

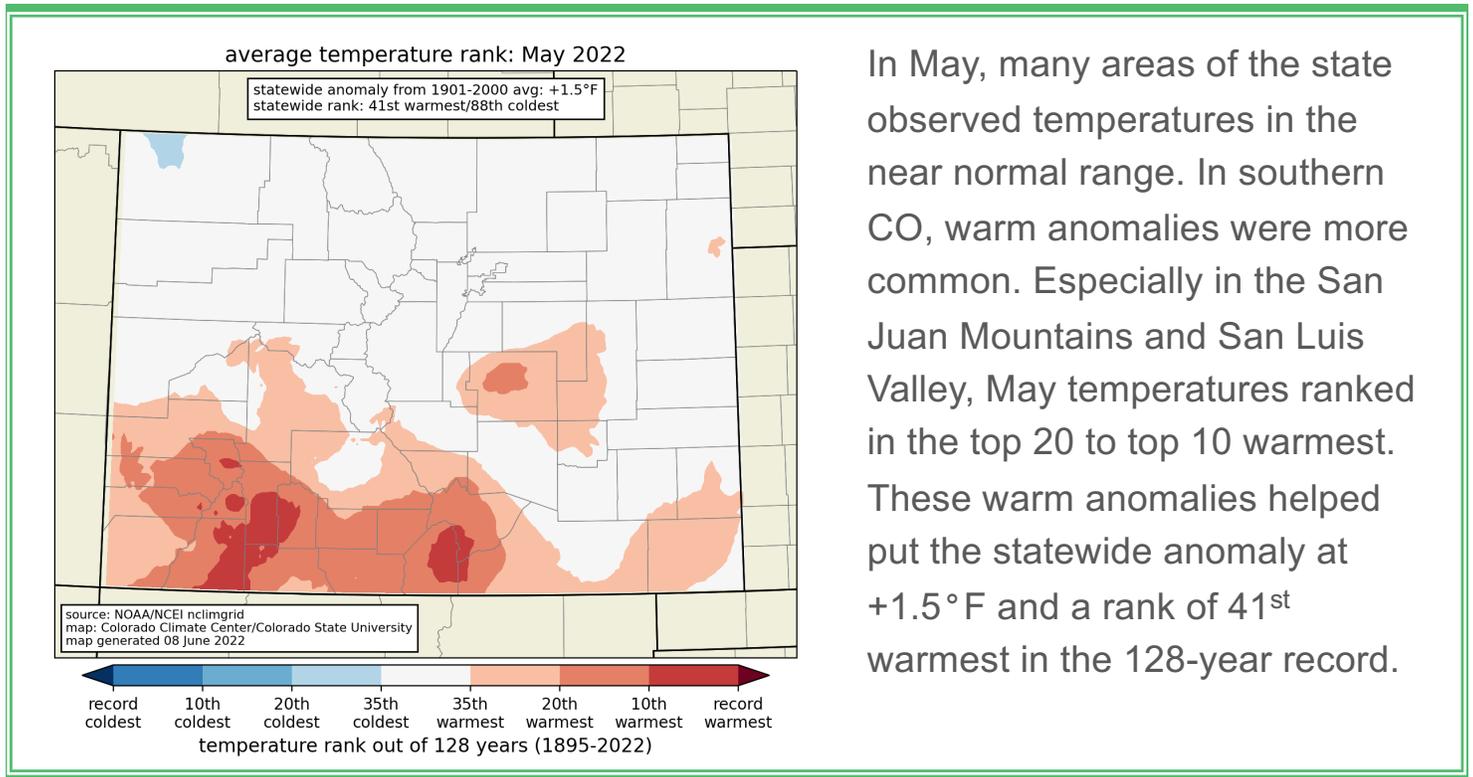


May 2022 Colorado Monthly Climate Summary

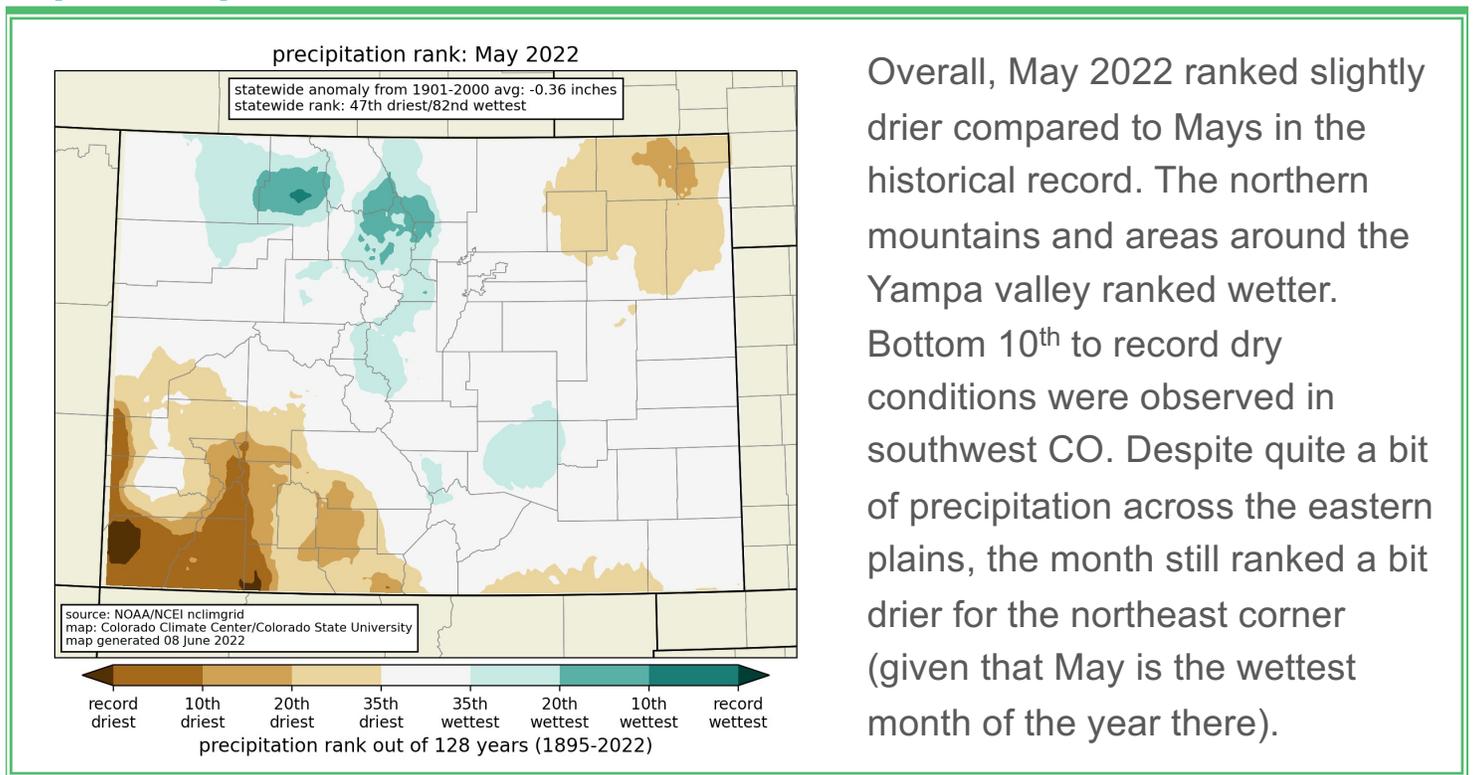


ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

temperature



precipitation



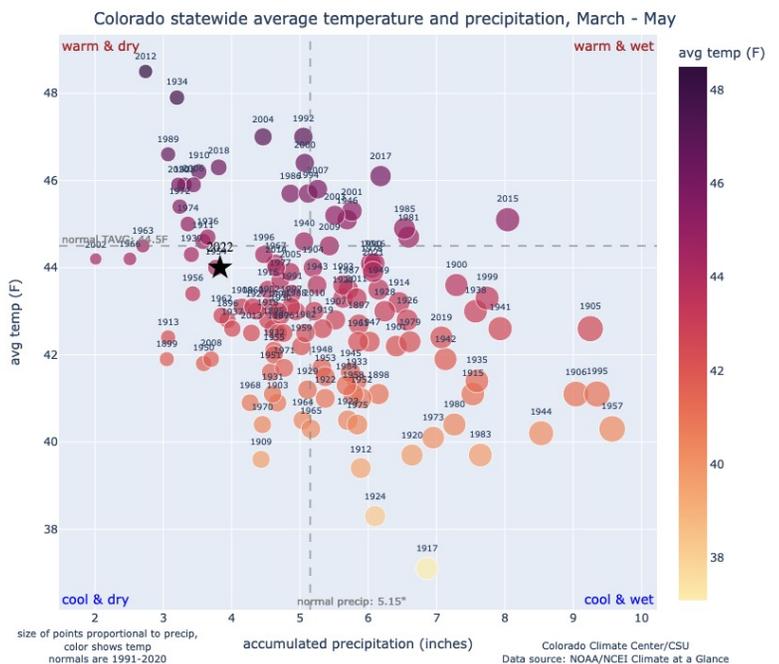
