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

Month: May
Year: 2019

Temperature:

Mean T_{max} was 64.3°F which is 6.8° below the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 13th coldest in the 131-year record (1889-2019). The last May this cold or colder was 2016 with 62.3°F.

Mean T_{min} was 39.6°F which is 4.9° below the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 22nd coldest in the 131-year record (1889-2019). The last May this cold or colder was 1983 with 39.5°F. This was the 24th time in the 131-year record the mean minimum temperature stayed below 40°F.

Mean T_{mean} was 51.9°F which is 5.9° below the 1981-2010 the normal for the month. This is the 13th coldest in the 131-year record (1889-2019). The last May this cold or colder was 1995 with 50.8°F.

Spring (March, April, May) mean temperature was 46.2°F which is 3.2° below the 1981-2010 normal for the season. This is the 59th coldest in the 131-year record (1889-2019). The last spring this cold or colder was 1995 with 45.3°F.

The maximum daily temperature for the month was 82°F and occurred on May 14 and 15, 2019.
The minimum daily temperature for the month was 31°F and occurred on May 2 and 11, 2019.

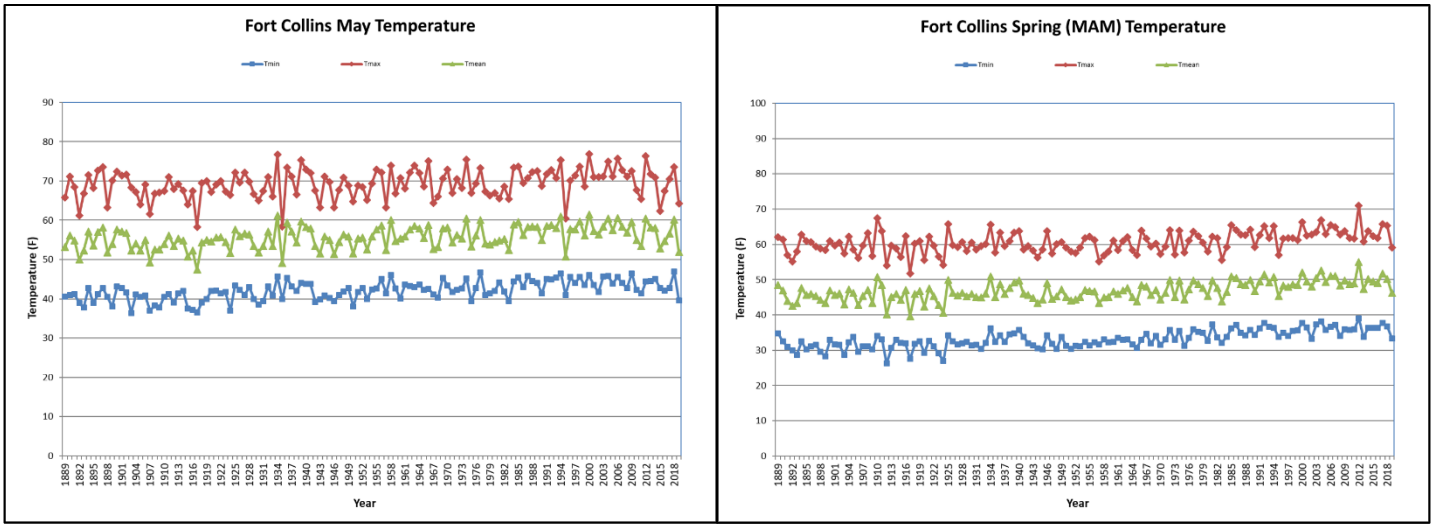

Figure 1: May (left) and spring (right) temperature time series.

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

Warmest Minimum Daily Temperature:

May 26, 2019: The minimum temperature of 55°F degrees tied the highest minimum temperature for the day set in 2013.

Sub 80F Stretch:

Our first 80 degree day of the spring came on May 13 with a maximum temperature of 80 degrees. This was the 35th latest first 80 day in our record. The last 80 degree day of the fall was October 3, 2018. That was a stretch of 221 day. This was the 31st longest stretch of sub 80 days.

Precipitation and Snowfall:

Total monthly precipitation was 2.92” which is 0.49” above the 1981-2010 normal for the month (120% of normal). This ranks as the 50th wettest in the 131-year record (1889-2019). The last May this wet or wetter was 2018 with 5.12” of precipitation.

