



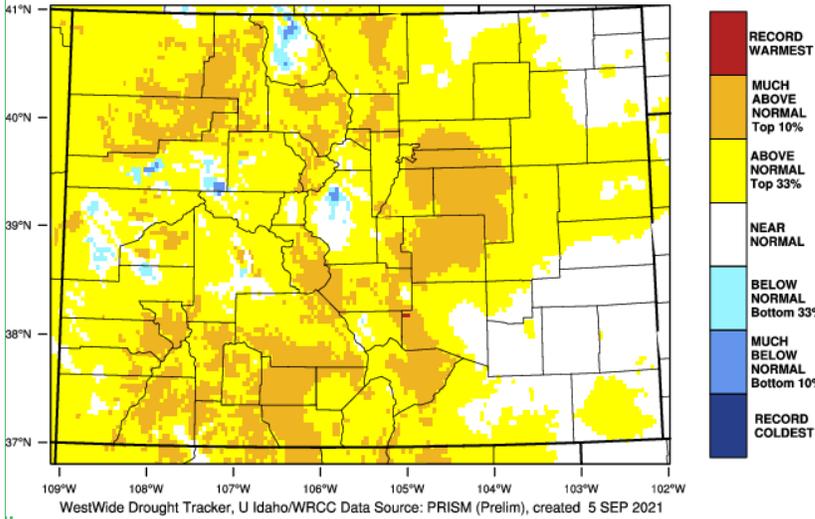
August 2021 Colorado Monthly Climate Summary



ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

temperature

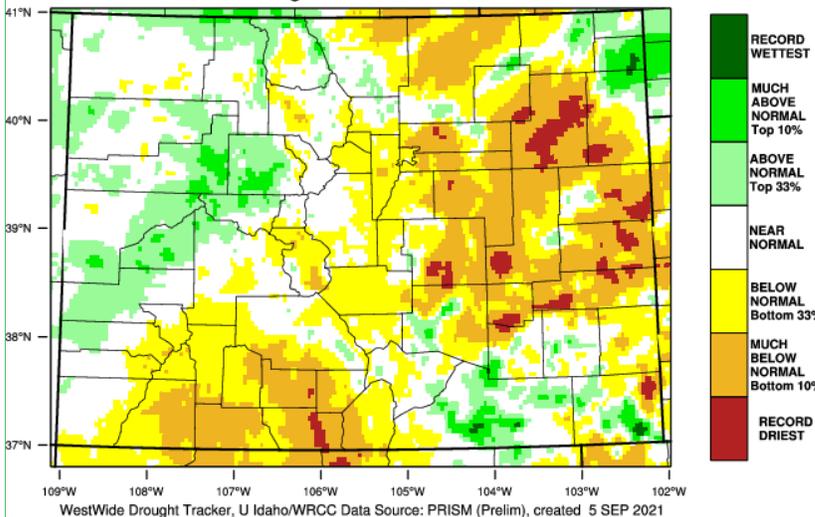
Colorado - Mean Temperature
August 2021 Percentile



For most of Colorado, temperatures were in the top 33rd percentile of years for August. Even warmer temperatures were observed over portions of the Front Range, the San Juan mountains in southwest CO, and in the Yampa valley in northwest CO. Temperatures in the northeast corner and lower Arkansas valley were closer to the normal range for August.

precipitation

Colorado - Precipitation
August 2021 Percentile



Continued monsoon activity was observed in August over parts of western Colorado and southeast CO. One major event led to the wet anomaly over northeast CO. Areas of the San Luis Valley and the eastern plains were drier in August. Record dry spots popped up over several parts of eastern Colorado.



