

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

**Month: May**  
**Year: 2020**



May 14, 2020 around 8:00 AM MDT after an unusual morning thunderstorm dropping 0.72" of rain.

## **Temperature:**

Mean  $T_{\max}$  was 73.3°F which is 2.2° above the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 18<sup>th</sup> warmest in the 132-year record (1889-2020), tied with 1977. The last May this warm or warmer was 2018 with 73.5°F.

Mean  $T_{\min}$  was 45.7°F which is 1.2° above the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> warmest in the 132-year record (1889-2020), tied with 1934 and 2003. The last May this warm or warmer was 2018 with 46.9°F.

Mean  $T_{\text{mean}}$  was 59.5°F which is 1.7° above the 1981-2010 the normal for the month. This is the 14<sup>th</sup> warmest in the 132-year record (1889-2020), tied with 2009. The last May this warm or warmer was 2018 with 60.2°F.

Spring (March, April, May) mean temperature was 49.8°F which is 0.4° above the normal for the month. This is the 19<sup>th</sup> warmest spring in the 132-year record (1889-2020), tied with 1940, 1977 and 2009. The last spring this warm or warmer was 2018 with 50.2°F.

The maximum daily temperature for the month was 89°F and occurred on May 19, 2020.

The minimum daily temperature for the month was 34°F and occurred on May 11, 2020.

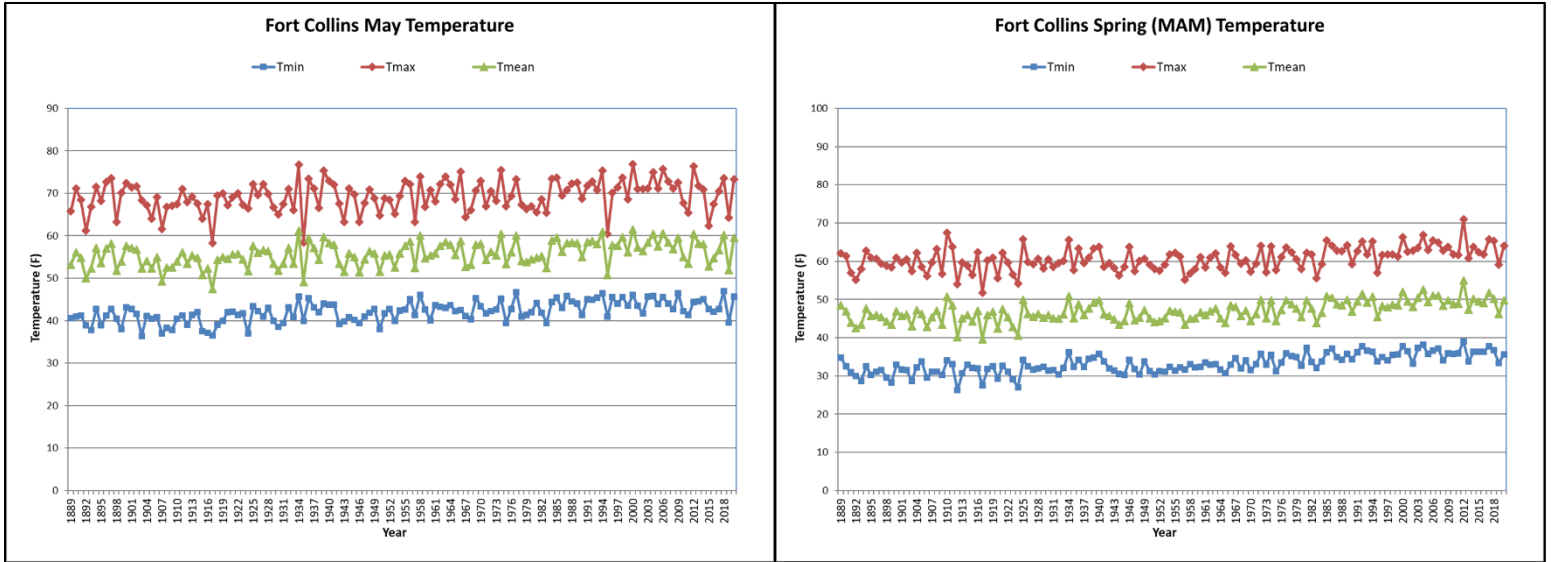


Figure 1: May (left) and spring (right) temperature time series.

