

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO Weather Station Monthly Summary Report

Month: April
Year: 2021



Contrail shadows caught early in April. Photo by Noah Newman

Temperature:

Mean T_{\max} was 61.4°F which is 0.8° below the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 61st coldest in the 133-year record (1889-2021), tied with 1891, 1919 and 1952. The last April this cold or colder was 2013 with 57.1°F .

Mean T_{\min} was 32.4°F which is 3.1° below the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 61st coldest in the 133-year record (1889-2021), tied with 1938 and 1980. The last April this cold or colder was 2020 with 32.0°F .

Mean T_{mean} was 46.9°F which is 2.0° below the 1981-2010 the normal for the month. This is the 60th coldest in the 133-year record (1889-2021). The last April this cold or colder was 2013 with 43.8°F .

The maximum daily temperature for the month was 82°F and occurred on April 5, 2021.

The minimum daily temperature for the month was 11°F and occurred on April 20, 2021.

April 3rd saw the first $80^{\circ}+$ day of the year. This is the 10th earliest on record.

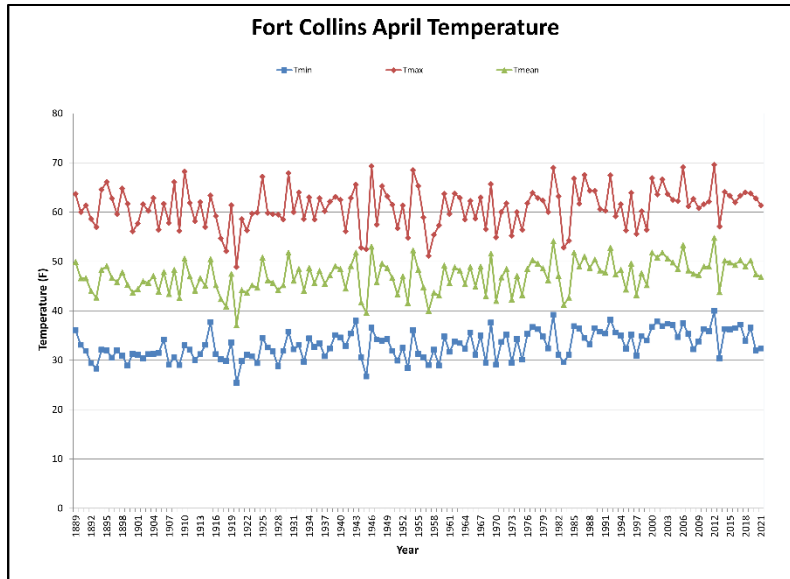


Figure 1: April temperature time series.

Misc. Temperature (record status, thresholds, etc.):

Maximum Daily Temperature Records:

April 3, 2021: The maximum temperature of 80°F beat the previous record for the day of 75°F set in 2005.

April 4, 2021: The maximum temperature of 81°F beat the previous record for the day of 78°F set in 1889.

April 5, 2021: The maximum temperature of 82°F beat the previous record for the day of 78°F set in 1991.

**There is only one day left in April where the maximum daily temperature record is below 80°F. This day is April 7 with a temperature of 79°F set in 1989.*

Coldest Maximum Temperature Record:

April 21, 2021: The maximum temperature of 35°F beat the previous coldest maximum for the day of 37°F set in 1909.

Minimum Daily Temperature Record:

April 20, 2021: The maximum temperature of 11°F beat the previous record for the day of 13°F set in 1966.

Precipitation and Snowfall:

Total monthly precipitation was 2.15” which is 0.09” above the 1981-2010 normal for the month (104% of normal). This ranks as the 44th wettest in the 133-year record (1889-2021). The last April this wet or wetter was 2016 with 2.75” of precipitation.

Water Year 2021 precipitation through April totaled 8.20” which is 1.34” above the 1981-2010 normal (120% of normal). This ranks as the 23rd wettest start to a water year in the 132-year record (1890-2021). The last water year this wet or wetter through April was 2016 with 10.93” of precipitation.

Total monthly snowfall for April was 12.1” which is 5.9” above the 1981-2010 normal for the month (195% of normal). This ranks as the 24th snowiest April in the 133-year record (1889-2021), tied with 1933 and 1977. The last April with this much snow or more was 2020 with 18.2” of snow.

Seasonal Snowfall for the 2021 snow season totaled 75.5” through April. This is 20.4” above the 1981-2010 normal (137% of normal). This ranks as the 9th snowiest start to a snow season. The last season to start with this much snow or more was the 2010 snow season with 84.6” of snow through April.

April had 11 days with measurable precipitation (≥ 0.01 ”) and 5 days with measurable snowfall (≥ 0.1 ”).

