning progressed, the snow began gathering even on the relatively “warm” grass-covered fields, and there were soon at least two inches of perfect winter snow on the ground. During the afternoon, it continued to snow off and on, but not in the enthusiastic manner that characterized the snowfall during the earlier part of the day.

An unusual occurrence sometimes leads me to wondering—and today, my question was, what was the weather like on May 10 in earlier years? So, I turned to my journals to take a sampling.

May 10, 2007: A sunny, clear morning. I planted three garden beds today and later, after evening chores, mowed grass. I didn’t look at the thermometer, but it must have been close to 80 degrees F.

May 10, 2008: A chilly day. We moved sheep and put up electric netting on the east side of the Maple Tree Field. (2020: Sheep are still in the barn.)

May 10, 2011: 45 degrees F. A little thunder and lightning this morning, but no rain. I planted five pounds of onion sets and another bed of potatoes today.

May 10, 2015: 50 degrees F. It rained off and on all day. Stayed chilly all day, and we kept the cookstove fire going. But, we need the rain.

May 10, 2018: 49 degrees F. Rained almost an inch last night. After chores I worked in the greenhouse. Later, we went to a “secret” place and found about 200 morel mushrooms. In the garden, I found four asparagus spears, the first this year. Frost likely tonight.

May 10, 2019: 40 degrees F. There was a little snow in the air today. A cold wind blew from the north all day.

That surprised me. I had not recalled that there was snow last year on this day, too, though there was not any accumulation. My most valid conclusion was that we are living in an area where weather changes are rapid and unpredictable. Perhaps, we should wish for a cold, wet summer. Weather that makes it unpleasant for most people to be outside might encourage folks to stay home and away from crowds, lessening the chance for Covid 19 infection. For us, the way looks clear: whatever the weather, we will be out of doors, but we will not be around crowds.

