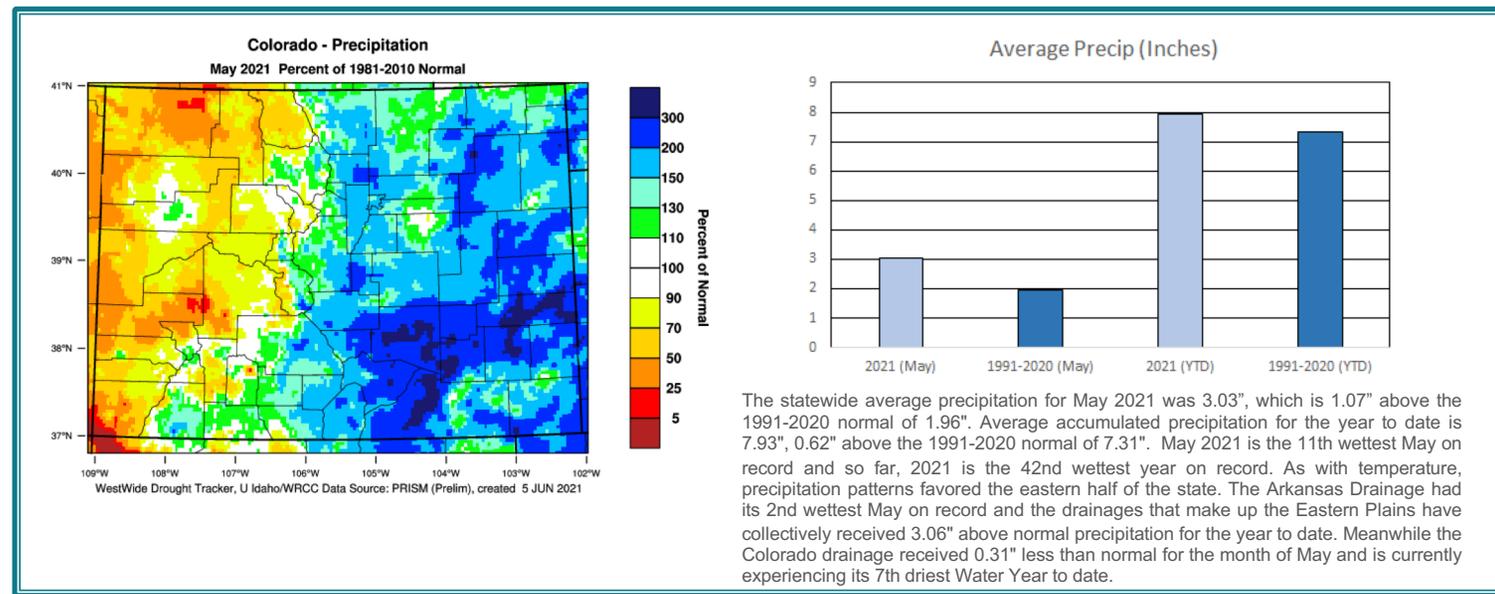
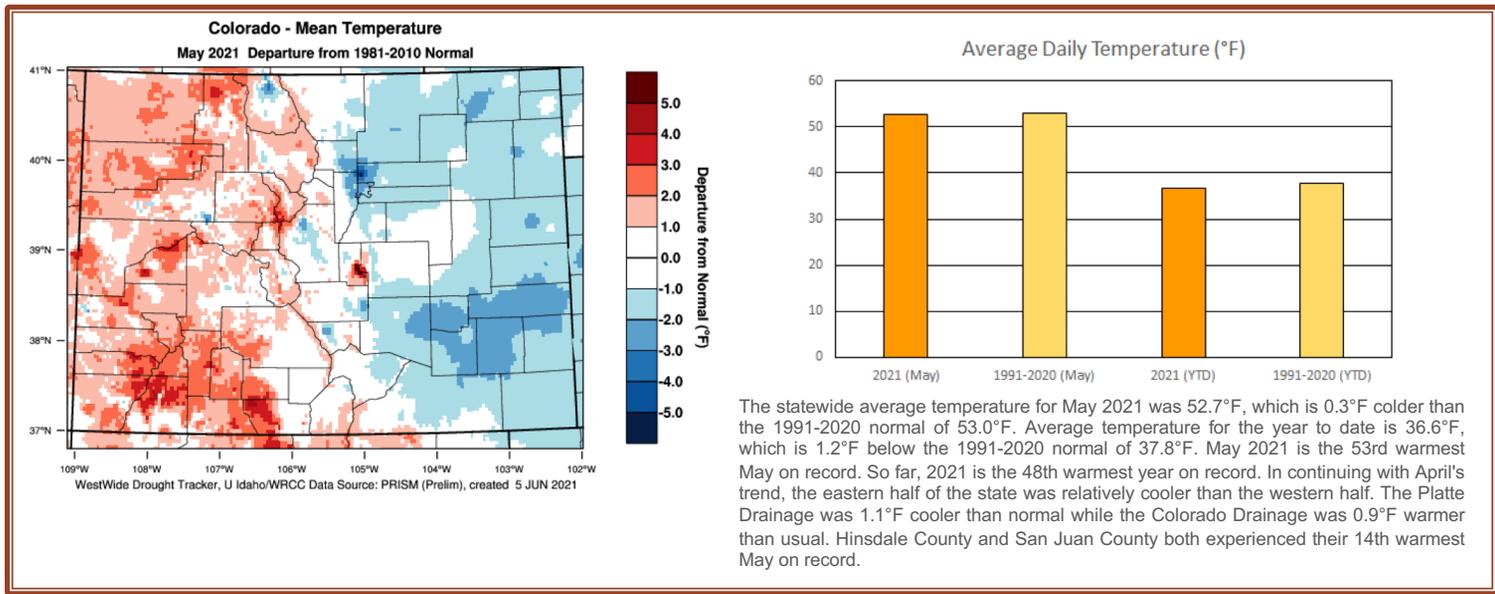