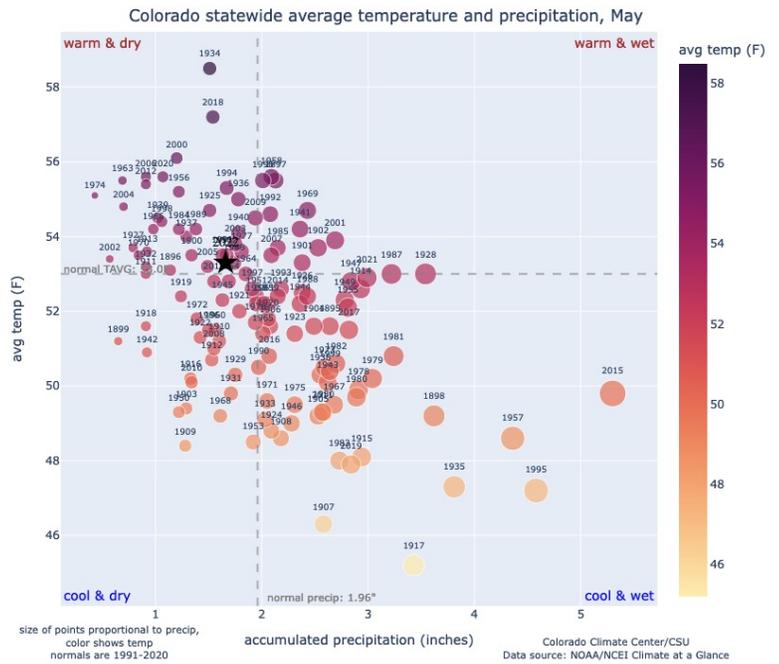
quadrant charts

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.

In the statewide average, May 2022 fell very close to the 30-year normal value for temperature, and was slightly drier than average

For the spring season (March-April-May), Colorado fell into the "cool and dry" quadrant with respect to the normals over the most recent 30 years. Yet compared to the long-term average, it was over a degree above average

[view all quadrant charts](#)

