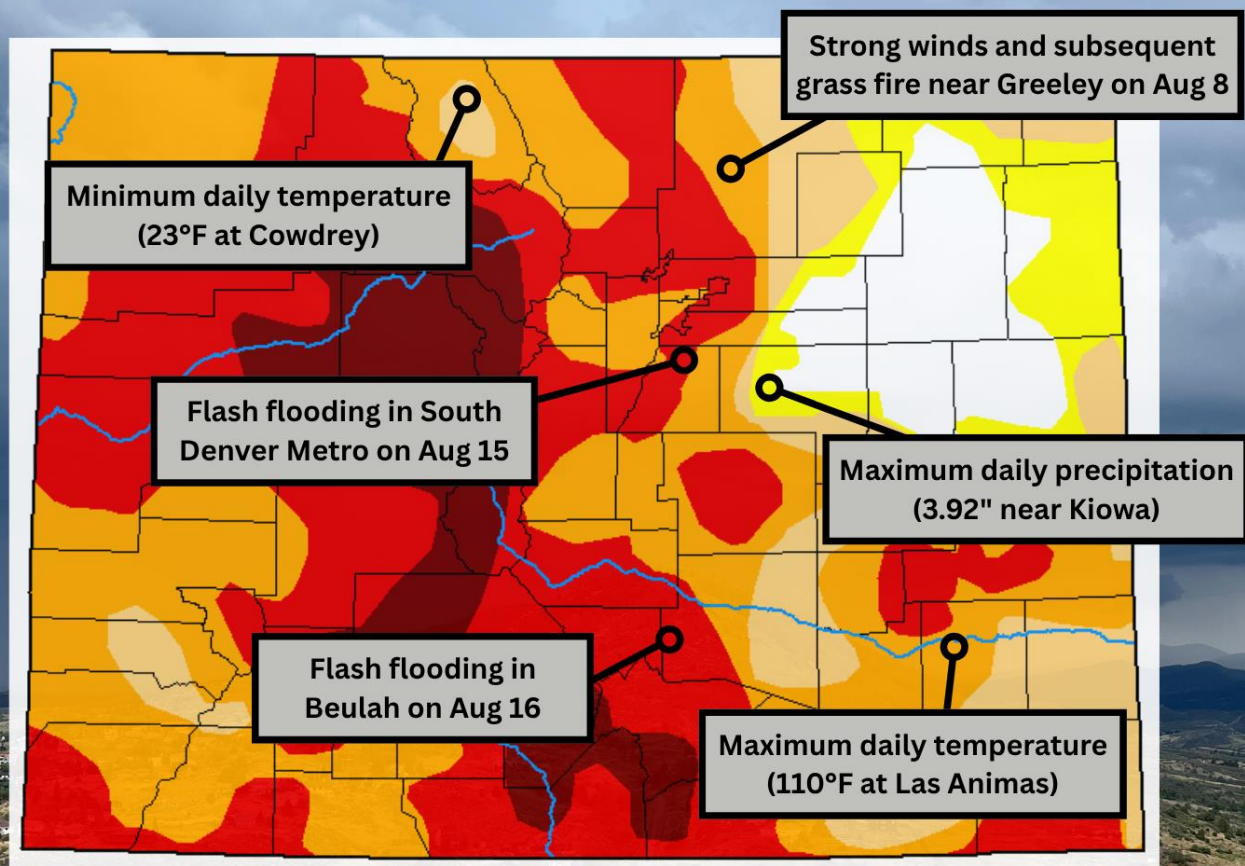


August 2026

Colorado Monthly Climate Summary



US Drought Monitor Valid September 1, 2026

Statewide Temperature and Precipitation Ranks for August 2026

(based on 1895-2026 data)