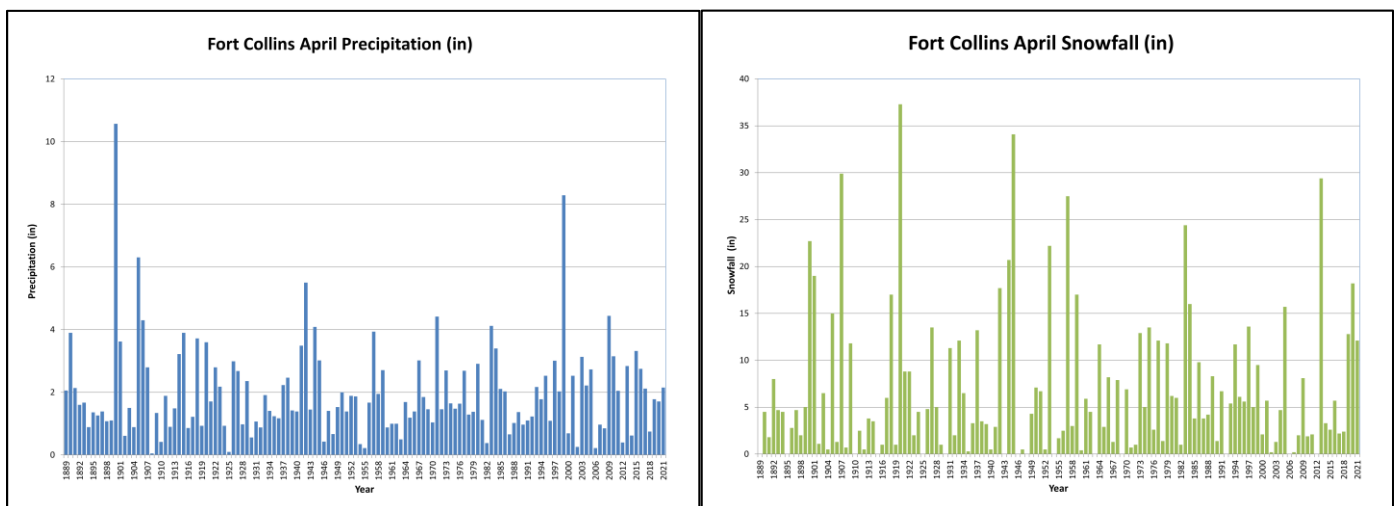


Figure 2: April precipitation (left) and snowfall (right) time series.

Misc. Precipitation (predominant type, record status, etc.):

No precipitation or snowfall records for April 2021.

Days with Snow Depth \geq 1 inch

April had 2 days with 1” of snow or greater on the ground. This compares to a normal of 2 days in April.

This season has seen 53 days with 1” of snow or greater on the ground through the end of April. This compares to a normal of 46 days.

The highest one-day precipitation total for April 2021 was 0.55” falling on April 15. The highest one-day snowfall total for the month was 6.4” on April 19.