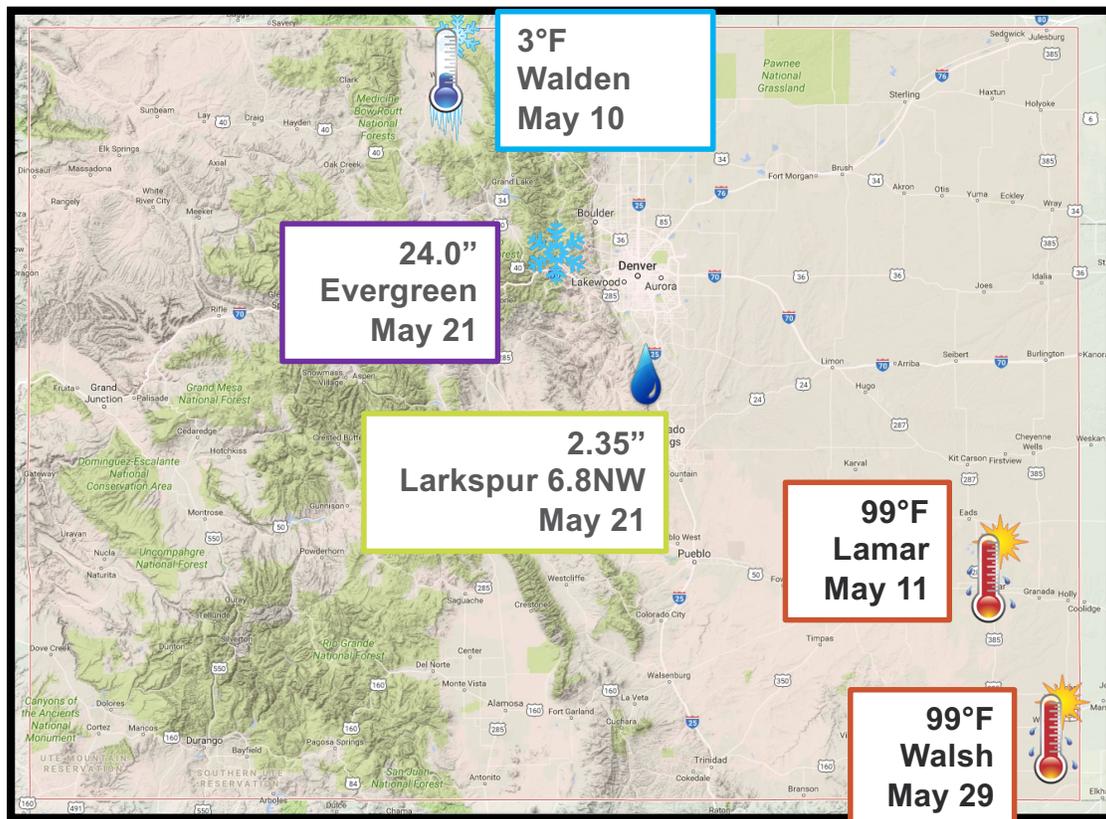


records tied and broken

	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	64/128	30/172	51/254	39/131	23/92	3/74
Monthly	0/0	2/1	1/2	0/0	0/0	0/4
All-time	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/1

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

state extremes

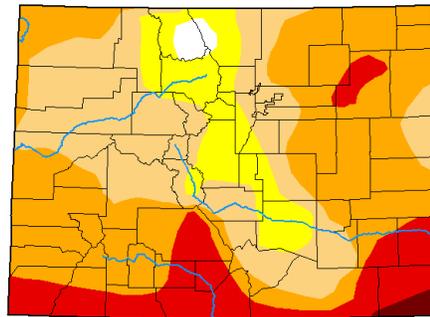


drought

During May, drought severity expanded across southwestern CO, along with portions of eastern CO. Slight improvements in drought conditions were seen around the northern mountains, northern Front Range communities, and the Upper Arkansas valley.

At the end of the month, severe drought (or worse) covered 57% of the state, with 1% in the worst drought category (D4).

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado



May 31, 2022
(Released Thursday, Jun. 2, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	1.09	98.91	87.50	57.03	15.50	0.99
Last Week 05-24-2022	0.00	100.00	89.73	59.61	18.12	2.61
3 Months Ago 03-01-2022	0.00	100.00	91.57	57.26	8.27	0.09
Start of Calendar Year 01-04-2022	0.00	100.00	95.49	67.08	22.25	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-28-2021	12.72	87.28	46.42	26.30	15.05	3.91
One Year Ago 06-01-2021	51.10	48.90	43.36	35.53	29.15	16.39

