

# Fort Collins Weather Station Monthly Summary

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April 2023



Photo credit:  
Noah  
Newman



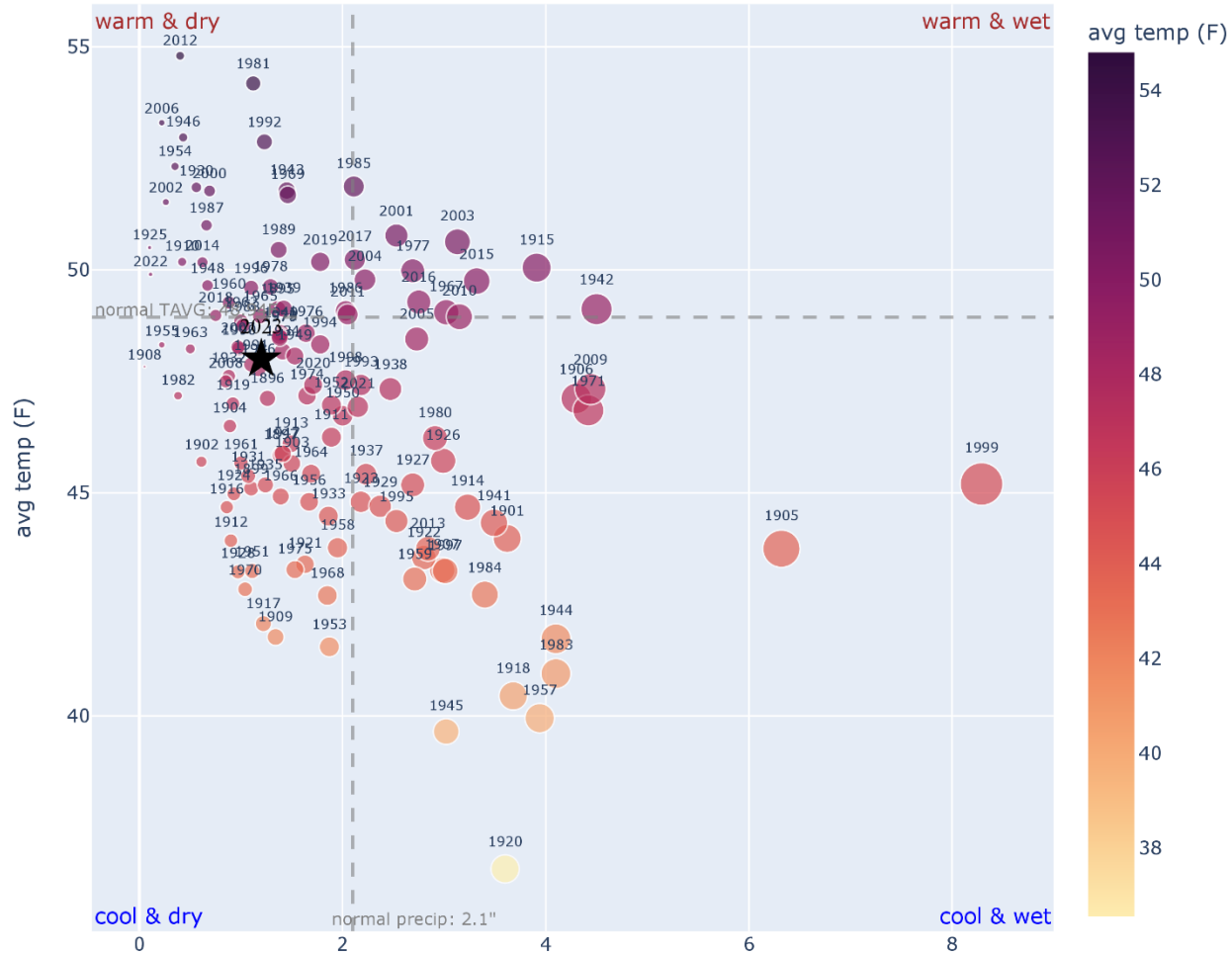
COLORADO  
**CLIMATE**  
CENTER



**ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE**  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

# Average Temperature and Precipitation

FORT COLLINS temperature and precipitation, April 1 - April 30



The average air temperature for April 2023 was 48.1 °F, 0.9 °F below our 1991-2020 April normal (49.0 °F)

The last cooler April was 2021 (46.9 °F)

We received 1.27" of precipitation in April 2023, 60.5% of our 1991-2020 April normal (2.10")

The last drier April was 2022 (0.11")

