



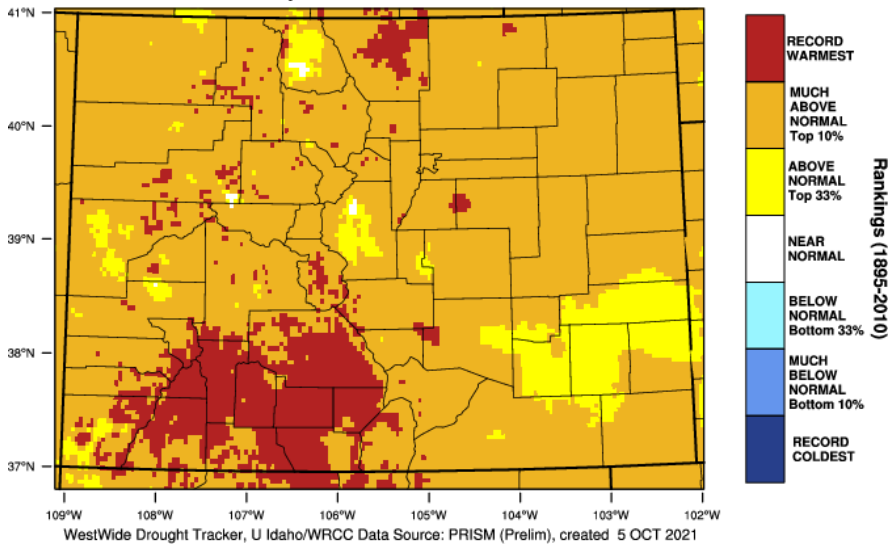
September 2021 Colorado Monthly Climate Summary



ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

temperature

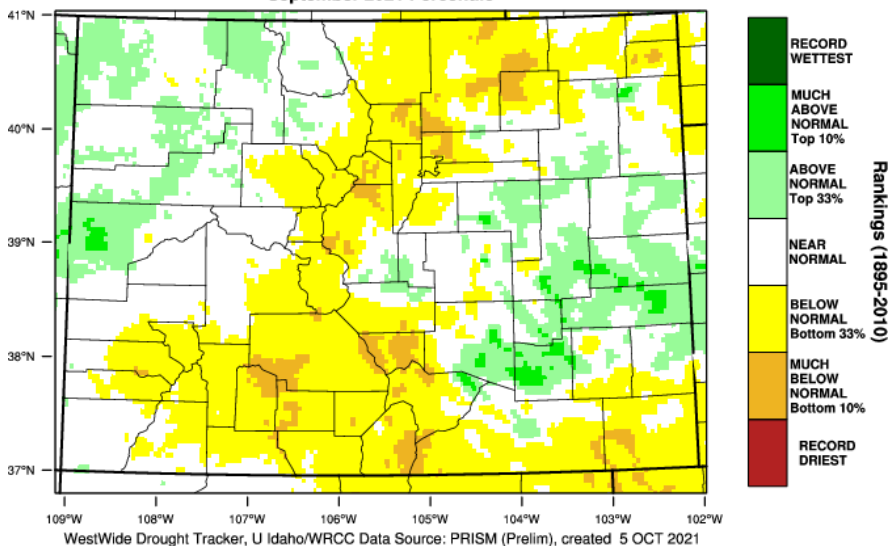
Colorado - Mean Temperature
September 2021 Percentile



Above normal temperatures were observed across all of CO in September 2021. Most of the state saw temperatures ranked in the top 10th percentile. For locations in the San Juan Mountains, San Luis Valley, and sprinkled elsewhere, this September was the warmest on record.

precipitation

Colorado - Precipitation
September 2021 Percentile



For portions of the west slope, north of the I-70 corridor, and the eastern plains, September 2021 was wetter than normal. However, many areas of the state observed a drier September, including the northeastern plains, the Front Range, and much of southern CO.



