

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

**Month: May**  
**Year: 2018**



## **Temperature:**

Mean  $T_{\max}$  was  $73.5^{\circ}\text{F}$  which is  $2.4^{\circ}$  above the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 15<sup>th</sup> warmest in the 130 year record (1889-2018). The last May this warm was 2012 with  $76.3^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

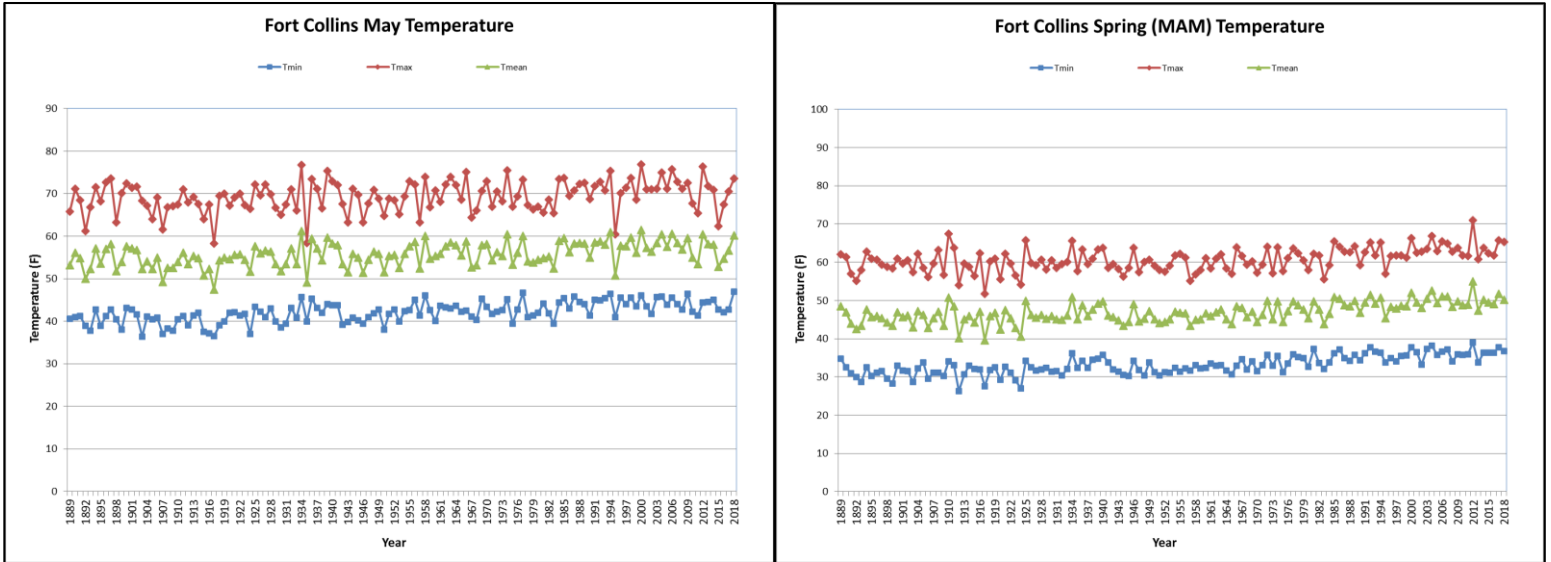
Mean  $T_{\min}$  was  $46.9^{\circ}\text{F}$  which is  $2.4^{\circ}$  above the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the warmest in the 130 year record (1889-2018). The second warmest May is 1977 with  $46.7^{\circ}\text{F}$ . The third warmest is 2009 with  $46.5^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

Mean  $T_{\text{mean}}$  was  $60.2^{\circ}\text{F}$  which is  $2.4^{\circ}$  above the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> warmest in the 130 year record (1889-2018). The last May this warm or warmer was 2012 with  $60.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

Spring (March, April, May) mean temperature was  $50.2^{\circ}\text{F}$  which is  $0.8^{\circ}$  above the 1981-2010 normal for the season. This is the 14<sup>th</sup> warmest in the 130 year record (1889-2018). The last spring this warm or warmer was 2017 with  $51.8^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

The maximum daily temperature for the month was  $88^{\circ}\text{F}$  and occurred on May 26 and 31, 2018.