Spring (March, April, May) precipitation totaled 6.72” which was 0.64” above the 1981-2010 normal for the season (111% of normal). This ranks as the 45th wettest spring in the 131-year record (1889-2019). The last spring this wet or wetter was 2017 with 7.55” of precipitation.

Water year precipitation through May totaled 9.10” which is 0.19” below the 1981-2010 normal for the water year (98% of normal). This ranks as the 69th driest start to a water year in the 130-year record (1890-2019). The last water year to start this dry or drier was 2013 with 8.51” of precipitation.

May snowfall totaled 3.0” which is 2.3” above the 1981-2010 normal for the month (429% of normal). This ranks as the 20th snowiest in the 131-year record (1889-2019). The last May with this much snow or more was 2017 with 7.8” of snowfall. There have been 44 years in the 131-year record with measurable snow in May.

Seasonal snowfall for the 2019 season totaled 48.6” which is 7.2” below the 1981-2010 normal for the season (87% of normal). This ranks as the 69th least snowy in the 130-year record (1890-2019). The last season with this little snowfall or less was 2018 with 35.3” of snowfall.

The snowfall season this year spanned 222 days from October 10, 2018 with 0.1” of snow to May 21, 2019 with 2.7” of snow. This is the 4th longest snow season in the record going back to the 1895 snow season when snow measurements became more reliable.

The last snowfall this year on May 21st was the 5th latest last snowfall in the record.

May had 15 days with measurable precipitation (≥ 0.01”) and 2 days with measurable snowfall (≥0.1”). There were an additional 11 days with a trace of precipitation (less than 0.01”).

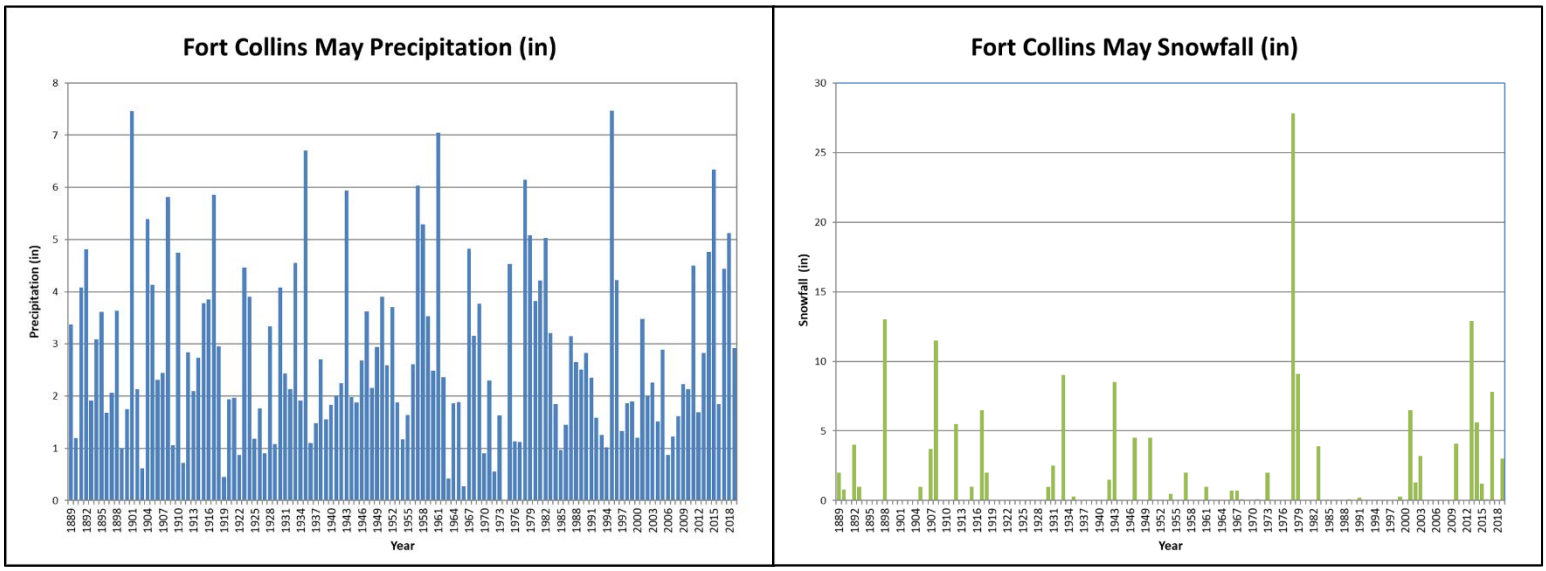

Figure 2: May precipitation (left) and snowfall (right) time series.

