

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

**Month: May**  
**Year: 2017**



Over 5" of heavy tree snapping snow on the ground on May 19th.

## **Temperature:**

Mean  $T_{\max}$  was 70.5°F which is 0.6° below the 1981-2010 normal for the month (1.2 degrees above the 1889-2017 average). This is the 56<sup>th</sup> warmest in the 129 year record (1889-2017), tied with 1972. The last May this warm or warmer was 2014 with 70.9°F.

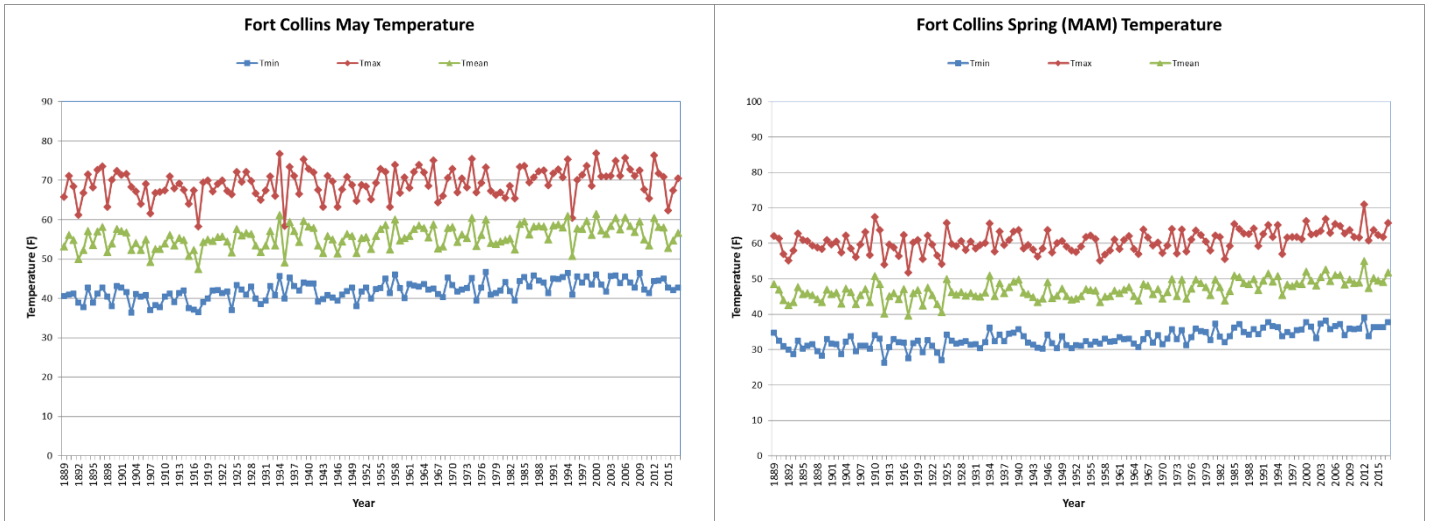
Mean  $T_{\min}$  was 42.7°F which is 1.8° below the 1981-2010 normal for the month (0.6 above the 1889-2017 average). This is the 54<sup>th</sup> warmest in the 129 year record (1889-2017), tied with 2008. The last May this warm or warmer was 2015 with 42.8°F.

Mean  $T_{\text{mean}}$  was 56.6°F which is 1.2° below the 1981-2010 normal for the month (0.9 above the 1889-2017 average). This is the 50<sup>th</sup> warmest in the 129 year record (1889-2017), tied with 1927. The last May this warm or warmer was 2014 with 58.0°F.

Spring (March, April, May) mean temperature was 51.8°F which is 2.4° above the 1981-2010 normal for the season. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> warmest in the 129 year record (1889-2017). The last spring this warm or warmer was 2012 with 55.1°F, the warmest spring on record.

The maximum daily temperature for the month was 87°F and occurred on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

The minimum daily temperature for the month was 32°F and occurred on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017.



**Figure 1: May (left) and spring (right) temperature time series.**

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

*No temperature records for May 2017*

## **Precipitation and Snowfall:**

Total monthly precipitation is 4.44” and was 2.01” above the 1981-2010 normal for the month (183% of normal). This ranks as the 23<sup>rd</sup> wettest in the 129 year record (1889-2017). The last May this wet or wetter was 2015 with 6.34” of precipitation.