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

#### ***Warmest Minimum Daily Temperature:***

*May 1, 2020: The minimum temperature of 54°F beat the previous warmest minimum temperature of 52°F set in 1902.*

*May 20, 2020: The minimum temperature of 59°F beat the previous warmest minimum temperature of 56°F set in 1932 and tied in 2009 and 2014.*

#### ***Maximum Daily Temperature:***

*May 19, 2020: The maximum temperature of 89°F tied the record maximum temperature for the day set in 1939 and 2009.*

*The minimum temperature for May of 34°F. The last May without a minimum temperature of 32°F or colder was 2018.*

*The last freezing temperature of 2020 occurred on April 19<sup>th</sup>. This is tied with 1986 and 2009 for the 5<sup>th</sup> earliest end to the freezing season (temperature at or below 32F).*

## **Precipitation and Snowfall:**

Total monthly precipitation was 2.55” which is 0.12” above the 1981-2010 normal for the month (105% of normal). This ranks as the 61<sup>st</sup> wettest in the 132-year record (1889-2020). The last May this wet or wetter was 2019 with 2.92” of precipitation.

Spring (March, April, May) precipitation totaled 5.55” which is 0.53” below the 1981-2010 normal for the season (91% of normal). This ranks as the 63<sup>rd</sup> driest spring in the 132-year record (1889-2020). The last spring this dry or drier was 2012 with 2.09” of precipitation.

Water year precipitation through May totaled 9.54” which is 0.25” above the 1981-2010 normal for the water year (103% of normal). This ranks as the 52<sup>nd</sup> wettest start to a water year in the 131-year record (1890-2020). The last water year this wet or wetter through May was 2018 with 10.27” of precipitation.

May 2020 saw no snow. This is the 84<sup>th</sup> May that has been snow free, however, 7 of the last 10 years have seen snowfall in May. The 1981-2020 normal snowfall for May is 0.7”.

Seasonal snowfall for the 2020 season totaled 73.9” which is 18.1” above the 1981-2010 normal for the season (132% of normal). This ranks as the 12<sup>th</sup> snowiest season in the 131-year record (1890-2020). The last season with this much snowfall or more was 2010 with 88.7” of snowfall.

May had 11 days with measurable precipitation ( $\geq 0.01$ ”).