quadrant charts

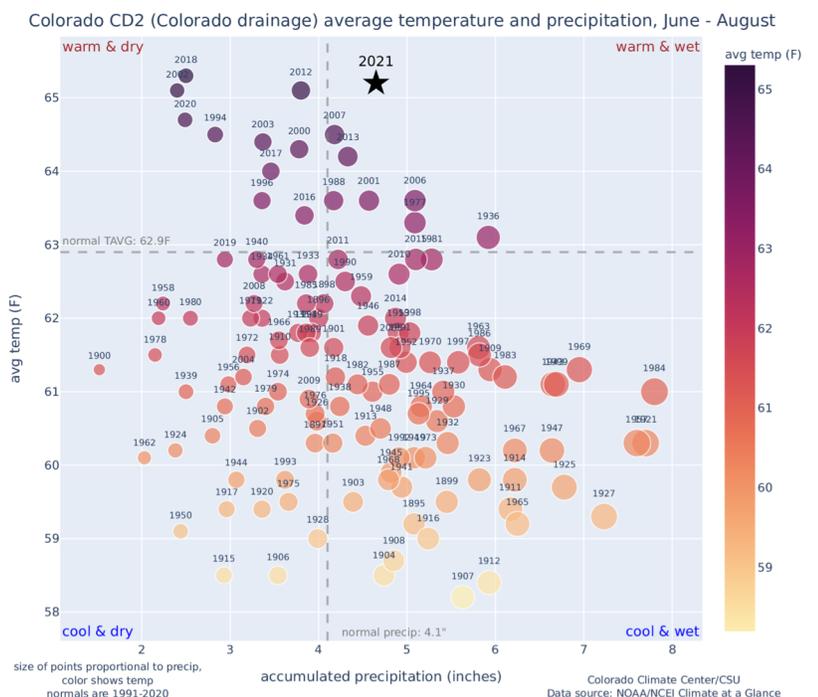
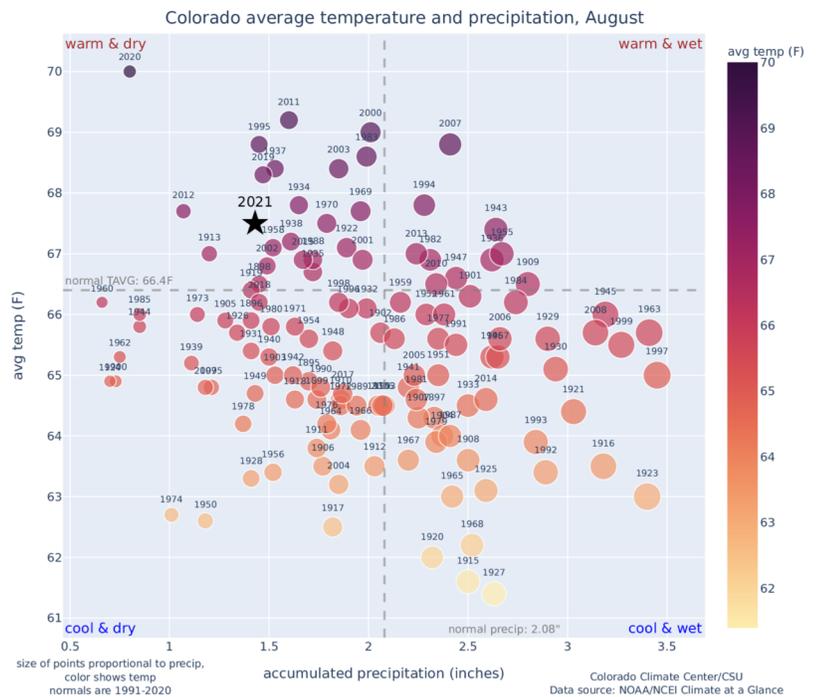
Each dot plots the precipitation on the x-axis and the temperature on the y-axis. Dots are colored based on temperature and size is based on precipitation. The current year is denoted with a star. Long-term averages are denoted by the dashed lines.

Statewide, August 2021 was the 14th warmest August in the 127-year record (and the 4th warmest summer on record) and the 23rd driest August on record (33rd driest summer on record).

Four of the last 6 summers in Colorado have been warmer and drier than average. Only 1 out of the last 10 summers has been cooler and wetter than average.