# May 2021 Monthly Climate Summary



## Daily Records (Tied | Broken) Total

### High Max T

(26 | 60) **86**  
Highest Temp: 93°F,  
Crook, May 26

### Low Max T

(11 | 72) **83**

### High Min T

(36 | 103) **139**

### Low Min T

(9 | 20) **29**  
Lowest Temp: -9°F,  
Moon Hill Snotel, May 11

### Precipitation

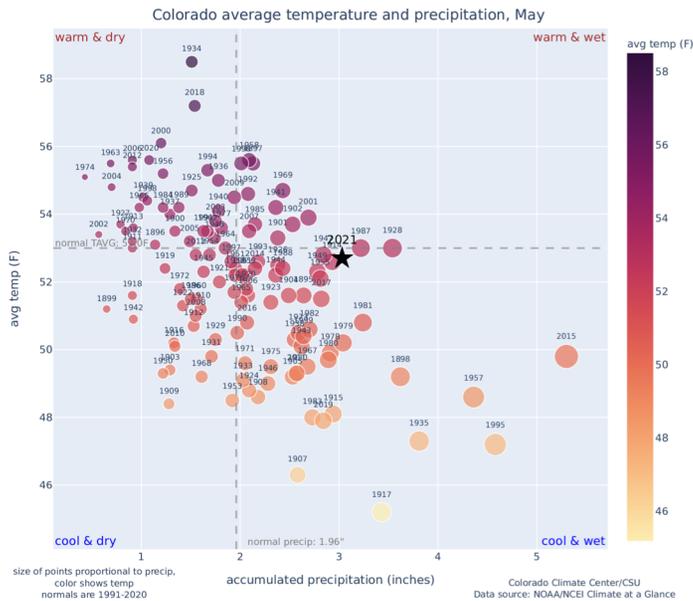
(16 | 111) **127**  
Greatest Daily Precip: 4.00",  
Walsenburg, May 18