quadrant charts

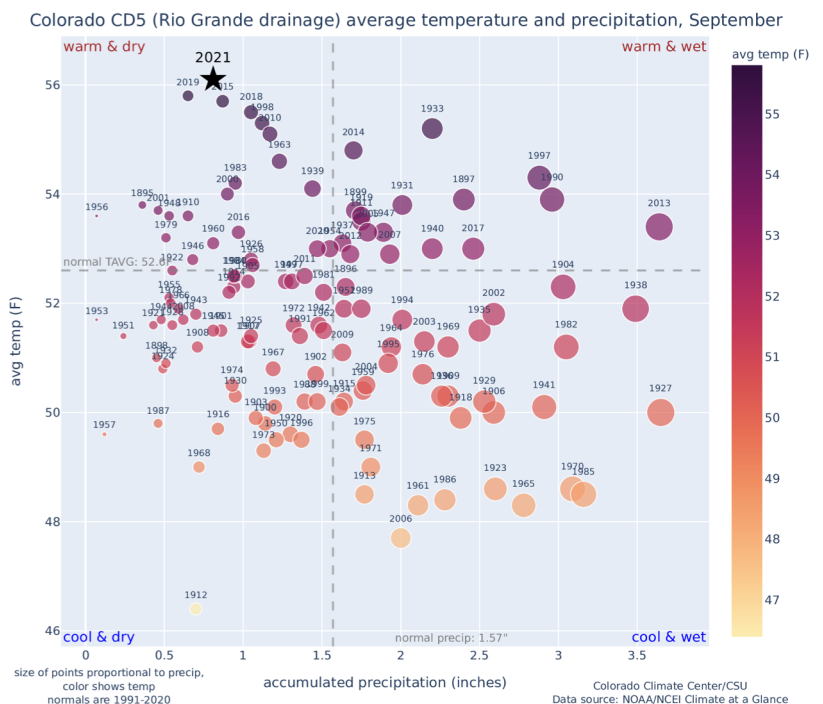
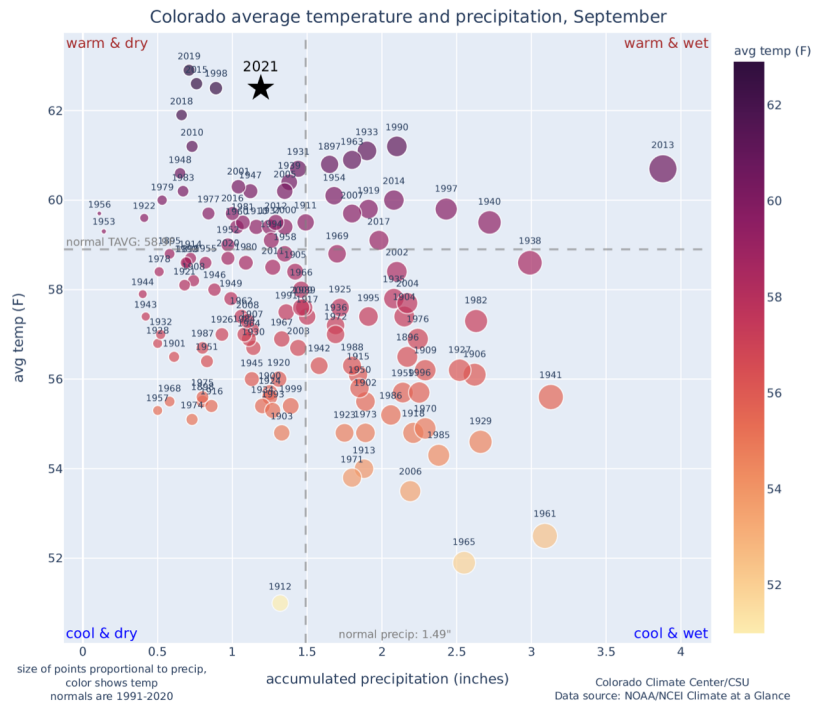
Each dot plots the precipitation on the x-axis and the temperature on the y-axis. Dots are colored based on temperature and size is based on precipitation. The current year is denoted with a star. Long-term averages are denoted by the dashed lines.

September 2021 tied for 3rd warmest September in the 127-year record for Colorado. September 2021 maximum temperatures were record breaking. Four of the top five warmest Septembers have occurred in the last 10 years, and nine of the last 10 Septembers have been warmer than the 1991-2020 average.

Statewide averaged precipitation for September was slightly below average, and ranked 53rd driest in the 127-year record.

The Rio Grande basin in southern Colorado observed its warmest September on record in 2021 and also ranked as 23rd driest.