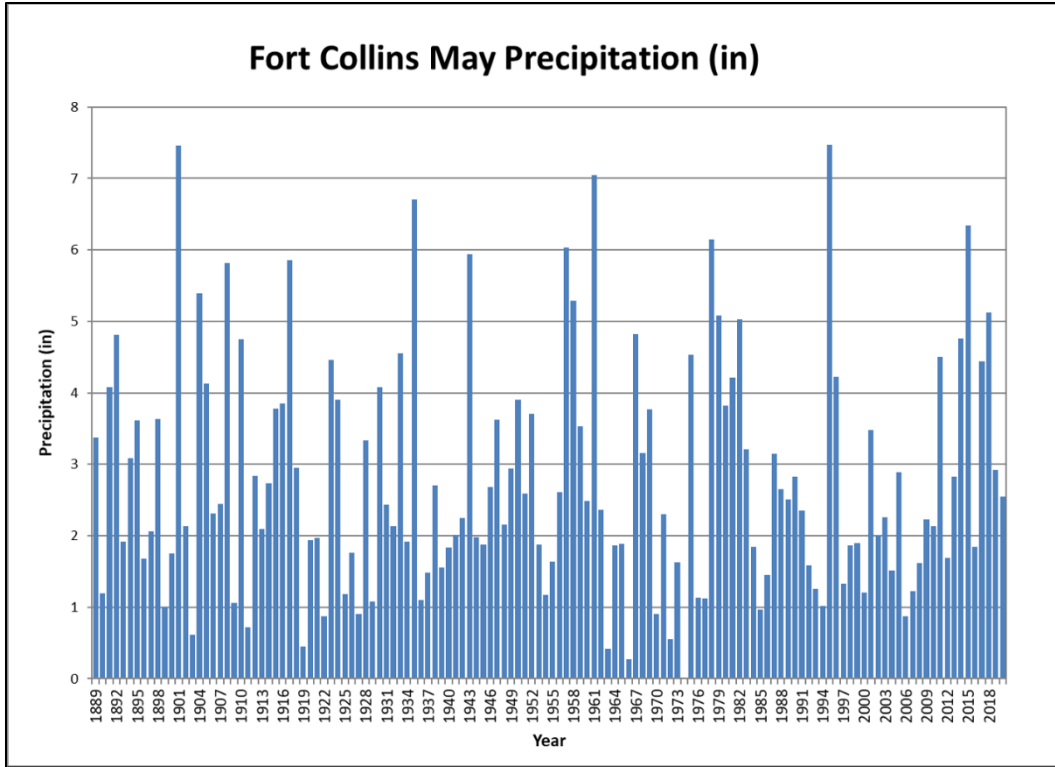
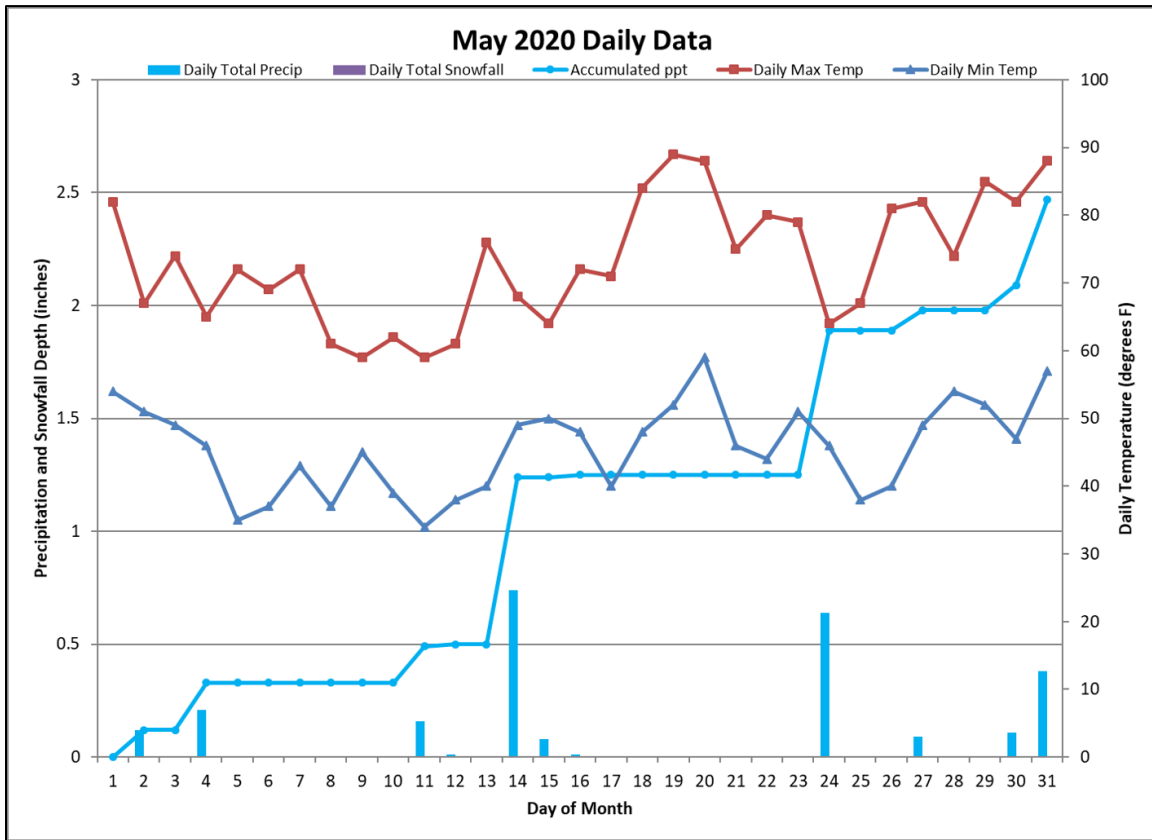


Figure 2: May precipitation time series.

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

*No precipitation records for May.*



**Figure 3: Daily Data for May 2020. 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 2020 there were 14 days with maximum wind gusts  $\geq 20$  mph and 4 days  $\geq 30$  mph.

The maximum daily wind gust for the month was 35 mph and occurred on May 7, 2020 at 12:45 PM MST from 290° (WNW).

**Evaporation:**

Pan evaporation for May 2020 totaled 6.43” which is 0.51” above the normal for May (109% of normal).