Western Colorado just experienced its second warmest summer on record. The top 5 warmest summers in the last 127 years have all occurred since 2000. The summer was also wetter than average, which is an infrequent combination with warmer anomalies.

[view all quadrant charts](#)

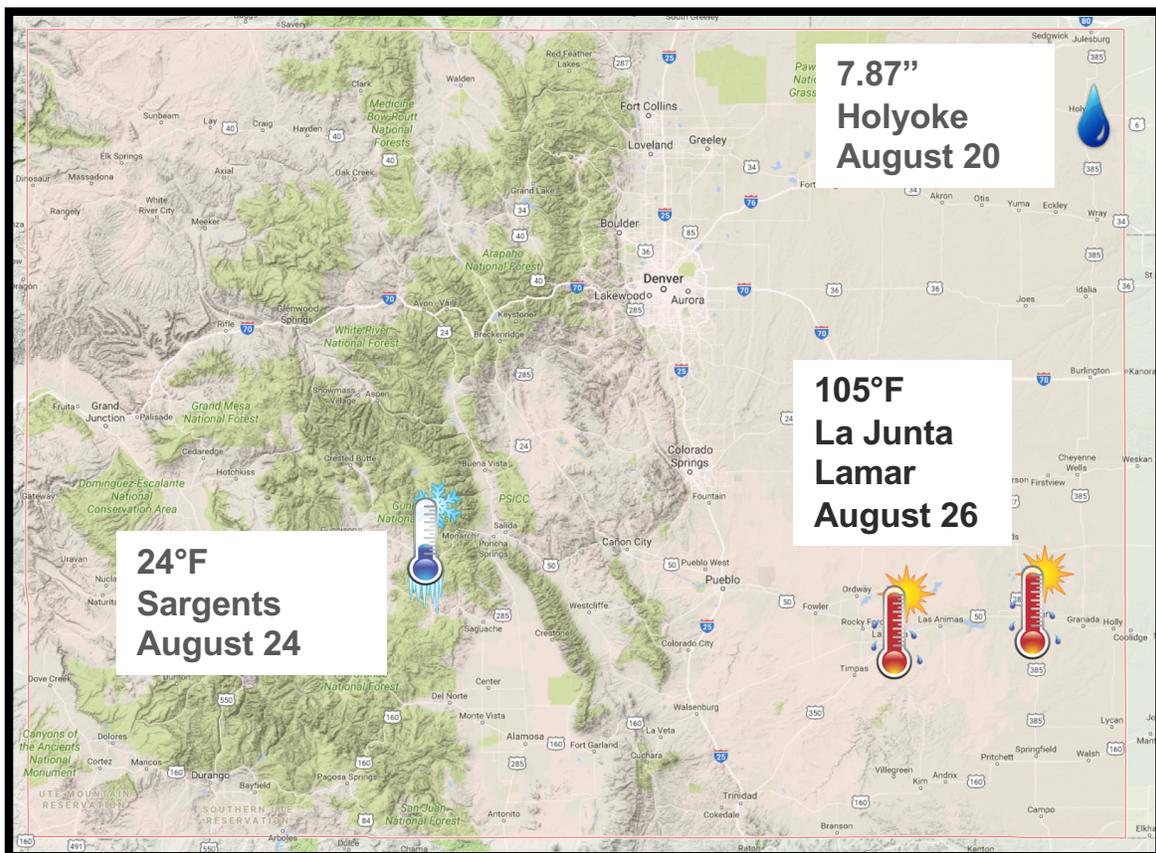


records tied and broken

	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	58/63	22/127	51/149	15/85	19/71	0/0
Monthly	2/3	4/4	0/5	2/5	0/9	0/0
All-time	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/0

