

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

**Month: May**  
**Year: 2012**



## **Temperature:**

Mean  $T_{\max}$  was 76.3 which is 5.2 degrees above the normal for the month. This ranks as the 3rd warmest in the 124 year record (1889-2012). The last May this warm or warmer was 2000 with 76.9 degrees.

Mean  $T_{\min}$  was 44.4 degrees which is 0.1 degrees below the normal for the month. This ranks as the 22<sup>nd</sup> warmest in the 124 year record (1889-2012) tied with 1984. The last May this warm or warmer was 2009 with 46.5 degrees.

Mean  $T_{\text{mean}}$  was 60.4 degrees which is 2.6 degrees above the normal for the month. This ranks as the 5<sup>th</sup> warmest in the 124 year record (1889-2012) tied with 1974 and 2004. The last May this warm or warmer was 2006 with 60.6 degrees.

Spring (March, April, May) mean temperature was 55.1 degrees which is 5.7 degrees above the normal for the spring. This ranks as the warmest spring in the 124 year record (1889-2012). The second warmest was 2004 with 52.6 degrees.

The maximum daily temperature was 91 and occurred 22 May 2012.  
The minimum daily temperature was 35 and occurred on 8 May 2012.

A time series of May temperatures for Fort Collins, CO is shown in Figure 1 below.

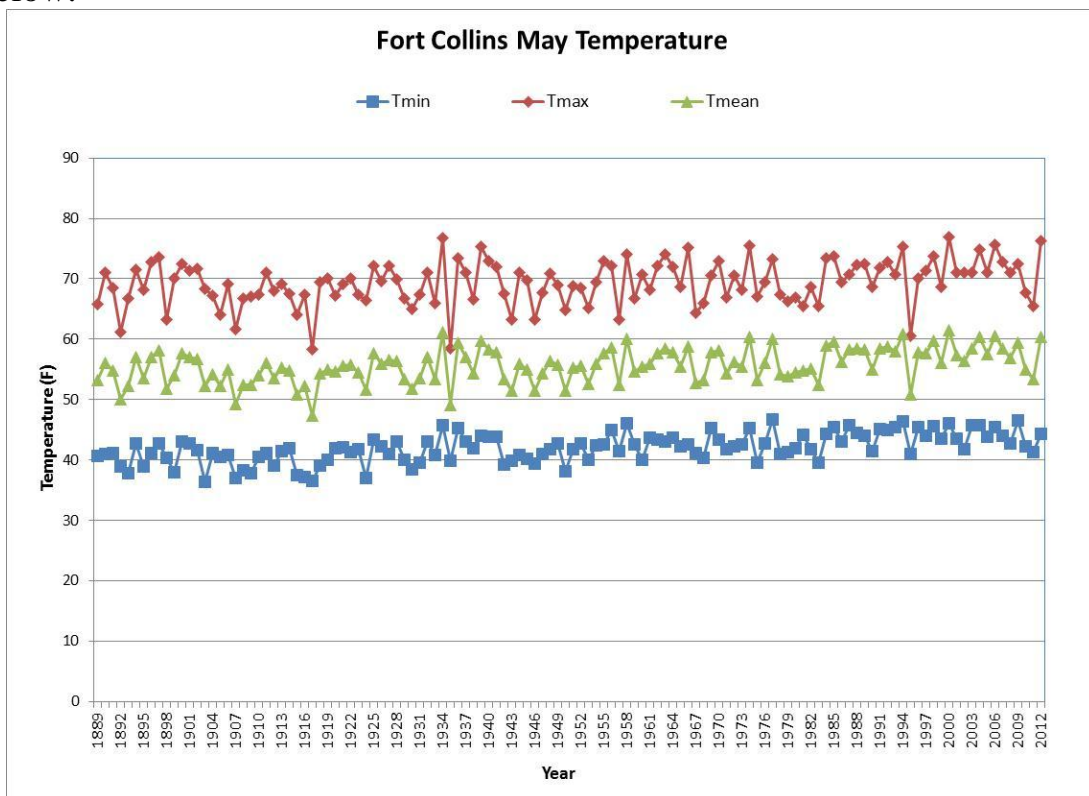


Figure 1: May temperature time series

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

#### *Highest Maximum Temperature*

22 May 2012: Maximum temperature of 91 breaks the old record of 89 set in 1939.

#### *Highest Minimum Temperature*

26 May 2012: Minimum temperature of 54 ties the old record set in 1953.

### Precipitation and Snowfall:

Total monthly precipitation was 1.69" and was 0.74" below the normal for the month (70% of normal). This ranks as the 36<sup>th</sup> driest May in the 124 year record (1889-2012). The last May this dry was 2008 with 1.62".

Spring precipitation was 2.09” (3.99” below normal, 34% of normal) and ranks as the 3<sup>rd</sup> driest in the 124 year record (1889 – 2012). The last spring this dry or drier was 1966 with 1.67”.

