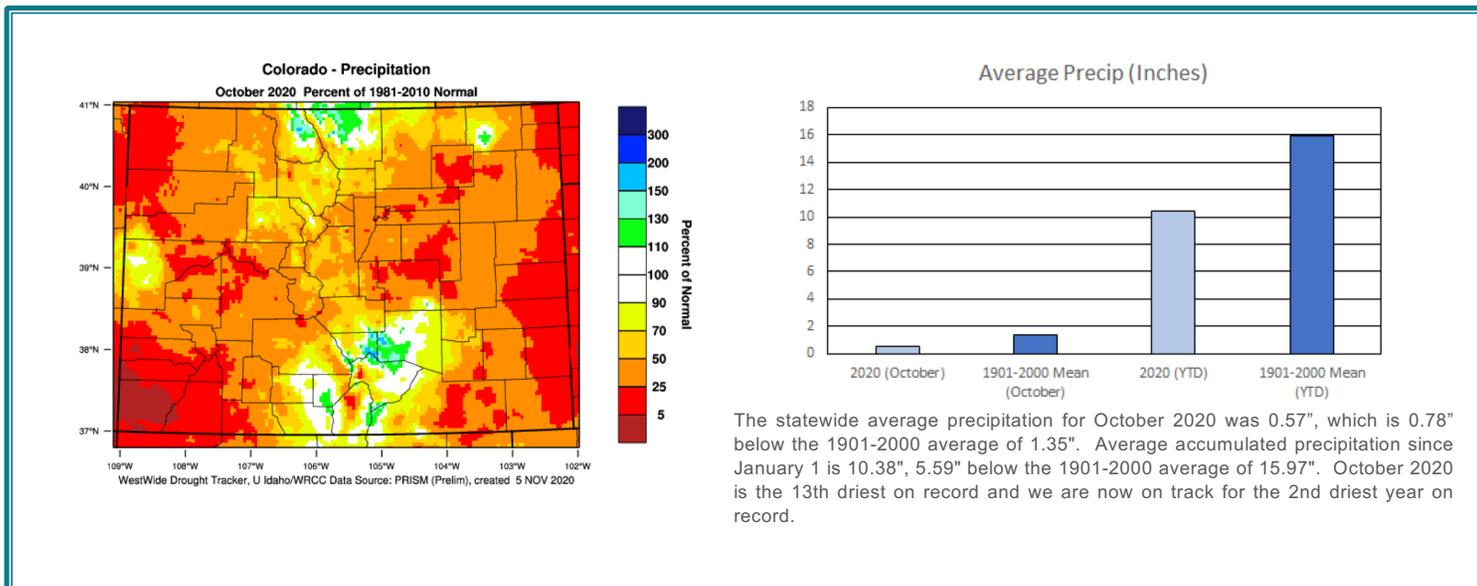
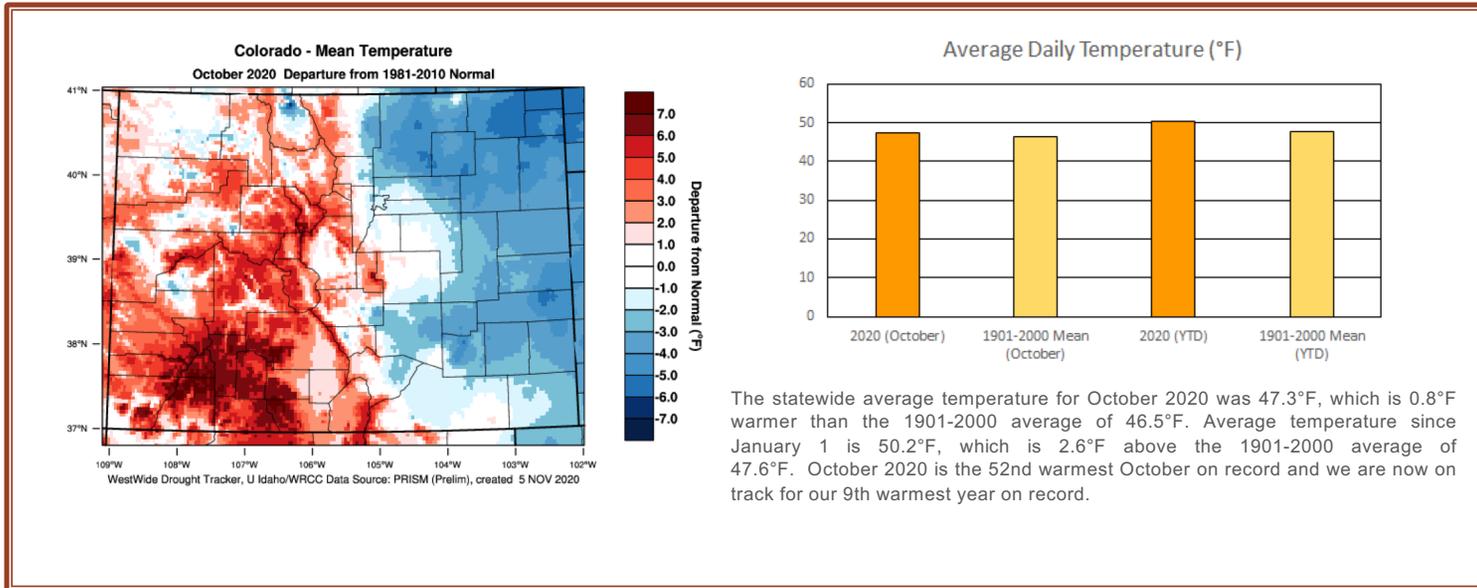