Intensity

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

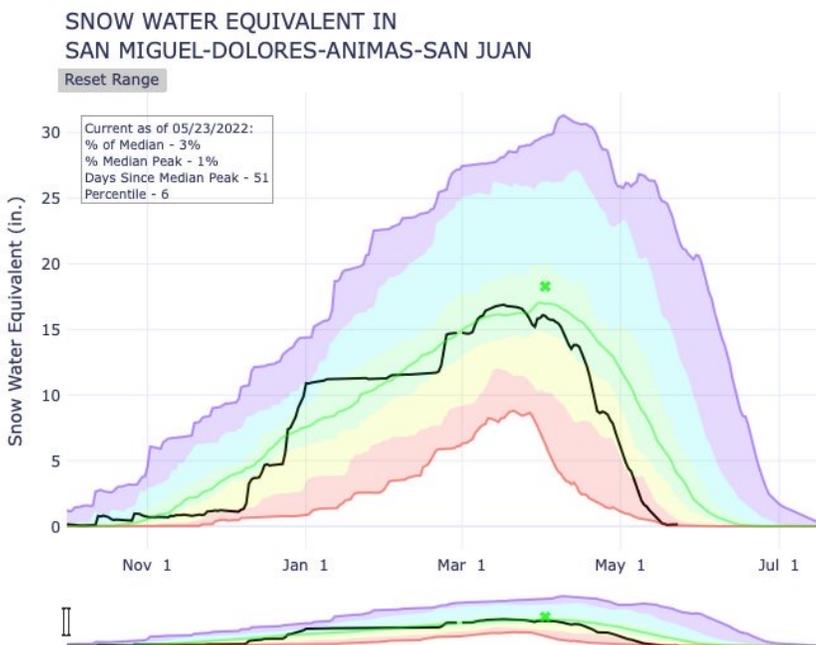
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author
Curtis Rigant
National Drought Mitigation Center



[Colorado Drought Update Page](#)

