June 2022 was the 24th warmest June in the 128-year record. The warmest anomalies were located over the San Juan mountains. Large areas of southwest CO and areas in northeast CO ranked in the top 20 warmest Junes on record. In the Arkansas basin in southeast CO, temperatures were closer to the normal range.

June 2022 ranked in the near normal range for the statewide average. Much of the state did end up in the near normal range, with the exception of southwest and northeast CO.

In the southwest, June was much wetter than average. Areas of Archuleta County had their wettest June on record. In northeast CO, conditions were much drier than average, with some locations in the bottom 10th driest on record.
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.

The Rio Grande basin ended up in the warm and wet quadrant for June 2022 (upper right chart). It was the 18th warmest June and the 6th wettest June on record. This is the wettest conditions the Rio Grande basin has ever experienced in the warm quadrant.

We're halfway through the calendar year. Over these 6 months, Colorado has been in the "cool and dry" quadrant with respect to the normals over the most recent 30 years (lower right chart). Yet compared to the long-term average, the statewide temperature was over a degree above average.

view all quadrant charts
records tied and broken

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<th>High Max</th>
<th>Low Max</th>
<th>High Min</th>
<th>Low Min</th>
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Tied/Broken, from NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information

state extremes

- **9.1”** Cabin Creek June 1
- **19°F** Climax June 3
- **2.62”** Haswell .07NNW June 8
- **107°F** Walsh June 13
Drought conditions improved across much of the state as a result of an active June thunderstorm pattern. Conditions deteriorated over northeast CO, and about 45% of the state is still in a severe drought category (D2) or worse.

Colorado Drought Update Page

High evaporative demand can quickly exacerbate drought conditions. In June, there have been brief periods of anomalously high evaporative losses, but fortunately nothing sustained and persistent. Higher dewpoints and frequent storm activity have kept higher evaporative losses (which can lead to flash drought) at a minimum. Higher values have been observed over the northeast corner of the state, and lower values in southwest CO, coinciding with the wettest conditions.
June is typically the dry season in southwest Colorado, but not in 2022. The climate station at Vallecito Dam (northeast of Durango in the San Juan Mountains) tallied 4.49", which was the most ever in June. This compares to an average of just 0.88" at that station.

2022 through June has seen far less than the usual severe weather activity in Colorado. Since the National Weather Service began issuing "polygon" warnings in 2008, this year has had the fewest tornado and severe thunderstorm warnings through June 30, with only 221. The average through June 30 is 344.
Big Pivots: Will electricity supplies keep pace with the warming climate?
- Steamboat Pilot, June 28, Russ Schumacher

Hail no! Coloradans expect hail storms in May, June but the threat in “hail alley” remains
- The Denver Post, June 22, Russ Schumacher

New fire restrictions in place across parts of Front Range, Western Slope as temperatures heat up
- Canon City Daily Record, June 15, Peter Goble

Why is it smoky today in Colorado? Wildfires send smoke as temperatures near 100 degrees
- The Coloradoan, June 13, Russ Schumacher

Weather change should send Colorado wildfire smoke away as Poudre River flow hits peak
- The Coloradoan, June 13, Becky Bolinger and Russ Schumacher

Why flooding could be more common in Colorado this summer
- The Denver Post, June 9, Russ Schumacher

As record drought persists, West will have to live with less water
- Vail Daily, June 5, Russ Schumacher