October 2020 Monthly Climate Summary



Daily Records (Tied | Broken) Total

High Max T

(79 | 358) **437**
Highest Temp: 94°F,
La Junta, October 14

Low Max T

(9 | 224) **233**

High Min T

(45 | 320) **365**

Low Min T

(33 | 341) **374**
Lowest Temp: -33°F,
Hebron, October 27

Precipitation

(7 | 28) **35**
Greatest Daily Precip: 1.70",
Wolf Creek Pass, October 25

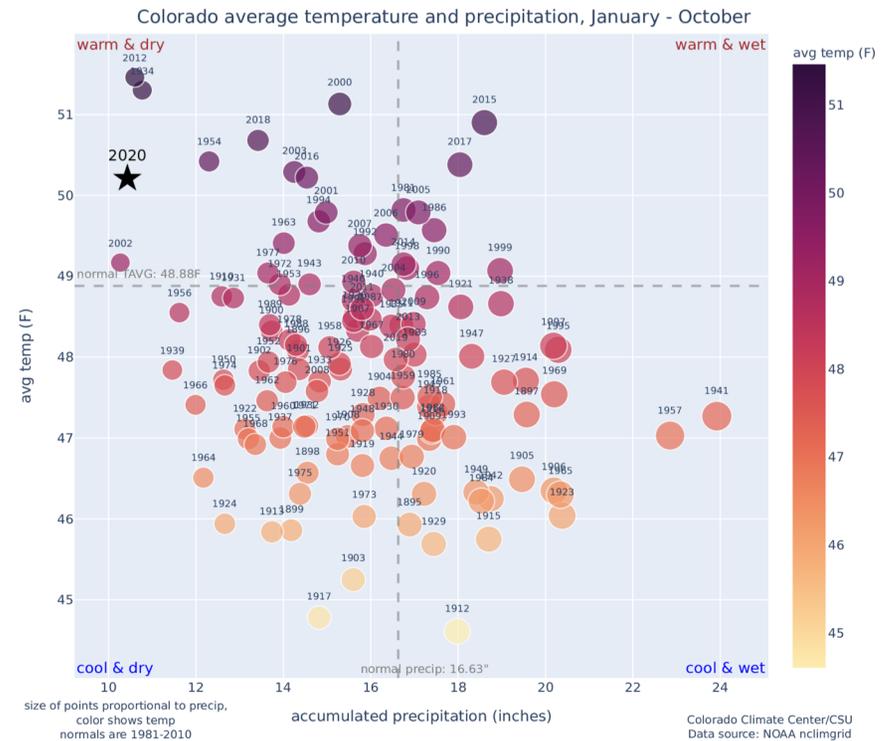
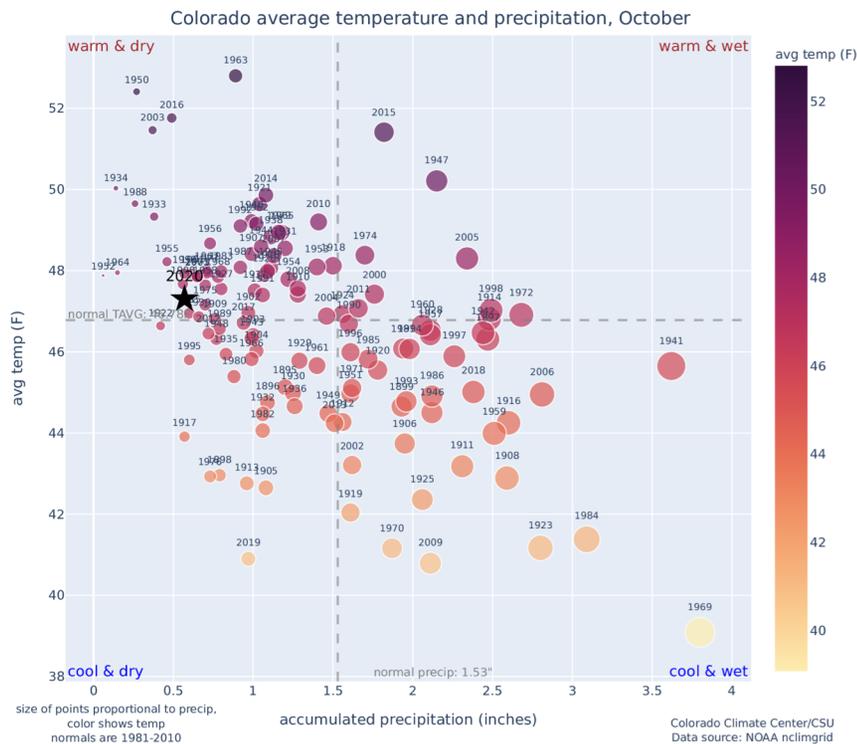
Snowfall