Tied/**Broken**, from NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information

state extremes

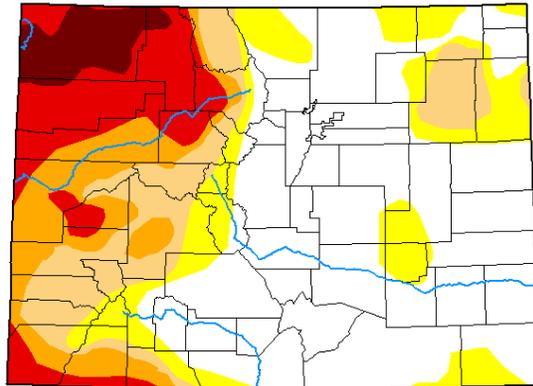


drought

D3 and D4 drought remain primarily over northwest CO, with Moffat County showing the most severe drought conditions. Spots of D0 have popped up due to short-term dryness over the eastern half of the state.

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

August 31, 2021
(Released Thursday, Sep. 2, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	49.43	50.57	36.47	24.44	15.05	3.91
Last Week 08-24-2021	49.27	50.73	36.61	24.44	15.05	3.91
3 Months Ago 06-01-2021	51.10	48.90	43.36	35.53	29.15	16.39
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.73	76.17	27.60
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	0.00	100.00	99.29	89.35	52.88	2.64
One Year Ago 09-01-2020	0.00	100.00	98.80	91.55	36.85	0.38

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

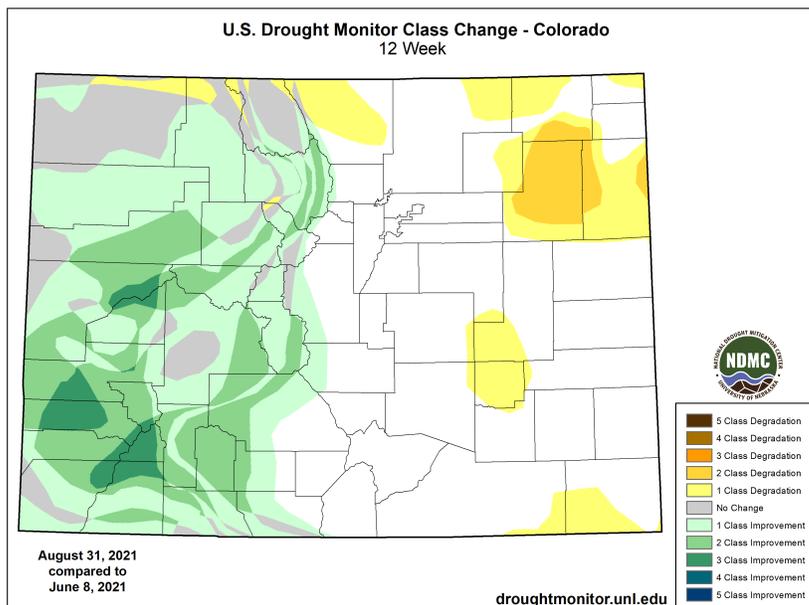
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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

[Colorado Drought Update Page](#)