1st warmest (record warm) ■ **47th driest (near average)**



COLORADO
CLIMATE
CENTER

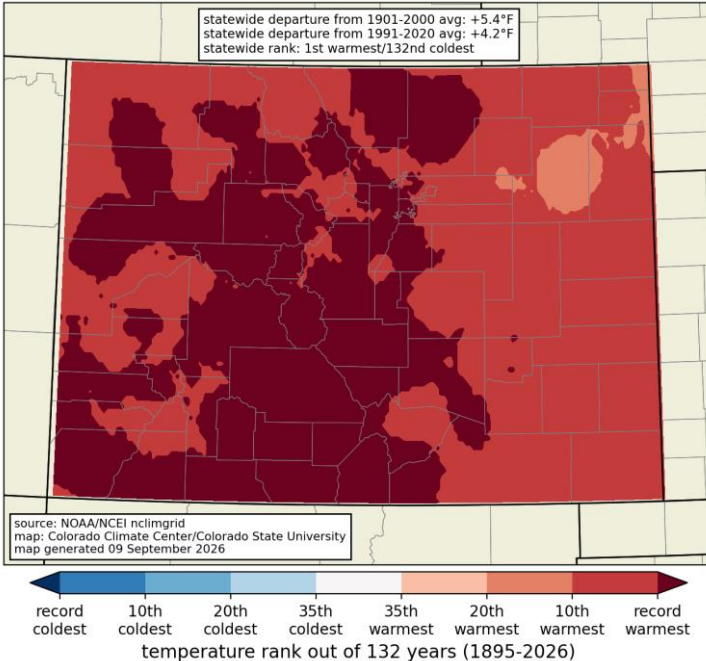
Lory State Park
August 15, 2026



temperature

average temperature rank
August 2026

statewide departure from 1901-2000 avg: +5.4°F
statewide departure from 1991-2020 avg: +4.2°F
statewide rank: 1st warmest/132nd coldest

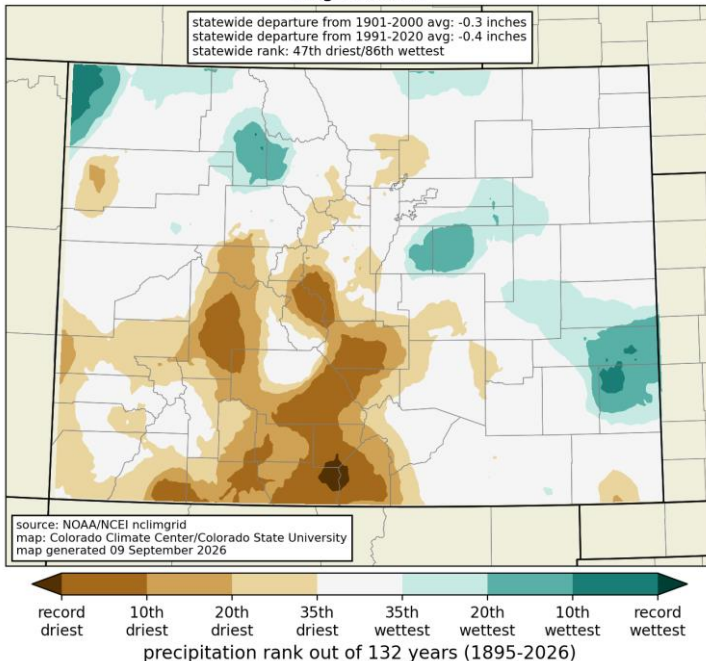


The long-duration warmth in Colorado continued in August 2026, which was the **hottest August on record statewide**. The entire state was warmer than average, and the Front Range, mountains, and western slope all had their warmest August on record. It was the third record-breaking month of 2026 so far, with February and March also being the warmest on record. It was the 15th consecutive month of above-average temperatures in Colorado.