The minimum daily temperature for the month was  $35^{\circ}\text{F}$  and occurred on May 4, 2018.



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

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

*No temperature records for May.*

*The minimum temperature for the month of 35°F was the first time since May 2012 the May minimum temperature stayed above 32°F. May 2012 also had a monthly minimum temperature of 35°F.*

## **Precipitation and Snowfall:**

Total monthly precipitation was 5.12” which is 2.69” above the 1981-2010 normal for the month (211% of normal). This ranks as the 13<sup>th</sup> wettest in the 130 year record (1889-2018). The last May this wet or wetter was “Miracle May 2015” with 6.34” of precipitation.

Spring (March, April, May) precipitation totaled 6.58” which is 0.5” above the 1981-2010 normal for the season (108% of normal). This ranks as the 50<sup>th</sup> wettest spring in the 130 year record (1890-2018). The last spring this wet or wetter was 2017 with 7.55” of precipitation.

Water year precipitation through May totaled 10.27” which is 0.98” above the 1981-2010 normal for the water year (111% of normal). This ranks as the 38<sup>th</sup> wettest start to a water year in the 129 year record (1890-2018), tied with 2007. The last year to start this wet or wetter was 2016 with 12.77” through May.

May 2018 saw no snow. This is the first May with no snow since 2012. This is the 83<sup>rd</sup> May in the record with no snowfall. Normal May snowfall is 0.7”.

Seasonal snowfall for the 2018 Snow Season is 35.3” which is 20.5” below the 1981 – 2010 normal for the season (63% of normal). This ranks as the 35<sup>th</sup> least snowy season in the 129 year record (1890-2018). The last season with this little snowfall was 2011 with 23.7”. Unless any extremely unprecedented weather event occurs in June, this will be the snowfall total for the 2018 Snow Season.

May had 13 days with measurable precipitation ( $\geq 0.01$ ”).

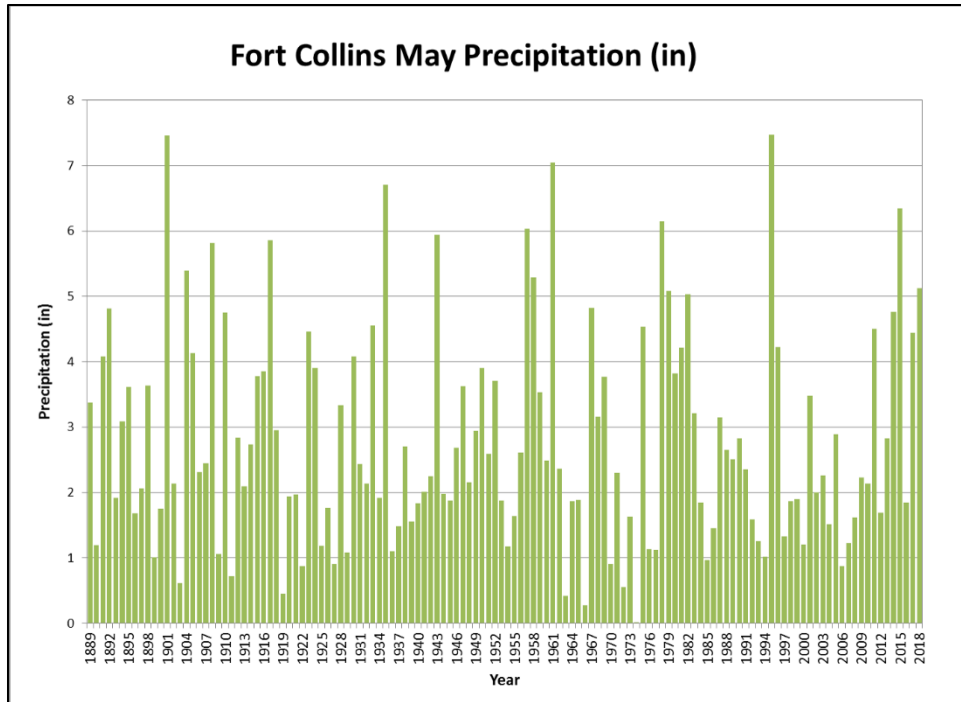


Figure 2: May precipitation time series

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

#### **Record Daily Precipitation:**

*May 3, 2018: The daily precipitation of 1.74” is a new record for the day, beating the old record of 0.90 inches in 2001.*