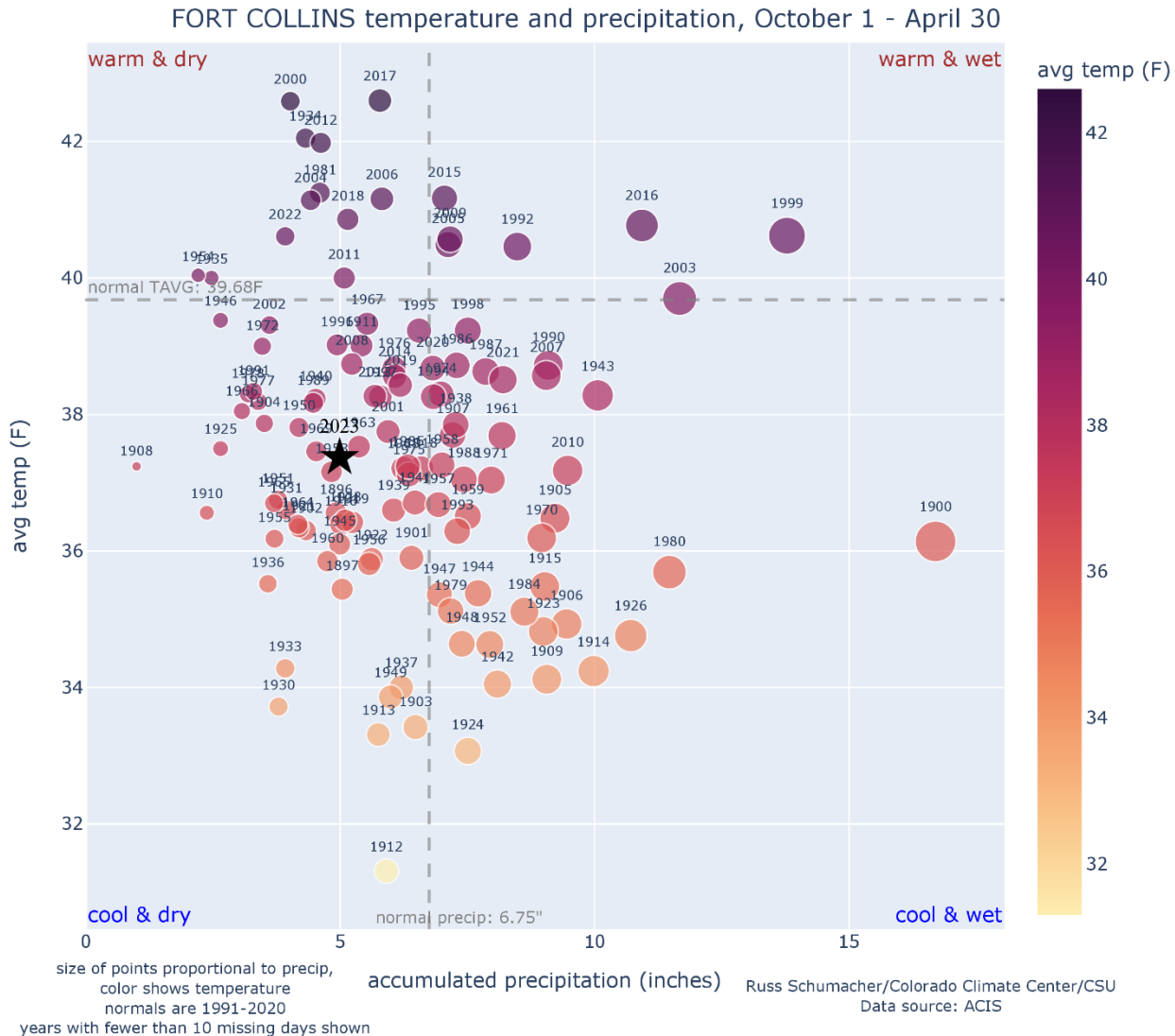
size of points proportional to precip,  
color shows temperature  
normals are 1991-2020  
years with fewer than 3 missing days shown

accumulated precipitation (inches)

Russ Schumacher/Colorado Climate Center/CSU  
Data source: ACIS



# Average Temperature and Precipitation



The average air temperature for our 2023 Water Year to date (since October 1<sup>st</sup>) is 37.4 °F. This is 2.2 °F below our 1991-2020 normal of 39.6 °F.

The last cooler October-April was 2010 (37.2 °F).

We have received 5.05" of precipitation this Water Year to date, 74.4% of our 1991-2020 normal (6.78")

The last Water Year to start at least this dry was 2022 (3.92"). May is the wettest month on average for Fort Collins. If May is also drier than normal it will be much more difficult to make up the current water year deficit.