[view all quadrant charts](#)

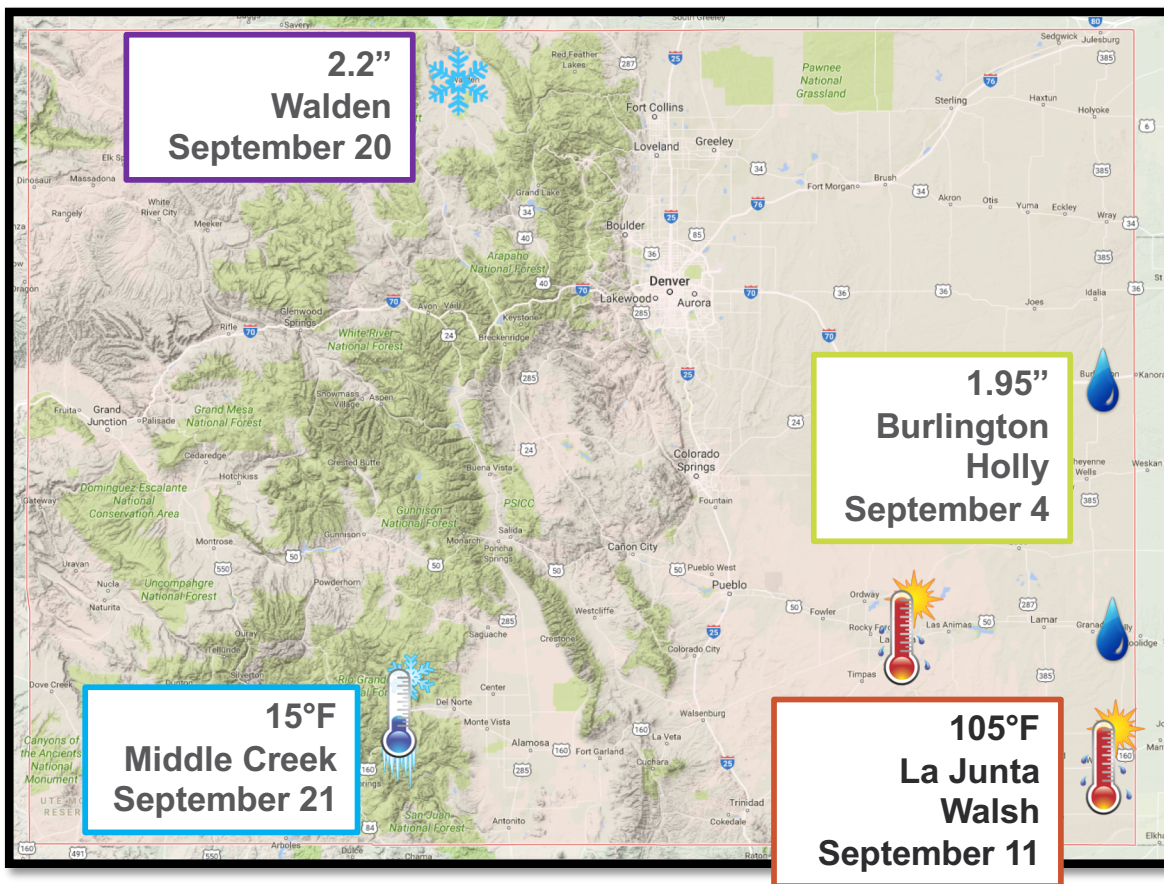


records tied and broken

	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	95/447	8/30	53/249	2/2	16/55	0/0
Monthly	10/8	0/0	9/15	0/0	0/1	0/0
All-time	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0

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

state extremes

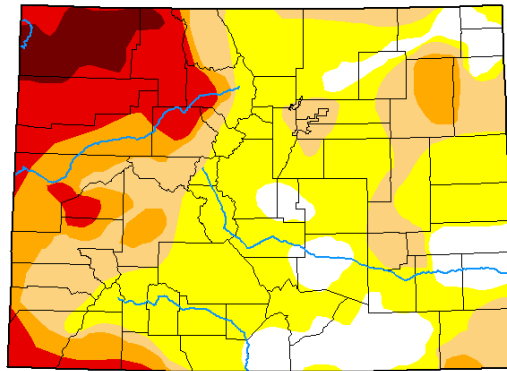


drought

In September 2021, drought conditions expanded across much of eastern CO, including the introduction of D2 drought over Washington County, and D1 drought conditions over other portions of the eastern plains and the Denver area.