Water year precipitation through May totaled 10.22” and is 0.93” above the normal for the water year (110% of normal). This ranks as the 39<sup>th</sup> wettest start to the water year in the 128 year record (1890-2017). This last water year to start this wet or wetter was 2016 with 12.77” through May.

Spring (MAM) precipitation totaled 7.55” and was 1.47” above the 1981-2010 normal for the month (124% of normal). This ranks as the 29<sup>th</sup> wettest spring on record. The last spring this wet or wetter was 2015 with 9.87”.

Total monthly snowfall was 7.6” and was 6.9” above the 1981-2010 normal for the month (1,086% of normal). This ranks as the 8<sup>th</sup> snowiest May in the 129 year record (1889-2017). The last May with this much snowfall or more was 2013 with 12.9” of snowfall.

Seasonal snowfall for the 2017 snow season is 36.3” and is 19.5” below the 1981-2010 normal for the season through May (65% of normal). This ranks as the 36<sup>th</sup> least snowy in the 128 year record (1890-2017). The last season to start with this little snowfall was 2011 with 23.7” through May.

May had 16 days with measurable precipitation ( $\geq 0.01$ ”) and 2 days with measurable snowfall ( $\geq 0.1$ ”)

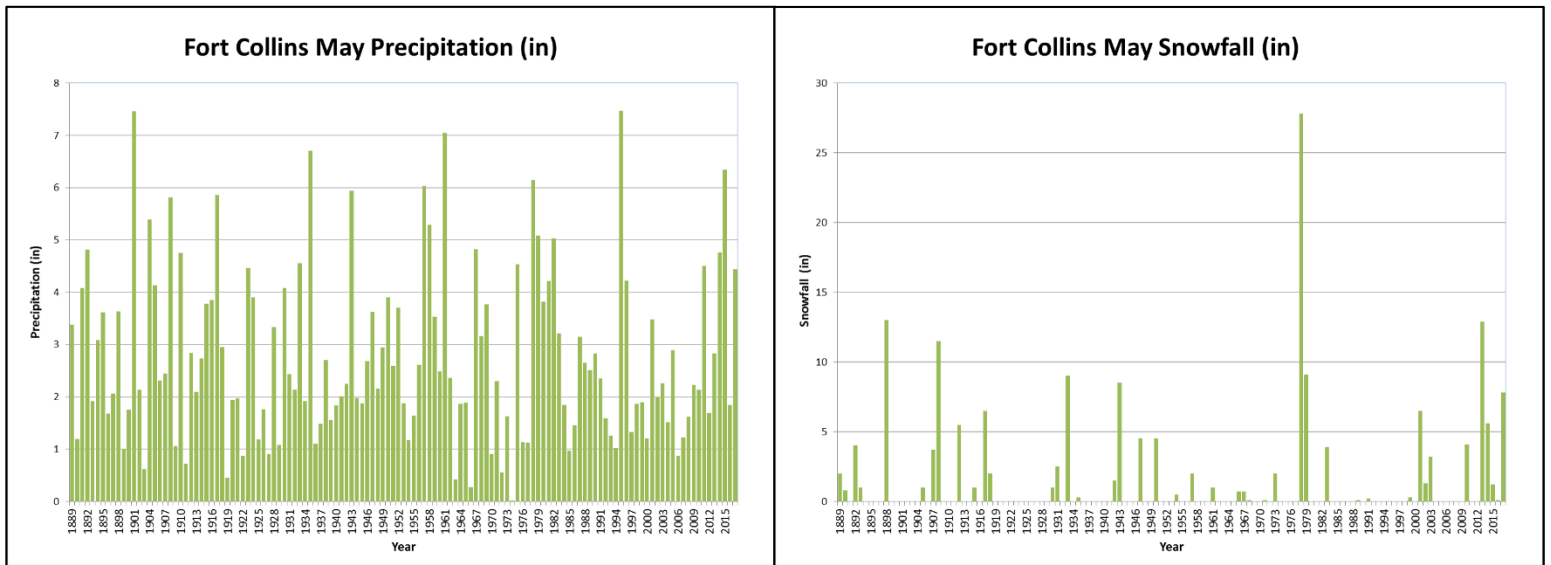


Figure 2: May precipitation (left) and snowfall (right) time series.