# Records Broken

We shattered our old maximum daily temperature records on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Our maximum daily temperature on April 11<sup>th</sup> was 86 °F, breaking the old record of 80 °F set in 1982 and 1998. Our maximum daily temperature on April 12<sup>th</sup> was 85 °F, breaking the old record of 80 °F set in 1908.

April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 was the earliest 85+ degree day on record by 10 days. The earliest 85 degree day prior to this year was April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1989 (88 °F).

We tied the record for highest minimum daily temperature on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 51 °F. The original mark was set in 1932.



Photo Credit: Noah Newman





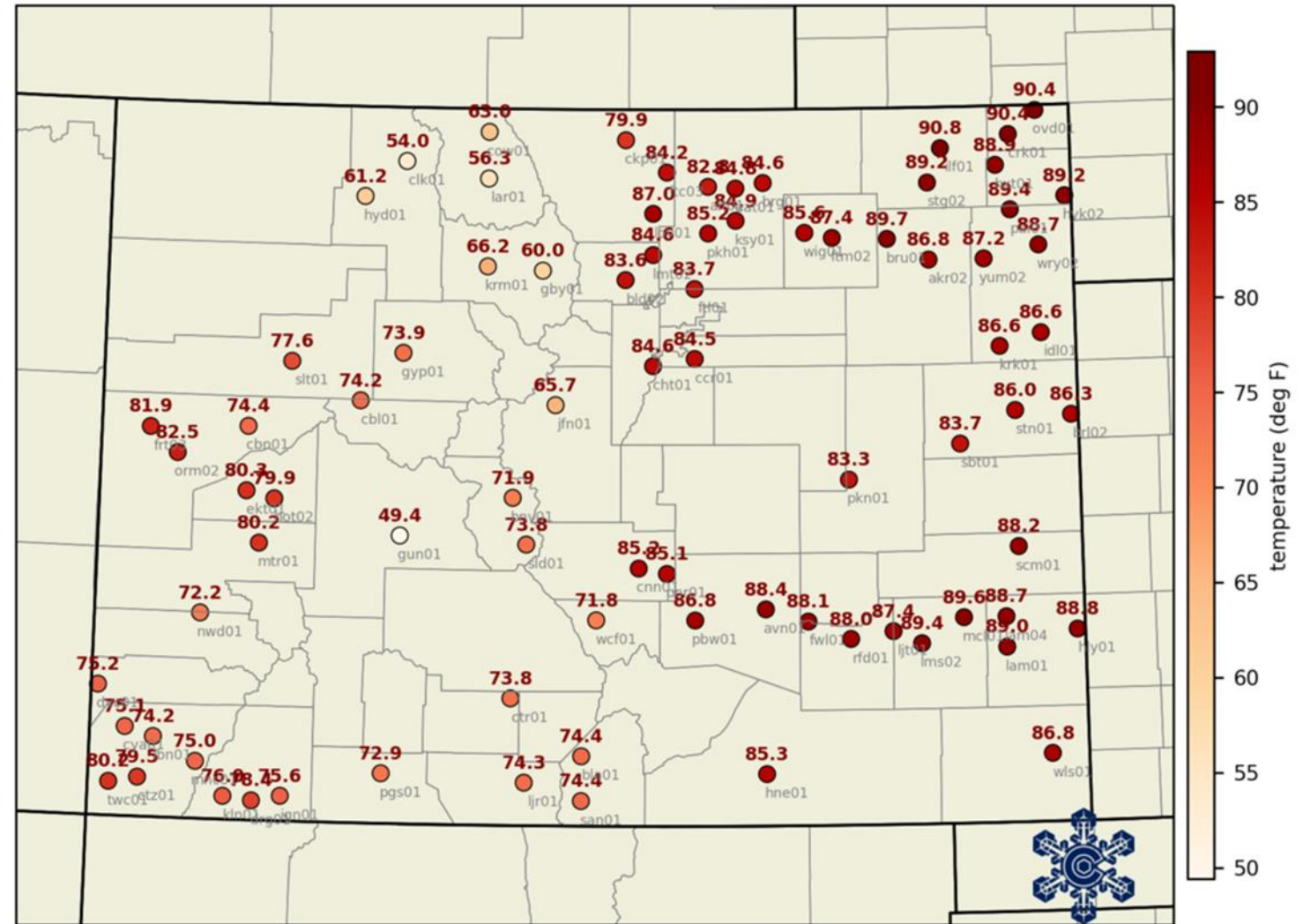
# Feature Story: April 11 and 12 High Temperatures

Our new maximum daily temperature records on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> were part of an early heat wave that set records across the state, including 90+ °F temperatures in the northeastern corner of the state.