### Snowfall

(9 | 17) **26**  
Greatest Daily Snowfall: 16.2",  
Cedaredge, May 3

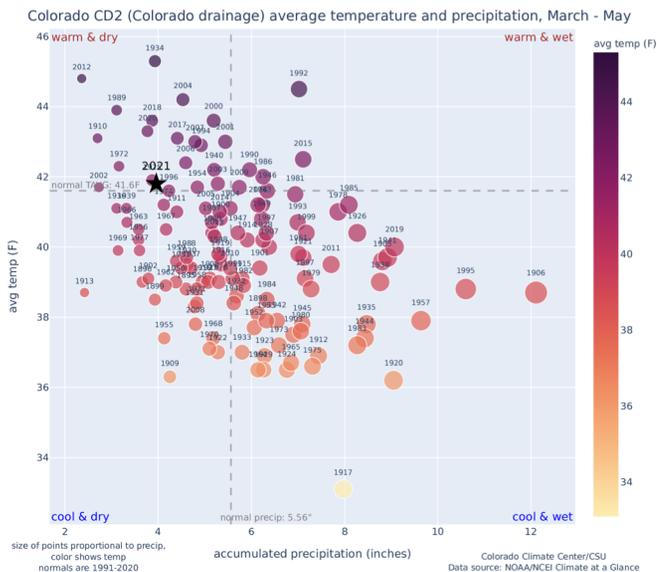


# May 2021 Monthly Climate Summary

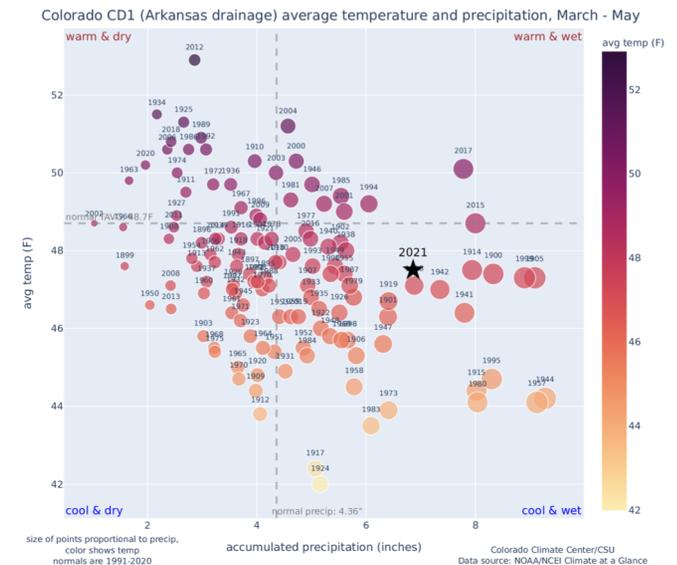


**Temp/Precip Plots (left):** Each dot plots the May 2021 average temperature and precipitation statewide in Colorado since 1895. From left to right, accumulated precipitation is shown, where the wettest years are plotted furthest to the right. Dot sizes are proportional to precipitation amounts. From 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 1991-2020 normals.

**The star indicates May 2021** – wetter than average but near normal for temperature.



These plots depict Spring (March – May) 2021 for the Colorado drainage basin (left) and the Arkansas basin (right). For western CO (Colorado basin), temperatures were close to normal, but precipitation was drier than average. In southeast CO, May 2021 was the second wettest May on record, the spring months (March, April, May) have resulted in a much wetter than average season.



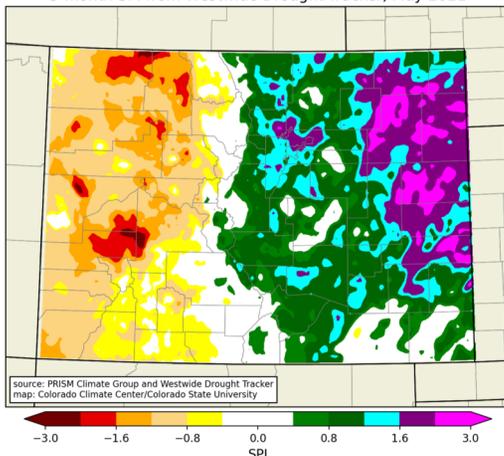
# May 2021 Monthly Climate Summary

## May Headlines feature CCC Staff

- May 4: [Warming is clearly visible in the new US Climate Normals dataset](#) - Russ Schumacher and Becky Bolinger wrote the Conversation article
- May 13: [Southern, western Colorado still dry; Denver, northern Colorado get drought relief](#) Peter Goble in the Colorado Springs Gazette
- May 22: [Colorado drought conditions drastically improve in nearly half the state...](#) Russ Schumacher in the Denver Post
- May 24: [Nearly half of Colorado emerges from drought conditions while Western Slope remains dry and at risk for fire](#) Becky Bolinger in the Colorado Sun

## Gridded SPI Maps

3-month SPI from Westwide Drought Tracker, May 2021

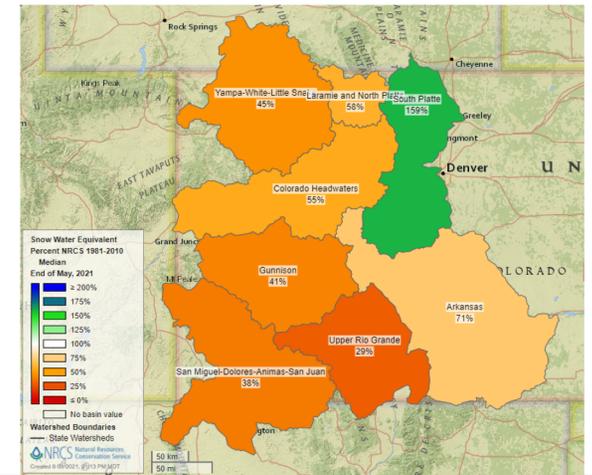


Check out our monthly gridded standardized precipitation maps at [https://climate.colostate.edu/spi\\_monthly\\_maps.html](https://climate.colostate.edu/spi_monthly_maps.html).

Current 3-month SPI highlights the differences between the dry western slope and the wetter eastern plains.

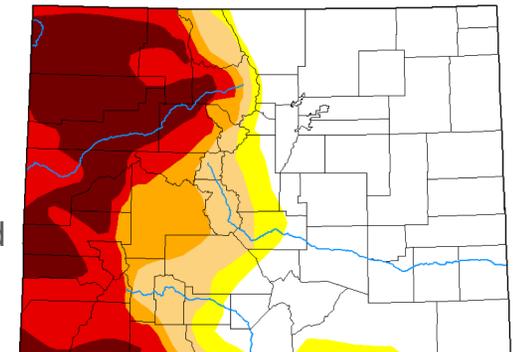
## May Snowpack

Snowpack at the end of May was still below the 30-year median for all of the basins west of the divide. The South Platte basin is still the outlier at 159%. The Upper Rio Grande is the driest at 29%



## Drought Update

Precipitation in May continued to benefit all areas east of the Continental Divide. The western part of the state remained largely unchanged and are still experiencing extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4) drought.



June 1, 2021



<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

