

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

**Month: May**  
**Year: 2011**  
**Report created by:**  
**Wendy Ryan**



## **Temperature:**

Mean  $T_{\max}$  was 65.4 which is 5.7 degrees below the normal for the month. This ranks as the 16<sup>th</sup> coldest in the 123 year record (1889-2011) tied with 1983. The most recent May this cold or colder was 1995 with 60.5 F.

Mean  $T_{\min}$  was 41.3 which is 2.8 degrees below the normal for the month. This ranks as the 47<sup>th</sup> coldest in the 123 year record (1889-2011) tied with 1922 and 1979. The most recent May this cold or colder was 1995 with 41.0 F.

Mean  $T_{\text{mean}}$  was 53.4 which is 4.3 degrees below the normal for the month. This ranks as the 26<sup>th</sup> coldest in the 123 year record (1889-2011) tied with 1929, 1933 and 1942. The most recent May this cold or colder was 1995 with 50.8 F.

Mean spring (March, April, May) temperature was 48.9 degrees which is 0.3 degrees below the normal. This ranks as the 26<sup>th</sup> warmest spring in the 123 year record (1889-2011). The most recent spring this warm or warmer was 2009 with 50.8 F.

The maximum daily temperature was 85 and occurred on 8 May 2011.  
The minimum daily temperature was 28 and occurred on 3 May 2011.

## **Misc. Temperature (record status, days above/below thresholds):**

### **Precipitation and Snowfall\*:**

Total monthly precipitation was 4.50” and was 2.09” above the average for the month (187% of normal). This ranks as the 19<sup>th</sup> wettest May in the 123 year record (1889-2011). The most recent May this wet or wetter was 1995 with 7.47”, which is the record maximum for May.

Water year 2011 precipitation is 9.58” which is 0.31” above normal (103% of normal). This ranks as the 45<sup>th</sup> wettest water year in the 122 year record, tied with 1907.

Spring 2011 precipitation was 6.84” which is 0.78” above the average for the spring. This ranks as the 36<sup>th</sup> wettest spring on record. The most recent spring this wet or wetter was 2009 with 7.60” (although 2010 was right behind with 6.83”).

Total monthly snowfall is a trace which is 1.5” below normal for the month (0% of normal). This May is one of 85 others with a trace of snowfall or less.

Seasonal snowfall is 23.7” which is 35.0” below normal (40% of normal). This ranks as the 7<sup>th</sup> least snowy season in the 122 year record. The last snow season with less than or equal snowfall was 1946 with 8.5”, which is the minimum in the record for Sept – May snowfall.

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

#### **Wind:**

In May 2011 there were 13 days with maximum wind gusts  $\geq 20$  mph and 3 days  $\geq 30$  mph.

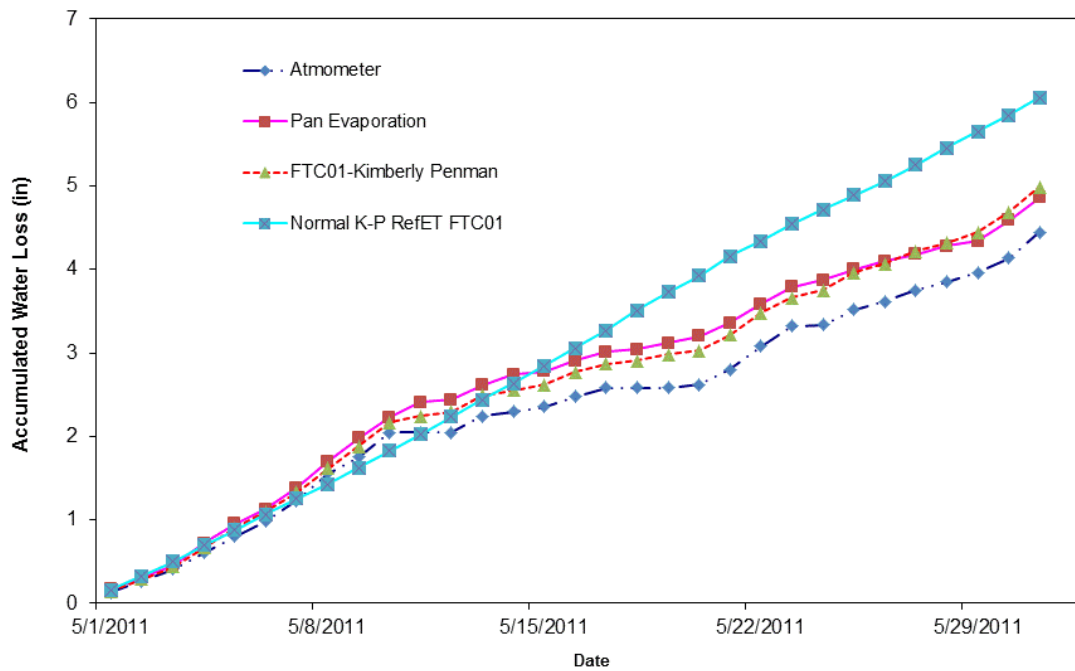
The maximum daily wind gust for the month was 32 mph from 280° at 13:20 MST on 4 May 2011.

## Evaporation:

May 2011 Class A pan evaporation was 4.86” with is 1.06” below the normal\*\* for the month (82% of normal).

\*\* Normal evaporation is average monthly evaporation calculated for Class A pan only (1974-2008). Prior to 1974 a sunken pan was used.

**Accumulated Water Loss Comparison 2011**



**Figure: Water loss comparison of Fort Collins Weather Station instruments (atmometer and class A pan) and nearby FTC01 CoAgMet ([ccc.atmos.colostate.edu/~coagmet](http://ccc.atmos.colostate.edu/~coagmet)) station. The light blue line represents the historical daily normal evaporation from the CoAgMet station.**