A strong high pressure ridge over the southeastern United States pushed unseasonably warm air up from the southern US and Mexico on these days.

Record high temperatures in spring often come from downslope winds with air warming and drying through adiabatic compression. However winds gusts never exceeded 20mph on April 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>. The strongest winds came from due south rather than southwest or west.

CoAgMET/Northern Water daily maximum temperature (F): 11 Apr 2023

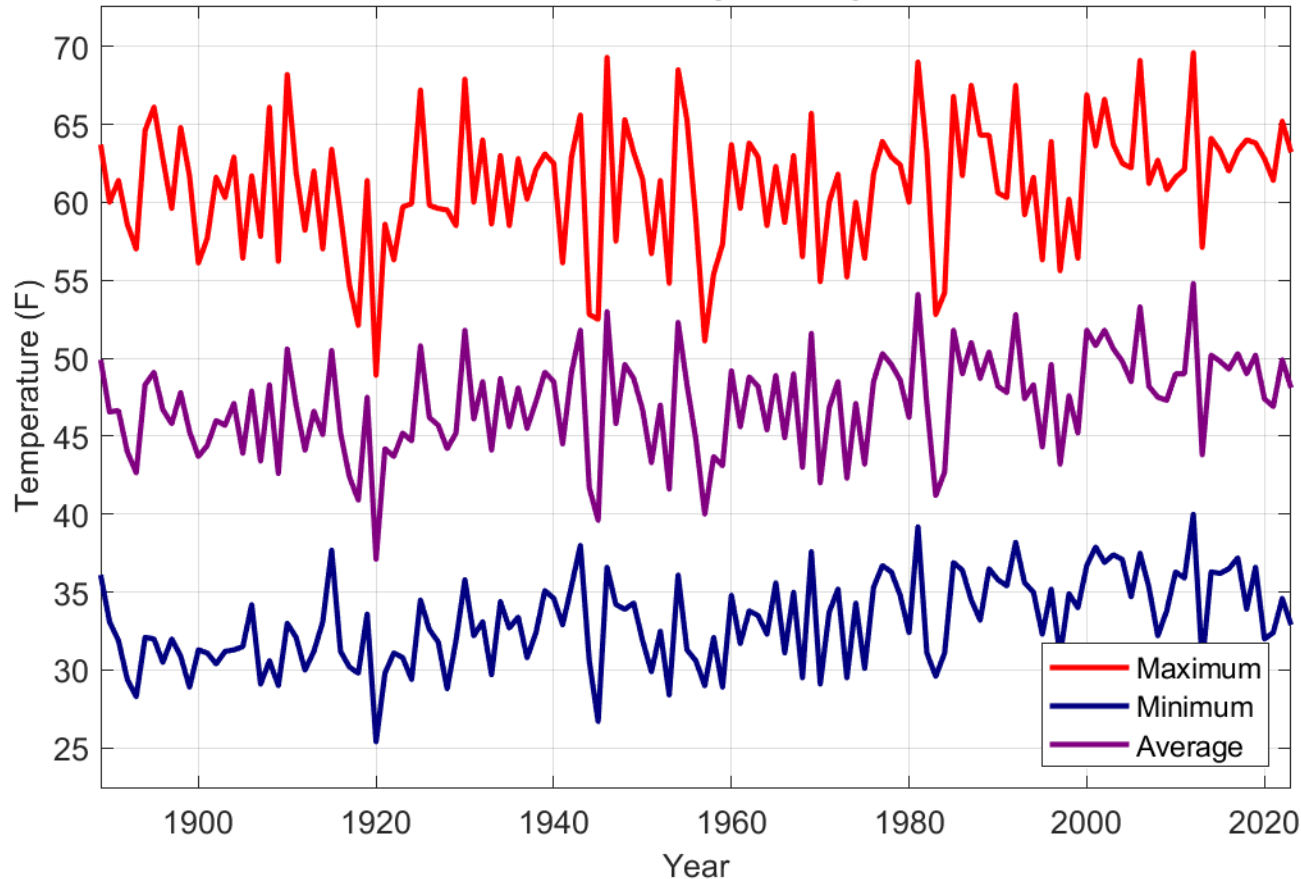


CoAgMET = Colorado Agricultural Meteorological Network

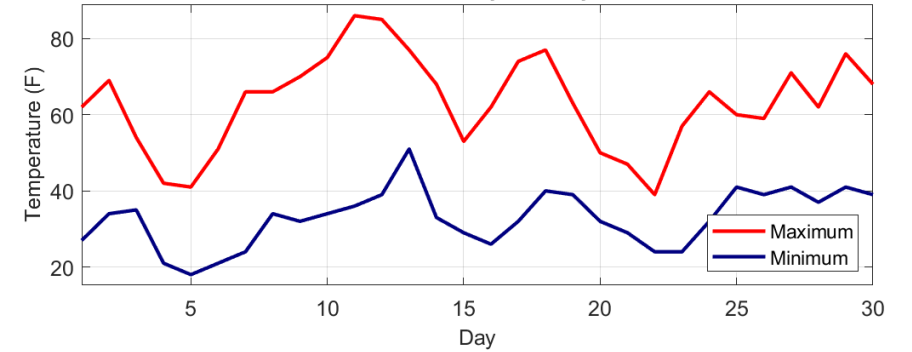


# April 2023 Time Series Graphics

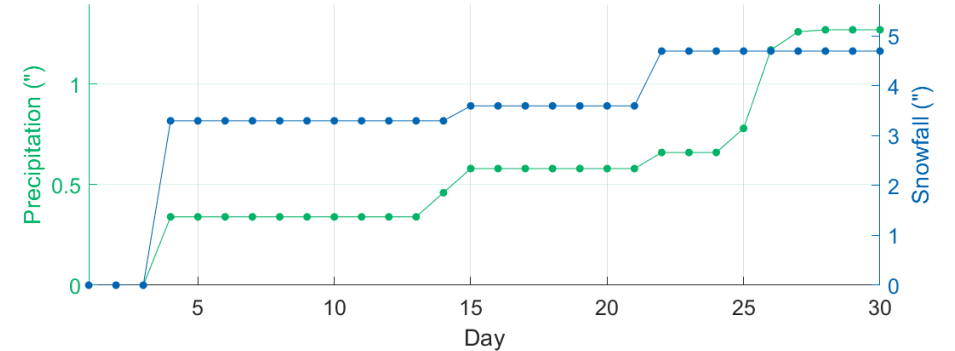
Fort Collins Weather Station April Temperature Timeseries



Fort Collins Weather Station April Temperature Timeseries



Fort Collins Weather Station April Precipitation and Snowfall Timeseries



Highest Daily  $T_{\max}$ : 86 °F on April 11<sup>th</sup>

Lowest Daily  $T_{\min}$ : 18 °F on April 5<sup>th</sup>

Highest Daily Precipitation: 0.39" on April 26<sup>th</sup>

Highest Daily Snowfall: 3.6" on April 4<sup>th</sup>



