



## What type of PWS (Personal Weather Station) do you use?

Posted by [Paul Weir](#)

[Forum List](#) [Message List](#) [New Topic](#)

[Paul Weir](#)

[What type of PWS \(Personal Weather Station\) do you use?](#)

March 02, 2018 09:15PM

Registered: 11 years ago

Posts: 187

Hi Friends,

Do you use a PWS at your orchard to help manage and focus your weather related activities?

I have owned a Rainwise MKIII-LR Solar Powered Wireless PWS (Personal Weather Station) for the last 5 1/2 years.

[\[rainwise.com\]](#)

For 95% of that time it has run beautifully. I have it data linked to Weather Underground and the forecasting has been surprisingly accurate being a part of that network of PWS's.

Trouble comes when it fails.

I have had a few failures over the years, all were able to be fixed by myself. Recently though we had a data transmission failure that was unable to be troubleshot remotely and after trying a few parts (ordered & shipped to me), it was still not coming online. . . So, it was decided to send it back to HQ in Maine for their bench techs to have a go at it.

They were confident that they would be able to fix it.

Well I just got the call back from one of their service writers and he said the unit was fixed (\$400) but then he recommended that I just buy a new one (\$800, includes a \$200 trade in credit for my defective core they have already) because the repair would only come with a 30 day warranty and he couldn't guarantee I wouldn't be calling him back in a few months with another failure -- *well, there is some high confidence in ones product for you :-/*

By the way, he said that the 2018 Rainwise MKIII-LR is all but identical to the 2012 model I own now.

I know other farmers and row crop growers in my region that are using a variety of weather stations to help with their degree day calculations, moisture monitoring, wind, and more.

I wanted to pose the question to our members and guests here . . .

**What type of PWS (Personal Weather Station) do you use? What do you like most about it (or least) and would you highly recommend it to others?**

I am seriously thinking about jumping ship from Rainwise and your feedback will help

[Gopher Hill Apples](#)

Zone 8 in California

[Reply](#) [Quote](#)

[John Snowdon](#)

[Re: What type of PWS \(Personal Weather Station\) do you use?](#)

March 03, 2018 07:37PM

Registered: 8 years ago

Posts: 11

Hi Paul,

I have a Davis Scientific Vantage Pro 2 Plus weather station that has resided in my orchard the past 3 years or so. It wirelessly connects to my network through the Weather Link ip device and I am VERY happy with it. What I like is it has been a solid device, tho' I did replace the anemometer about a year ago. The all of the readings are accurate as compared to our weather stations around us, it is easily set up to connect to Weather Underground and it has plug in devices for soil moisture, leaf moisture etc. Supposedly, the software package that comes with them will alert you to when conditions are right for pest outbreaks in your orchard. I say supposedly as the part I hate is the devices work only in Windows, not Mac...a major disadvantage as I am a very long time Mac user. I hear rumors that they will fix this but as of late last year, I did not see anything available. Others may have more info about this. BTW, as a beekeeper, the Broodminder hive

scale and sensor system I use in my hives will access my Weather Underground account and import the ambient weather data into their app so I have a solid comparison between ambient (WU) and internal (temp/humidity values and can reference whether it was rainy, sunny, snowy, etc when reviewing my hive data.

Honey Meadow Farm, LLC  
Southwestern New Hampshire, Zone 5A  
Elevation: 960'

[Reply](#) [Quote](#)

[Brian Farley](#)

[Re: What type of PWS \(Personal Weather Station\) do you use?](#)

Registered: 7 years ago  
Posts: 4

March 05, 2018 03:33AM

I too have a RainWise MKIII, and recently sent it in to be serviced, a month later (and many dollars later) i had an almost completely refurbished unit. Have been very happy with it since then, seems to be holding up well. The biggest draw for me is the NEWA network, [\[newa.cornell.edu\]](#). Not sure if it has reached the west coast yet, or if you have something similar, but they exclusively use RainWise units. I am just a backyard grower, but these tools should come in handy this season. Cheers!

[Reply](#) [Quote](#)

[Paul Weir](#)

[Re: What type of PWS \(Personal Weather Station\) do you use?](#)

Registered: 11 years ago  
Posts: 187

March 08, 2018 11:00PM

Hi John & Brian,

Thank you both very much for your shared thoughts and feelings. Much appreciated.

John: Very cool that you tie it all into your honey bees and hives. Davis is solid hardware a long time leader in weather stations.