*May 2018 had two observed hail events at the Fort Collins weather station. The first event occurred the evening of May 22. A strong thunderstorm brought heavy rain and penny-sized hail. The hail accumulated on the ground and shredded leaves. Some localized flooding occurred from this event as a result of hail clogging drains.*

*The second observed hail event at the weather station occurred the afternoon of May 28. A thunderstorm brought pea-sized hail and gusty winds.*

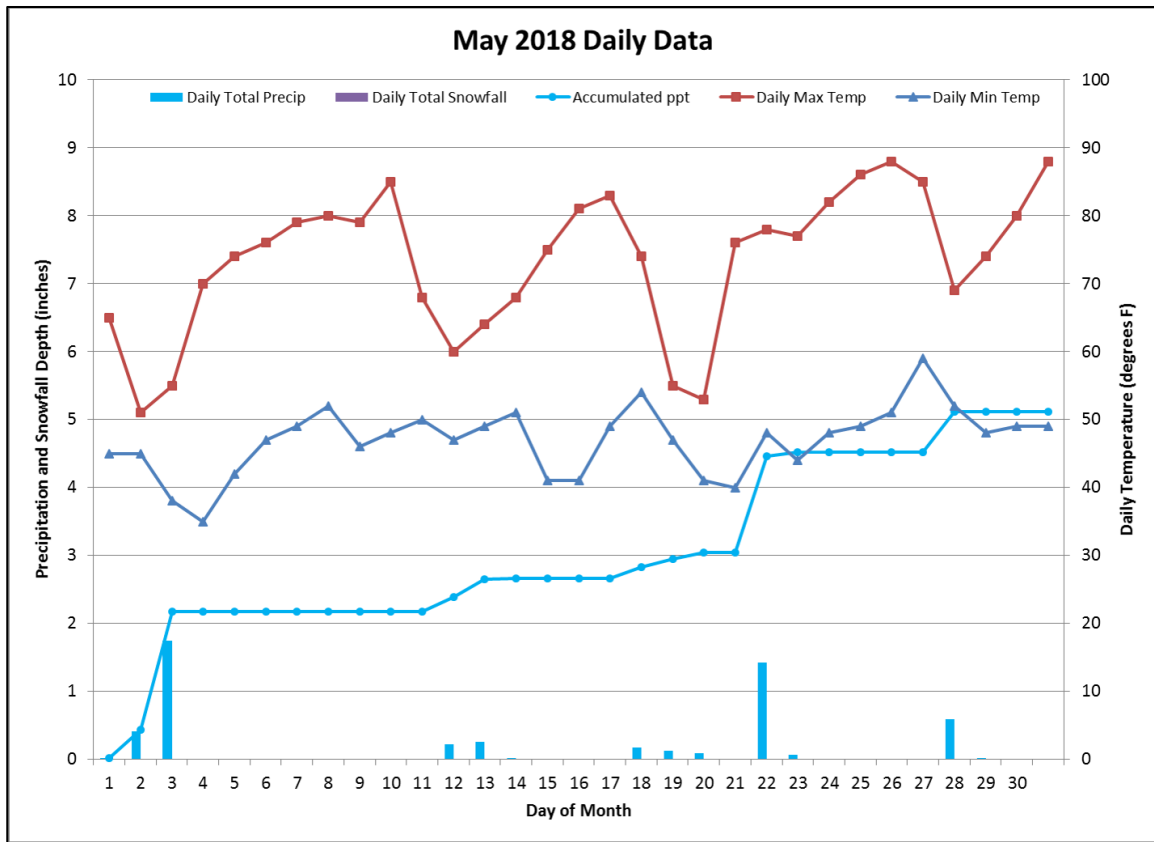


Figure 3: Daily Data for May 2018. Precipitation and temperature both show up on this graph. The y-axis on the left is for precipitation and snowfall. The y-axis on the right is for temperature.

**Wind:**

In May 2018 there were 9 days with maximum wind gusts  $\geq 20$  mph and 2 days  $\geq 30$  mph.

The maximum daily wind gust for the month was 31 mph and occurred on May 28, 2018 at 4:10 PM MST from 230°.

**Evaporation:**

Pan evaporation for May 2018 was 5.67” which was 0.25” below the normal for May (96% of normal).