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

### **Highest daily precipitation:**

*May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017: The daily precipitation amount of 2.77" broke the previous record of 1.83" set in 1915.*

### **Highest daily snowfall:**

*May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017: The daily snowfall amount of 5.8" broke the previous record of a trace of snowfall (less than 0.1") set in 1915 and tied in 1960.*

*May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017: The daily snowfall amount of 1.8" broke the previous record of 1.5" set in 1931.*

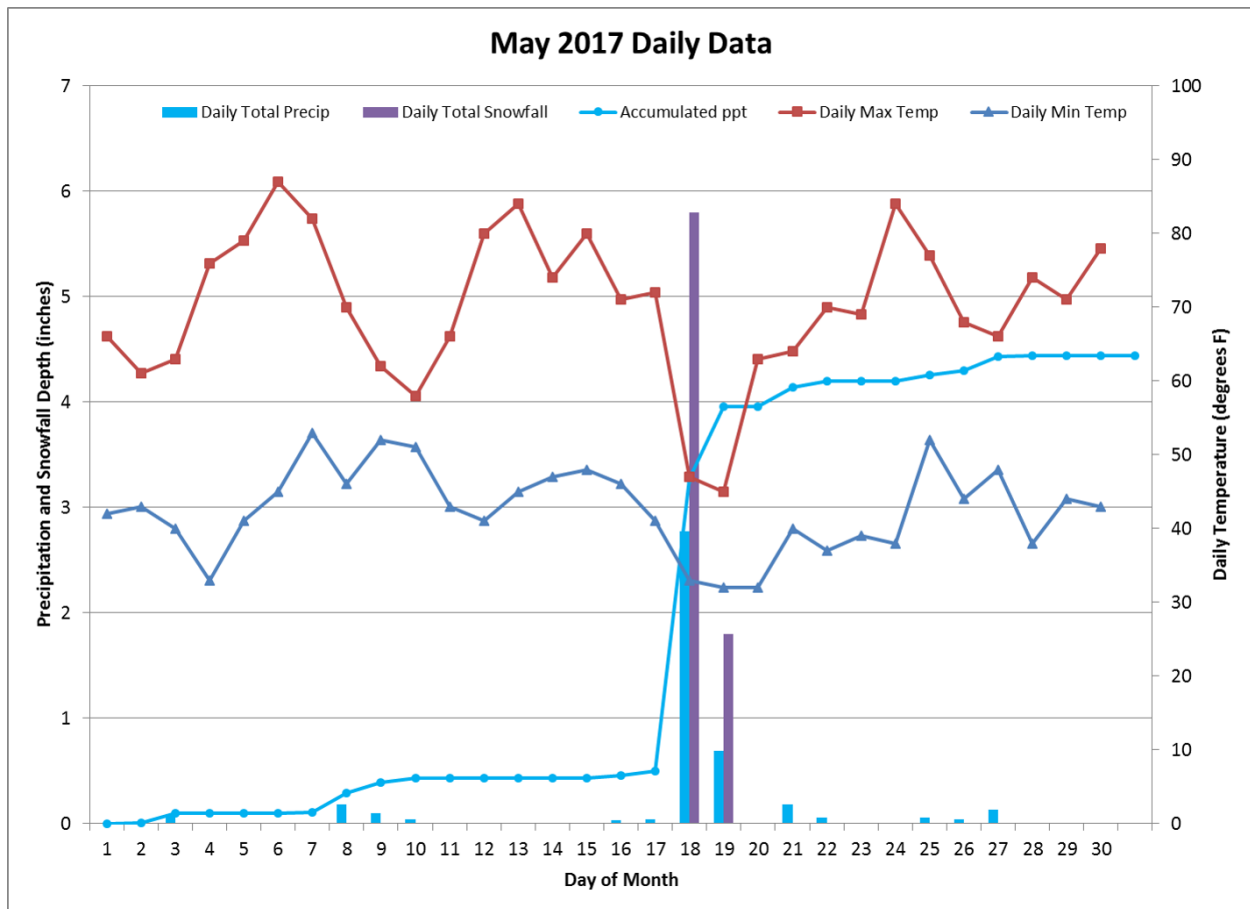


Figure 3: Daily Data for May 2017. Precipitation and temperature both show up on this graph. The y-axis on the left is for precipitation and snowfall. The y-axis on the right is for temperature.

**Wind:**

In May 2017 there were 14 days with maximum wind gusts  $\geq 20$  mph and 1 day  $\geq 30$  mph.

The maximum daily wind gust for the month was 37 mph and occurred on May 16, 2017 at 12:30 PM MST from 190°.

**Evaporation:**

Pan evaporation for May 2017 was 5.39” which was 0.53” below the normal for May (91% of normal).