(4 | 38) **42**
Greatest Daily Snowfall: 24.0",
San Pedro Mesa, October 26



October 2020 Monthly Climate Summary

Warm? Dry? Cool? Wet? How does October (and YTD) plot according to history?



Each dot plots the year for average temperature and precipitation statewide in Colorado, going back to 1895. From left to right, accumulated precipitation is shown, where the wettest years are plotted furthest to the right. Dot sizes are proportional to precipitation amounts. From bottom to top, average temperature is shown, where the warmest years are plotted towards the top. The dots are also color coded with darker colors indicating higher temperatures. The horizontal and vertical dotted lines indicate the 1981-2010 normals. The chart on the left displays October, where the star shows 2020 and we can clearly see it was much drier than normal and only slightly warmer than normal. The chart on the right displays January-October where we can see 2020 stands out as one of the driest (yet, not quite warmest) years so far.



October 2020 Monthly Climate Summary

October News Feed

News stories featuring Climate Center staff:

- Oct. 15 - Four Corners Public Radio: [Colorado reservoirs down 25% as drought persists](#)
- Oct 15 - Steamboat Pilot: [Disappointing 2020 water year comes to a close](#)
- Oct 16 - Journal-Advocate: [Reservoir levels drop as hot, dry weather continues into fall](#)
- Oct 16 - Colorado Public Radio: [Record Drought Puts Colorado Farmers and Ranchers On the Front Line of Climate Change](#)
- Oct 21 - KUNC: Mountain West in Climate Crosshairs as 2020 Heats Up – [listen here](#)
- Oct 23 - 9News: [Current wildfire activity rare for Colorado in October](#)
- Oct 30 - Fox 21 News: [Colorado's drought stretches on even after recent snow](#)

Other News stories:

- [Oct 13 Aspen drought restrictions trigger 20% drop in water use](#)
- [Oct 25: As Colorado wildfires burn, fears that climate change is causing "multi-level emergency" mount](#)

October was an unprecedented and devastating month for wildfires in Colorado. The Cameron Peak Fire, the largest in state history, continued to grow in October, reaching over 208,000 acres. The East Troublesome Fire started in Grand County on October 14, and within 10 days became the 2nd largest wildfire in state history, after a terrifying run into Grand Lake and Rocky Mountain National Park on October 21-22. The CalWood fire started west of Boulder on October 17 and grew rapidly, destroying many homes.

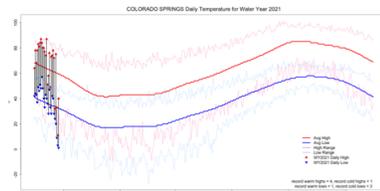
[Colorado Sun article and infographics](#)



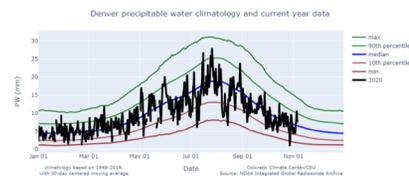
Cameron Peak Fire, Oct. 14, 2020. Photo Credit: Henry Reges

New Data Access Tools

Temperature Graphs: Available for select stations for the current Water Year (Oct 1 – Sept. 30), these graphs provide daily high and low averages based on 1981-2010 normals, record max and min temperatures, and current daily highs and lows. See Colorado Springs where multiple records have already been broken

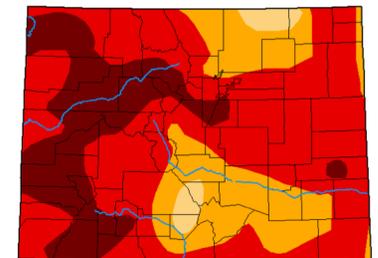


Precipitable Water Climatology: Measured by weather balloons, these interactive graphs tell us how much moisture is in the air at a given location. Higher values mean more moisture while lower values indicate drier air.



Drought continues

At the end of October, 100% of the state was experiencing some level of drought. Areas in the Front Range and Eastern Plains experienced an expansion of D3 by 23% and the Western Slope worsened with expansions of D4 - up almost 20% from the end of September.



US Drought Monitor as of Oct 27, 2020.
From <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

