July 2022 was much warmer than average and ranked as the 5th warmest July in the 128-year record (and ranked record warmest for July minimum temperatures). Temperature ranks in the top 10 covered much of the west slope and eastern plains. An area around Elbert and Lincoln counties saw record warmth.

This was the 18th wettest July in the 128-year record. The wettest areas of the state were around southern Colorado, in the San Luis Valley and around the Sangre de Cristo and San Juan mountain ranges. Most of the state received near to above average precipitation for July 2022, with the exception of the plains east of the Denver metro area and in southwest CO, near the Four Corners.
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.

With the 5th warmest and 18th wettest July in the record, the month is in the warm and wet quadrant. Not only is this less common, but this is close to one of the most extreme cases in the warm and wet quadrant. It’s also the second consecutive month in the warm and wet quadrant.

Extending out and looking at the last 12 months (August 2021 – July 2022) conditions are in the warm and dry quadrant. The 12-month period ranks as the 6th warmest and 25th driest.

view all quadrant charts
records tied and broken

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High Max</th>
<th>Low Max</th>
<th>High Min</th>
<th>Low Min</th>
<th>Precip</th>
<th>Snow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>45/64</td>
<td>12/55</td>
<td>89/240</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>29/104</td>
<td>0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>8/7</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All-time</td>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>5/4</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tied/Broken, from NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information

state extremes

- **35°F**
  - Climax – 7/1
  - Crested Butte – 7/7
  - Santa Maria Res – 7/7

- **3.25”**
  - Seibert – 7/25
  - Cheyenne Wells – 7/7

- **110°F**
  - Lamar
  - July 23
drought

Large areas of southern CO saw improvement in drought conditions in July. D3 was removed throughout much of the southern counties, and D2 was removed from the San Luis Valley.

In northeast CO, where they continuously missed out on the storm activity, drought coverage increased in severity, with expanding D2 and D3 conditions.

Colorado Drought Update Page

evaporative demand

Many areas of the state are seeing higher evaporative demand vs. precip for the growing season. At Holyoke (northeast CO), evaporative demand increased rapidly in July. Combined with low precipitation accumulations, the water balance is at the 2nd percentile, indicating extreme drought conditions.

Water balance shows the relationship between precipitation and evaporative demand. Low percentiles indicate poor water balance conditions.
## July 2022 heat wave: where did it rank?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Rank among all-time hottest 10-day periods</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>10-day average temperature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fort Collins</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>July 14-23</td>
<td>79.4°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greeley UNC</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>July 14-23</td>
<td>84.0°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montrose</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>July 14-23</td>
<td>80.5°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walsh 1 W</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>July 15-24</td>
<td>86.2°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denver International AP</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>July 14-23</td>
<td>82.0°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Springs</td>
<td>8th</td>
<td>July 14-23</td>
<td>78.4°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denver-Central Park</td>
<td>12th</td>
<td>July 14-23</td>
<td>80.4°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pueblo</td>
<td>17th</td>
<td>July 14-23</td>
<td>83.1°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Junction</td>
<td>22nd</td>
<td>July 14-23</td>
<td>85.1°F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A combination of hot days and unusually warm nights during a July heat wave led to new records for the warmest 10-day period at some long-term stations.
CCC in the news

- **Colorado River basin farms stunted by megadrought, as more sacrifice lies ahead**
  - Colorado Springs Gazette, July 29, Russ Schumacher

- **Unusual Heavy Rainfall Prompts More Need for Preparedness in Northern Colorado**
  - North Forty News, July 28, Russ Schumacher

- **Colorado monsoon season: Burn scars from previous fires present flood concerns in late July**
  - CBS News Denver, July 25, Becky Bolinger

- **Yes, Colorado has a monsoon season. Here's how it impacts flash flooding**
  - The Coloradoan, July 24, Becky Bolinger

- **How common are 100-degree days in Fort Collins?**
  - The Coloradoan, July 23, Russ Schumacher

- **Why nighttime heat matters so much**
  - Big Pivots, July 21, Peter Goble

- **Q&A: Colorado State climatologist on record heat, wildfire outlook and climate change**
  - CSU Source, July 20, Russ Schumacher

- **Parched soils “continue to deteriorate” as Colorado’s high plains wait for rain**
  - The Denver Post, July 16, Russ Schumacher

- **We asked the experts: Can Colorado's extreme weather be attributed to climate change?**
  - The Coloradoan, July 7, Becky Bolinger