

Forecast Abbreviations and Terms Explainer

Forecast Symbols & Abbreviations and their Explanations:

- **MaxT:** highest temperature recorded
- **MinT:** lowest temperature recorded
- **DewPts:** Dewpoint temperature, given in degrees Fahrenheit
 - the temperature at which water within air condenses into water droplets. Best used as measure of moisture, i.e. the closer the dewpoint temperature is to the actual temperature, the more humid the air is
- **RH:** Relative Humidity, a percentage of how much moisture is present within air compared to the maximum amount it can hold
- **POPs:** Probability of Precipitation, the percent chance that a given area will receive precipitation
- **Tr:** Trace precipitation amount, usually less than 0.01" if measurable
- **Elev.:** Elevation, given in feet
- **24hr In.:** Inches of precipitation measured within 24 hours
- **Season→7/1:** Total precipitation received since July 1st
- **% of normal:** The percentage of how much precipitation has been observed compared to a 20-year average
- **NW:** northwesterly winds, i.e. winds coming from the northwest. The same for all other directions
- **Var:** variable winds with no dominant direction, likely light or calm
- **N-Var:** northerly winds that also vary often. The same for all other directions
- **ETo:** Evapotranspiration, a measure of how much moisture is lost from the ground, given in inches
- **Min Battery Volts:** The lowest battery voltage recorded within the past 24 hours from the station
 - Values under 11.5V are considered low and indicate that a battery may need replacing soon
- **GDD:** Growing Degree Days, the number of hours observed with temperatures above 50°F
 - 24hr – within one day
 - Seasonal – accumulated since March 1st
- **Wx:** Weather
- **"↓" by itself:** The forecast information is the same as the information above this line
- **"↓" after a value:** This value will likely decrease
- **"↑" after a value:** This value will likely increase
- **"→" between values:** Indicates conditions will change from one value to another

Other Meteorological Terms and their Explanations:

- **Powdery Mildew Points:** a number showing the magnitude of powdery mildew stress, where 0-30 is low, 40-50 is moderate, and 60+ is severe stress
 - Points increase when temperatures are between 70-85°F and decrease otherwise
- **24hr Chill Hours:** the number of hours that temperatures were less than or equal to 45°F
- **Ridge:** an area of high pressure, most often indicative of warm, clear, and calm weather
- **Trough:** an area of low pressure, most often indicating cooler, cloudier weather with chances for rain

Have more questions? Get in touch at:

- forecaster@westernwx.com
- 530-342-1700