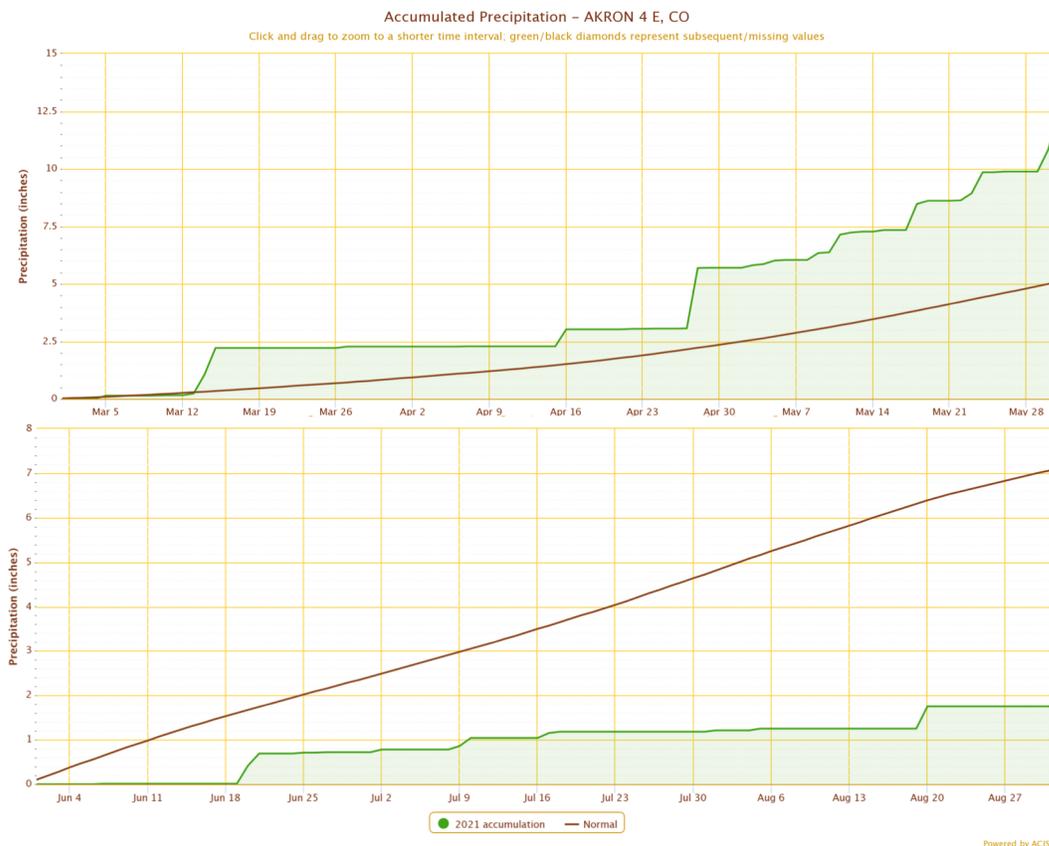


Since the beginning of the summer, conditions have improved over the western half of the state, with areas in southwest CO seeing a 3-category improvement in drought categories. Some deterioration has popped up over northeast CO and a couple of spots in southeast CO. This has largely been due to a dry late summer.



significant events

- ❑ Interstate 70 through Glenwood Canyon remained closed from mudslide damage for the first two weeks of August. After reopening, it has had to close a couple more times due to flash flood warnings.
- ❑ After having its 2nd wettest spring on record, Akron saw its driest summer on record (see graphs).



- ❑ On August 19, a downpour drenched northeast CO. The Holyoke CoAgMET station received over 7 inches of precipitation, and 3.26" in just one hour.



CCC in the news

- ❑ ['It's Real': Colorado Climatologists Review New Climate Report](#)
 - Russ Schumacher quoted, Denver CBS, August 9
- ❑ [Colorado's bad air this summer may be the best you'll see, experts warn](#)
 - Russ Schumacher quoted, Colorado Daily, August 9
- ❑ [UN report shows greenhouse gas emissions have caused global warming and could lead to more flooding, worsening drought](#)
 - Becky Bolinger on Next with Kyle Clark – 9News, August 9
- ❑ [New Report Details Humans' Role in a Warming Climate](#)
 - Russ Schumacher on Fox 21 News, August 10
- ❑ [New report hints at what climate change could mean for Colorado](#)
 - Becky Bolinger quoted, 9News, August 10
- ❑ [Wildfire and mudslides and drought, oh my!](#)
 - Russ Schumacher quoted, The Sopris Sun, August 11
- ❑ [How a growing Colorado population is impacting changes in climate](#)
 - Becky Bolinger quoted, 9News, August 13
- ❑ [Drought tour brings Colorado leaders together to talk actionable solutions \(with video\)](#)
 - Becky Bolinger quoted, Steamboat Pilot, August 13
- ❑ [Turns out we don't get 300 days of sunshine in Colorado and we're just as shocked as you](#)
 - Nolan Doesken quoted, The Denver Post, August 21
- ❑ [Grieving over climate change? Colorado experts offer hope amidst the haze](#)
 - Becky Bolinger quoted, The Denver Post, August 22