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

September 28, 2021
(Released Thursday, Sep. 30, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	12.72	87.28	46.42	26.30	15.05	3.91
Last Week 08-21-2021	16.92	83.08	40.94	24.58	15.05	3.91
3 Months Ago 06-29-2021	54.48	45.52	41.62	36.37	29.95	17.52
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.73	76.17	27.60
Start of Water Year 08-29-2020	0.00	100.00	99.29	89.35	52.88	2.64
One Year Ago 09-29-2020	0.00	100.00	99.29	89.35	52.88	2.64

Intensity:
 None (White) D2 Severe Drought (Orange)
 D0 Abnormally Dry (Yellow) D3 Extreme Drought (Red)
 D1 Moderate Drought (Light Orange) D4 Exceptional Drought (Dark Red)

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:
Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



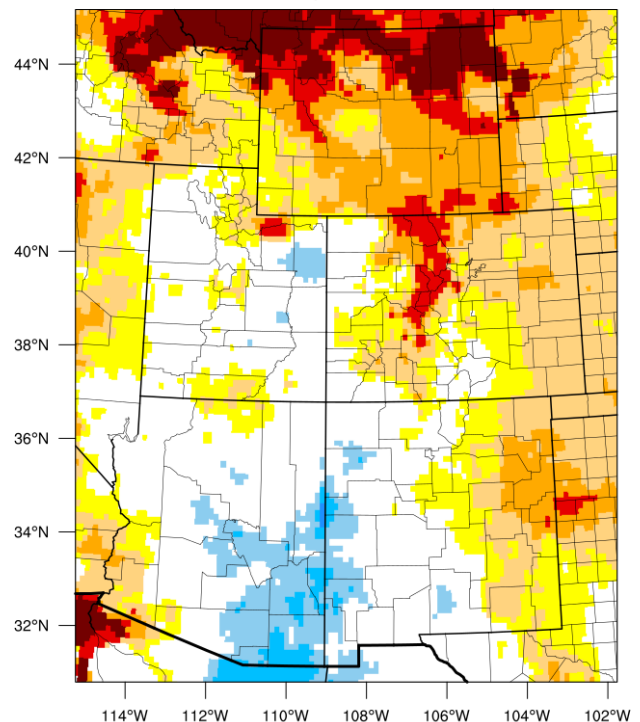
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

[Colorado Drought Update Page](#)

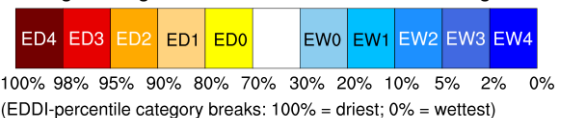
evaporative demand

Evaporative demand stayed closer to normal for the summer. But demand increased in September as a result of warm temperatures, dry air, and windy conditions. This increase in evaporative demand dries the soils, stresses vegetation, and increases the risk for wildfire. Fortunately, wildfire was not a major concern this September.

1-month EDDI categories for October 3, 2021



Drought categories Wetness categories



Generated by NOAA/ESRL/Physical Sciences Laboratory



significant events



[Burlington Colorado Microburst Survey](#)

On September 1, 2021 a strong microburst, with estimated straight-line wind speeds exceeding 100 mph passed through Burlington, resulting in damage to buildings, power lines, and trees.

September Heat

Hot temperatures also dominated the headlines in September. Many 90° days observed, and a heat wave on September 9-11 resulted in 35 stations reporting temperatures of 100° and higher.

CCC in the news

- ❑ [Summer is refusing to end in Fort Collins, but a La Nina winter is eventually coming](#)
 - Russ Schumacher in the Coloradoan, September 8
- ❑ [Crops Struggle As A Record-Dry Summer Follows A Record-Wet Spring For Parts Of The Eastern Plains](#)
 - Russ Schumacher on CPR, September 10
- ❑ [Nearly half of Colorado has shed its drought status since last year, but the coming months don't look good](#)
 - Peter Goble in the Colorado Sun, September 10
- ❑ [Rare September 2013 flood was one of Colorado's worst natural disasters](#)
 - Russ Schumacher in the Coloradoan, September 17
- ❑ [Front Range invaded by cool clouds with a weird name \(video\)](#)
 - Noah Newman on 9News, September 17
- ❑ [From Western Slope to Eastern Plains, Colorado agriculture under pressure to adapt to warming world](#)
 - Becky Bolinger in the Burlington Record, September 20
- ❑ [Monsoonal rains helped relieved drought, but reservoirs now feeling the pinch](#)
 - Becky Bolinger in Colorado Politics, September 23
- ❑ [Monsoonal rains kept Colorado from setting records for dry conditions, but demand for water keeps reservoirs low](#)
 - Becky Bolinger in the Colorado Springs Gazette, September 28