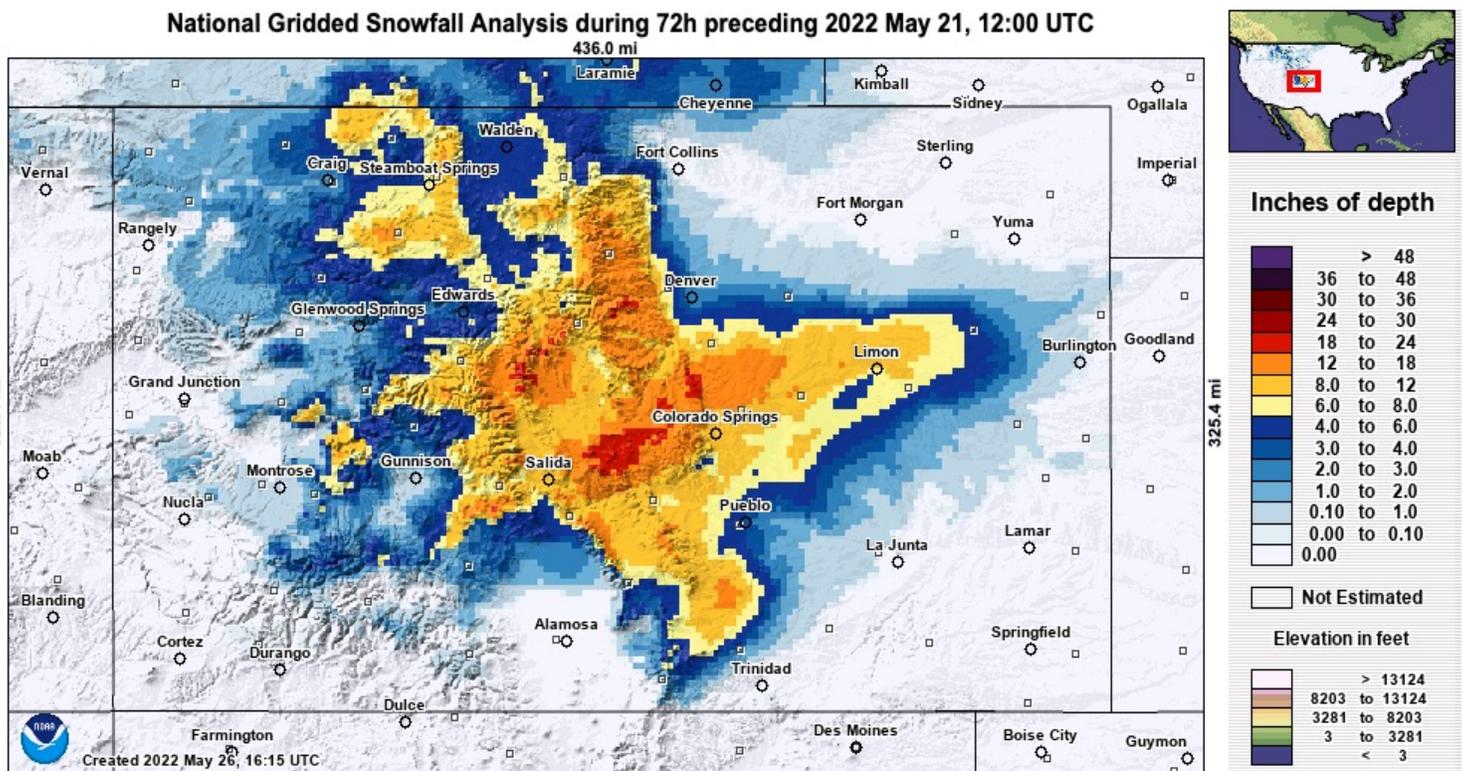
snowpack



As is typical for May, most of the mountains saw significant melting of snowpack. Thanks to a late season storm, snowpack in the Front Range mountains and to the north saw a boost. Basins to the north still had remaining snowpack at the end of the month. The San Juan mountains melted at significantly higher rates than normal for May. Due to the early peak and quick melting, they were snow free before the end of May.



significant events



A late season snow event saves Denver from a new record of shortest length of snowfall season. Denver had not received snow since mid-March, and thanks to no snow in October or November, they were on track for their shortest snow season on record. But, despite the warm, summer-like temperatures in the middle of May, winter briefly returned.

The winter storm dumped 12 to 18 inches of snow around the Palmer Divide and into the higher elevations. Parts of the Denver metro area received 5-10 inches of snow. The event helped stall snowpack melting (and even boost it) for the Arkansas, South Platte, and North Platte basins.

CCC in the news

- ❑ [How a farmer's crime with pie pans led to a federal felony case](#)
 - 9News, May 31, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Southwest Colorado's Snowpack Is Almost Completely Gone. Here's What It Means for Summer](#)
 - 5280 Magazine, May 31, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [Better, but not great: Water experts discuss current river conditions](#)
 - Summit Daily, May 30, Peter Goble
- ❑ [You're not imagining it: It's been windier than usual in Colorado, and that's a big problem](#)
 - Colorado Sun, May 29, Peter Goble and Noah Newman
- ❑ [Trend or outlier? Colorado climate expert weighs in on our windy spring and the future of fire season](#)
 - Boulder Weekly, May 26, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [How did last week's storm affect Colorado's drought?](#)
 - 9News, May 26, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [Snowpack bottoms out in Southwest Colorado](#)
 - Durango Herald, May 24, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Colorado's weekend snowstorm doesn't help the wildfire threat as much as you might think. Here's why](#)
 - Denver Post, May 24, Becky Bolinger



CCC in the news

- ❑ [Colorado's snowstorm on Friday, Saturday will help – but it's not good news for farmers, experts say](#)
 - Colorado Politics, May 19, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Colorado snowpack declines after warmup as fire risk persists](#)
 - Denver Gazette, May 18, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [After windy spring, conditions due to ease](#)
 - Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, May 11, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Colorado's snowpack is melting at a "ridiculous" rate](#)
 - Denver Post, May 10, Becky Bolinger and Russ Schumacher