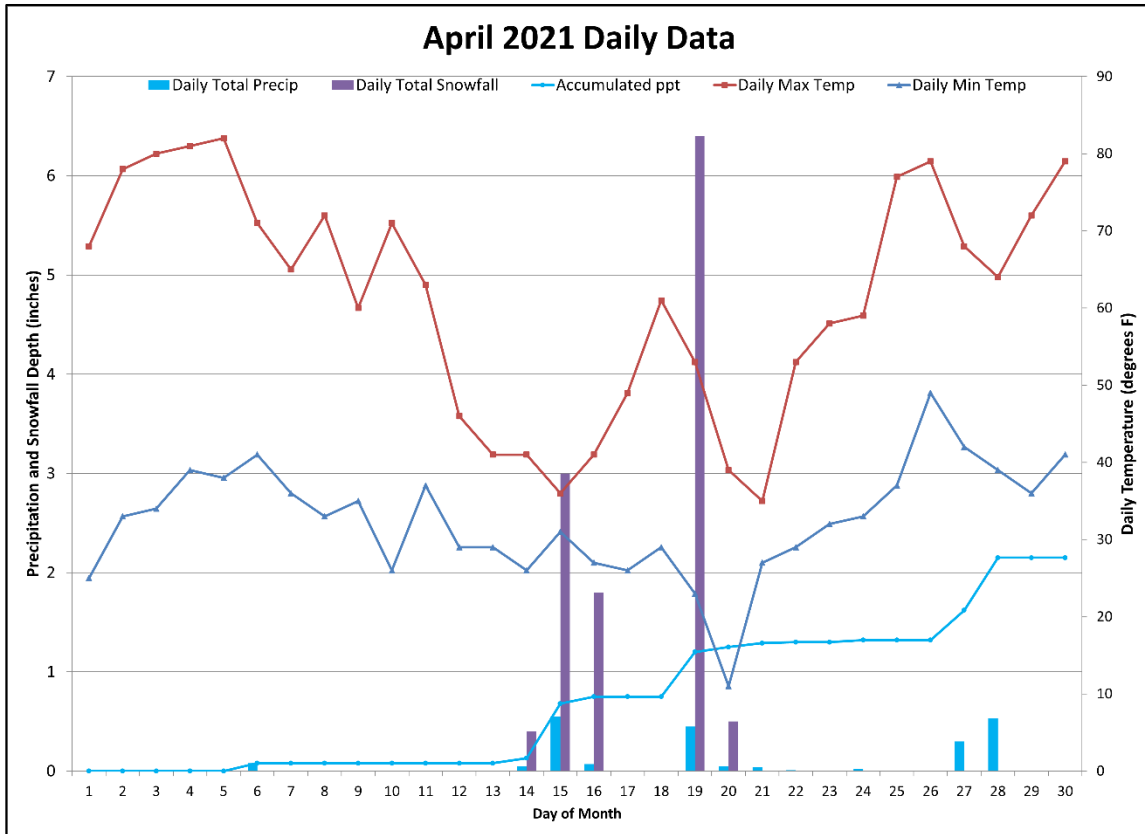


Figure 3: Daily Data for April 2021. Precipitation and temperature both show up on this graph. The y-axis on the left is for precipitation and snowfall. The y-axis on the right is for temperature.

Wind:

In April 2021 there were 12 days with maximum wind gusts ≥ 20 mph and 2 day ≥ 30 mph.

The maximum daily wind gust for the month was 32 mph and occurred on April 10, 2021 at 3:40 PM MST from 300° (NW) and on April 26 at 2:40 AM from 240 (SW).

Evaporation:

Pan evaporation for April 2021 totaled 4.38” which is 0.36” below the normal for April (93% of normal).

Additional graph on next page!

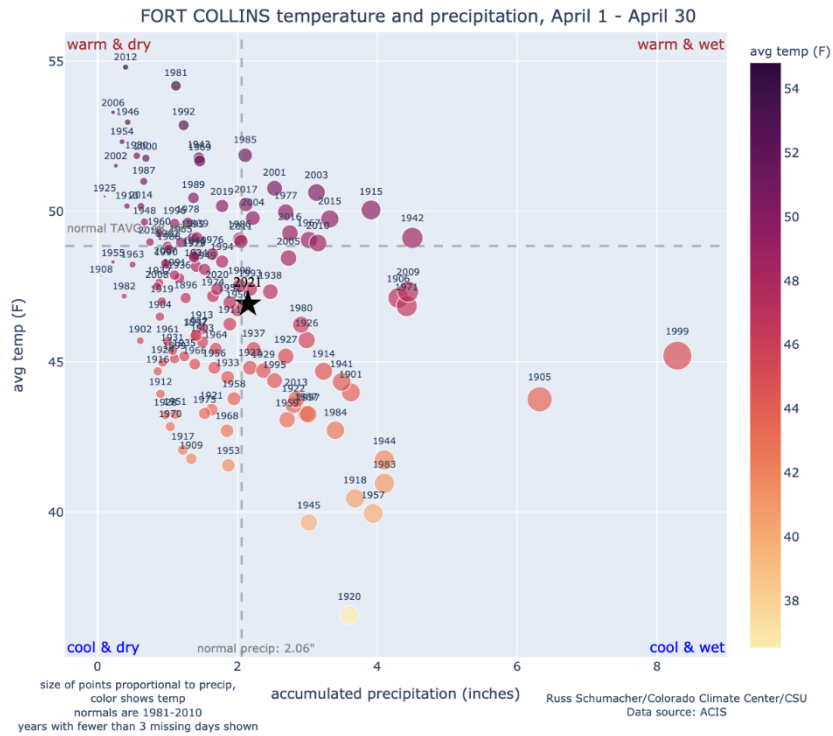


Figure 4: April precipitation and temperature data plot. Each dot plots monthly average temperature and precipitation at Fort Collins for the period of record. From left to right, monthly precipitation is shown on the x-axis, where the wettest years are plotted furthest to the right. Dot sizes are proportional to precipitation amounts. From bottom to top on the y-axis, average monthly temperature is shown, where the warmest years are plotted towards the top. The dots are also color coded with darker colors indicating higher temperatures. The horizontal and vertical dotted lines indicate the 1981-2010 normals. April 2021 (start) shows up cooler and slightly wetter than normal.