precipitation

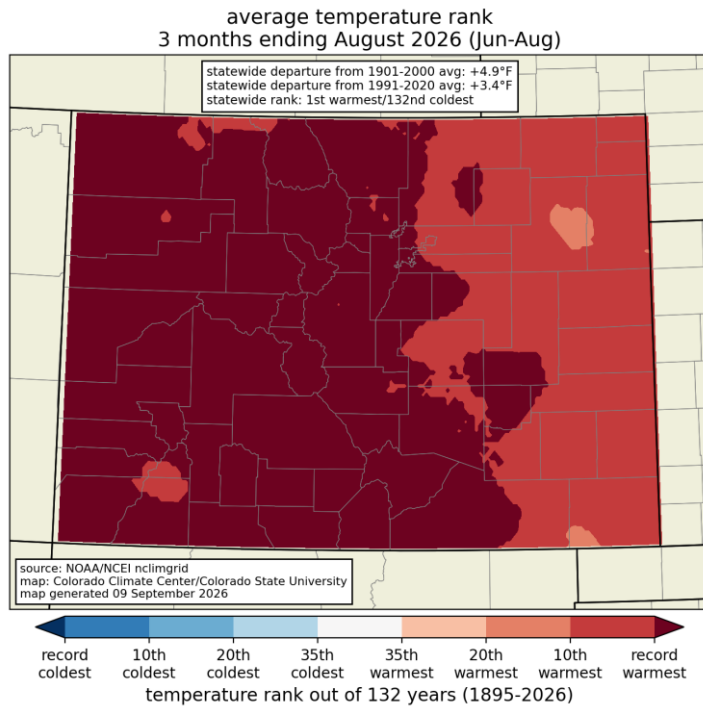
precipitation rank
August 2026

statewide departure from 1901-2000 avg: -0.3 inches
statewide departure from 1991-2020 avg: -0.4 inches
statewide rank: 47th driest/86th wettest



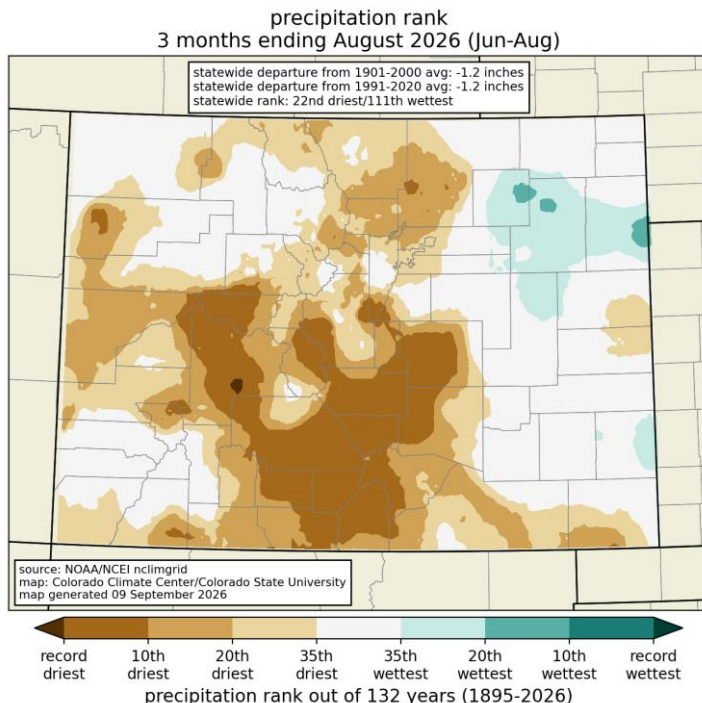
As is often the case in the summer months, precipitation varied across Colorado in August. Some areas saw thunderstorm downpours and ended the month with above-average rainfall, while other areas, especially in southern Colorado, had a very dry month. August is typically the wettest month of the year in the San Luis Valley, but this was among the driest Augusts on record for that area.

temperature: summer 2026



It was the hottest climatological summer (June-July-August) on record for Colorado when averaged across the state. The western two-thirds of the state all experienced their hottest summer, while the eastern Plains had “only” a top-10 warm summer.

precipitation: summer 2026



With the exception of a few areas on the eastern Plains that had repeated intense thunderstorms, it was a drier-than-average summer across Colorado. Central and southern Colorado were especially dry, with many locations ranking in the top-10 driest summers.