Calendar year precipitation was 2.88” which is 4.00” below the normal (42% or normal). This ranks as the 4<sup>th</sup> driest calendar year through May in the 124 year record (1889 – 2012). The last calendar year this dry or drier was 1966 with 2.39”.

Water year 2012 precipitation through May was 6.31” and was 2.98” below the normal (68% of normal). This ranks as the 22<sup>nd</sup> driest water year in the 123 year data record (1890-2012). The last water year this dry by May was 2004 with 5.93”.

Time series of May and water year precipitation are shown in Figure 2.

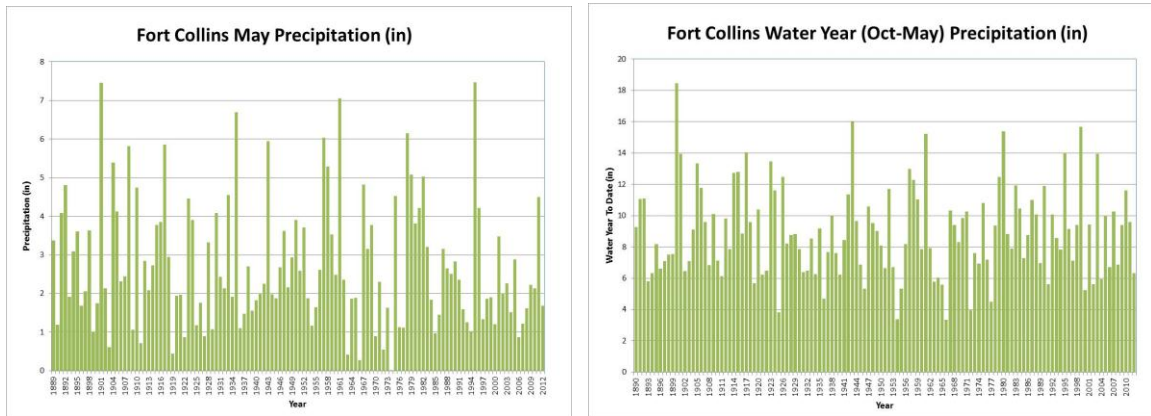


Figure 2: May (left) and water year (right) precipitation time series.

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

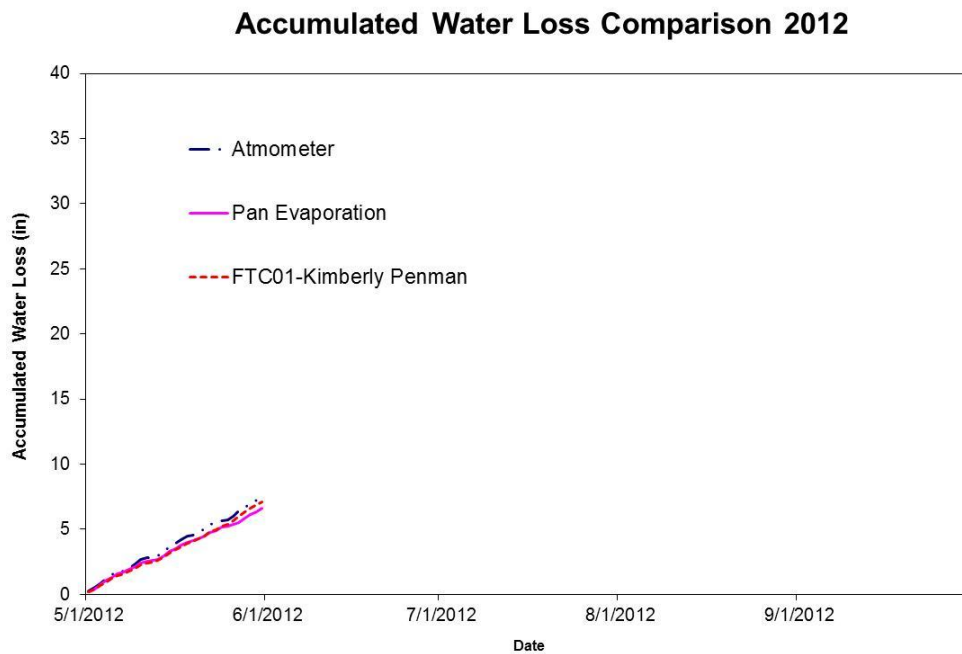
### Wind:

In May 2012 there were 17 days with maximum wind gusts  $\geq 20$  mph and 1 day  $\geq 30$  mph.

The maximum daily wind gust for the month was 35 mph and occurred on 26 May 2012 at 20:20 MST from  $210^\circ$ .

### Evaporation:

May 2012 pan evaporation was 6.63" and is 0.71" above the normal for the month (112%).



**Figure 3: 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.**