Brian: Just did a first look into the NEWA Network and it looks fabulous to me. There is some weather work and outreach being done in Eastern Washington, but I am unaware of anything like this for my part of California (Northern Sierra Foothills) . . . If anyone knows different, please let us know

Guys, can you follow up a post here with links to your PWSs?

Though it is offline right now . . . *do to my needed factory repairs* . . . You can find mine at [\[www.wunderground.com\]](#)

[Gopher Hill Apples](#)

Zone 8 in California

[Reply](#) [Quote](#)

[Brian Farley](#)

[Re: What type of PWS \(Personal Weather Station\) do you use?](#)

Registered: 7 years ago  
Posts: 4

March 11, 2018 03:33AM

When I sent my RainWise in for service, I received the same phone call and opted for the "rooftop refresh" even though it was only warrantied for 30 days, so far so good. I'm assumming with all new sensors that I should get a few years of service out of it. I am sure you will make a great decision, there are so many good options out there. Here are my links:

[\[www.wunderground.com\]](#)

[\[newa.cornell.edu\]](#)

[Reply](#) [Quote](#)

[Paul Weir](#)

[Re: What type of PWS \(Personal Weather Station\) do you use?](#)

Registered: 11 years ago  
Posts: 187

March 16, 2018 10:10PM

Hi Brian,

My final repair quote came back at \$315 so I opted for the repair. I could tell the gentleman I was talking with felt I should go with the complete exchange out for the ~\$800 cost. Side note: The company's support crew doesnt feel the same as it did to me when we made out initial purchase and when we have had a couple previous minor repair issues. I feel the rest of my unit should hold for several more years and if it doesnt, I doubt I will be going back to Rainwise and will plan to change directions and look into the Davis options available as John recommended.

Thanks for posting your links Brian, I enjoyed checking out your location and weather (past, present and forecast) therein.

Cheers!

[Gopher Hill Apples](#)

Zone 8 in California

[Reply](#) [Quote](#)

[John Snowdon](#)

Registered: 8 years ago  
Posts: 11

[Re: What type of PWS \(Personal Weather Station\) do you use?](#)

March 20, 2018 03:39AM

Hi Paul,

Sorry for the delay. I never realized just how busy retirement is! Not a complaint...My weather station link is below. Good luck with your station! Should you ever decide to buy another check out [www.scientificsales.com](http://www.scientificsales.com). That is where I bought mine. The prices are good and they understand the value of good customer service.

Cheers,

John

[weatherstation](#)

Honey Meadow Farm, LLC  
Southwestern New Hampshire, Zone 5A  
Elevation: 960'

[Reply Quote](#)

[Paul Weir](#)

[Re: What type of PWS \(Personal Weather Station\) do you use?](#)

March 25, 2018 04:41AM

Hi John,

Registered: 11 years ago

Posts: 187

No worries, thanks for your thumbs up for working with Scientific Sales. I love the idea of great customer service!

I know I am not alone when I say I dig seeing each of our PWS's -- really gives a bearing to where we are each growing

Cheers my friend!

[Gopher Hill Apples](#)

Zone 8 in California

[Reply Quote](#)

[Ian Graham](#)

[Re: What type of PWS \(Personal Weather Station\) do you use?](#)

April 07, 2018 06:36AM

Any updates to these recommendations or other units people are using?

Check out [www.farmOS.org](http://www.farmOS.org) for way to plug into a network of other farmers/orchards to share data.

[Reply Quote](#)

[Liz Griffith](#)

[Re: What type of PWS \(Personal Weather Station\) do you use?](#)

April 19, 2018 11:35PM

Hi, folks - We use two "WatchDog Weather Tracker" units from Spectrum Technologies, Inc, one in each of our bigger blocks. They are pretty old school and are not linked to anything, so you have to physically go to them to get the data. However we are usually out in the orchard anyway, so it is not that big of a deal. It would be nice to have an easier way of archiving the data, however, so we could compare seasons more effectively.

Registered: 7 years ago

Posts: 46

But they have been pretty reliable over the years, and we have gotten good customer service from the company when we have needed (infrequent) repairs.

Door Creek Orchard  
Zone 5a in Wisconsin

[Reply Quote](#)

[Newer Topic Older Topic](#)

[Print View RSS](#)

Sorry, only registered users may post in this forum.

[Click here to login](#)

This [forum](#) is powered by [Phorum](#).