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

Daily Snowfall Record:
May 21, 2019: The daily snowfall total of 2.7" broke the record for the day of Trace of snow set in 1891, 1931 and 1995.

Days with Snow Depth ≥ 1 inch
Despite a snowfall record being broken on May 21, the snow melted by our 7:00 PM MST observation time. The result was 0 days with 1.0" or more of snow on the ground at our observation. The normal for May is 0 days with 1" or greater of snow at the observation time.
This season saw 20 days with 1" of snow or greater on the ground. This compares to a normal of 46 days.

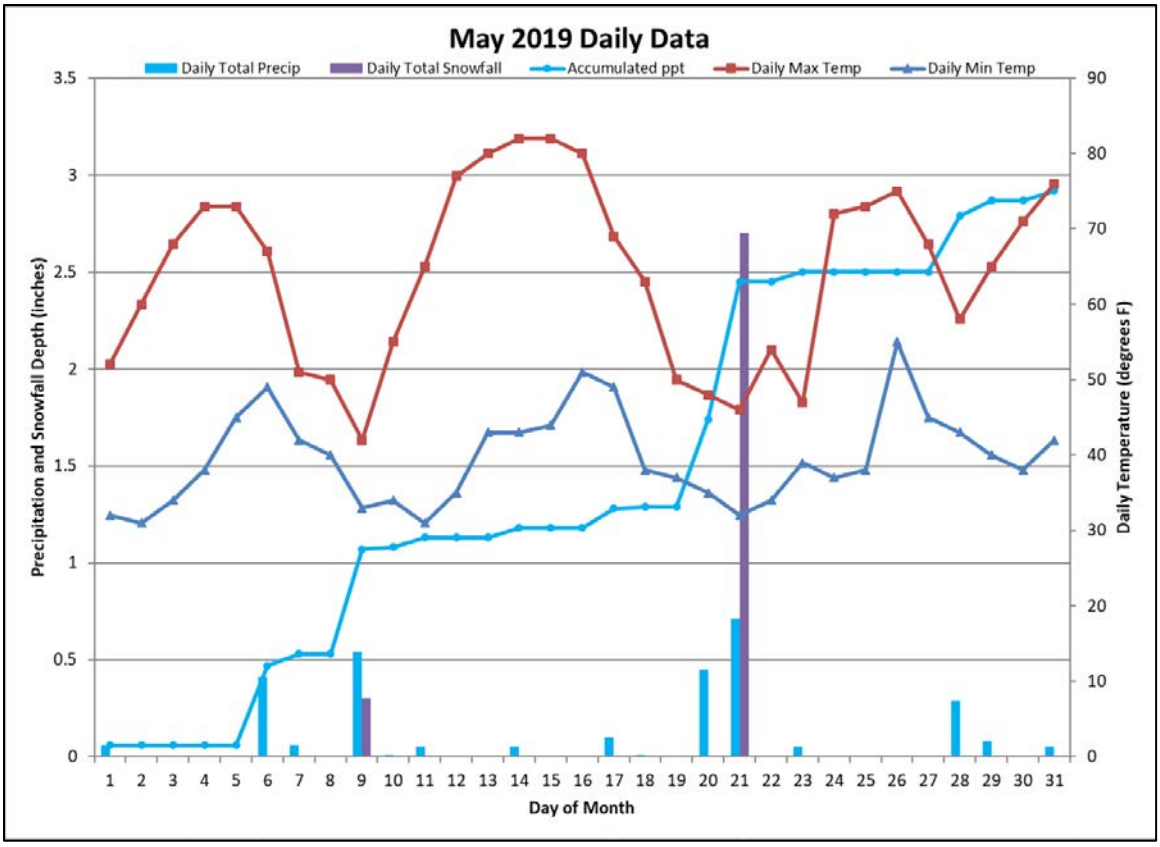

Figure 3: Daily Data for May 2019. Precipitation and temperature both show up on this graph. The y-axis on the left is for precipitation and snowfall. The y-axis on the right is for temperature.

Wind:

In May 2019 there were 13 days with maximum wind gusts ≥ 20 mph and 0 days ≥ 30 mph.

The maximum wind gust for the month was 26 mph and occurred on May 8, 2019 at 1:00 PM MST from 360° (North).

Evaporation:

Pan evaporation for May 2019 was 4.03” which was 1.89” below the normal for May (68% of normal).