# Additional April 2023 Statistics

	Observed	1991-2020 Normal	POR Average	Depart from Normal	Depart from POR Average	Last Above	Last Below
$T_{\text{mean}}$ °F	48.1	49	47.1	-0.9	1	2022	2021
Mean( $T_{\text{max}}$ ) °F	63.2	62.5	61.1	0.7	2.1	2022	2021
Mean( $T_{\text{min}}$ ) °F	32.9	35.4	33.1	-2.5	-0.2	2022	2021
Precipitation “	1.27	2.09	1.96	-0.82	-0.69	2021	2022
Snowfall “	5	6.1	6.6	-1.1	-1.6	2021	2022
Water Year Precip “	5.05	6.72	6.23	-1.67	-1.18	2021	2022
Seasonal Snowfall “	47.7	49.1	47.1	-1.4	0.6	2021	2022
POR = period of record (since 1894)							

	Value	Date
Max( $T_{\text{max}}$ ) °F	86	11 <sup>th</sup>
Min( $T_{\text{max}}$ ) °F	39	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Max( $T_{\text{min}}$ ) °F	51	13 <sup>th</sup>
Min( $T_{\text{min}}$ ) °F	18	5 <sup>th</sup>
Max(Daily Precip)“	0.39	26 <sup>th</sup>
Max(Daily Snowfall)“	3.6	4 <sup>th</sup>
Peak Wind Gust (mph)	36.3	18 <sup>th</sup>

Days Precip > 0	10
Days Snowfall > 0	5
Days Precip > Trace	8
Days Snowfall > Trace	3
Days Wind Gust > 20mph	14
Peak Wind Gust Direction	194
Peak Wind Gust Time (MST)	17:42



# CONTACT US!

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