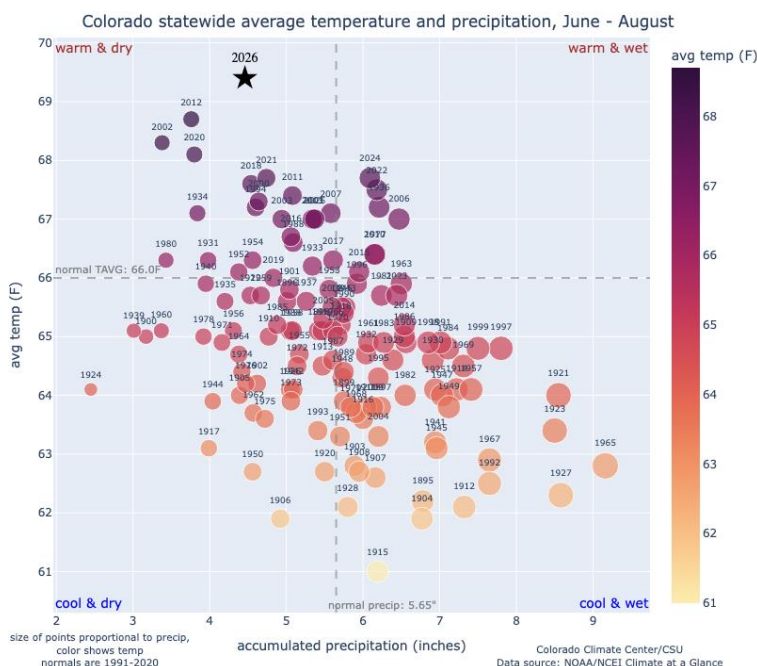
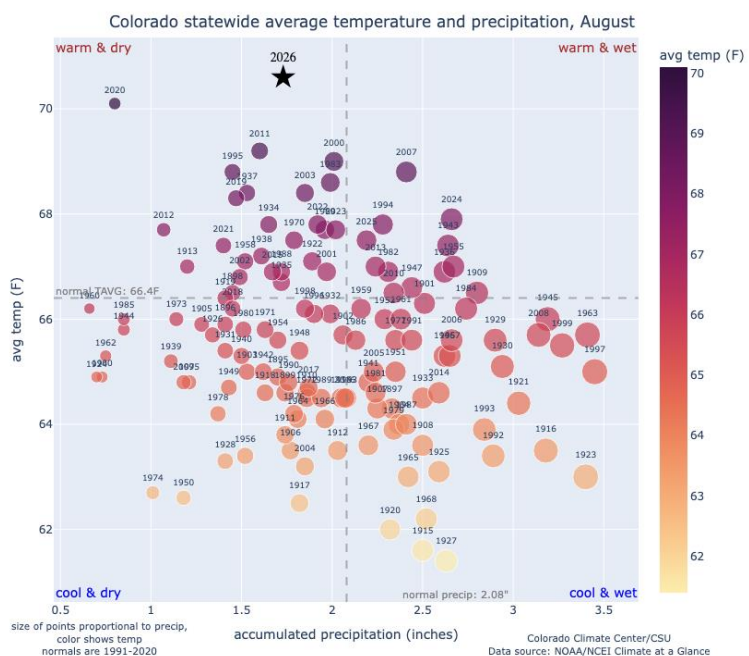
quadrant charts

Each dot plots the precipitation on the horizontal axis and the temperature on the vertical axis. Dots are colored based on temperature and size is based on precipitation. The current year is denoted with a star. The 1991-2020 averages are denoted by the dashed lines.

Along with being the warmest August on record for Colorado, August 2026 was tied for the 4th-warmest of all months in 132 years of records. It was 5.4°F warmer than the 20th-century average and 4.2°F warmer than the 1991-2020 average. It was the 47th-driest (86th-wettest) August, with statewide precipitation 0.30" below the 30-year average.

Climatological summer 2026 was the warmest on record for Colorado statewide. Statewide average temperature was 4.9°F higher than the 20th-century average, 3.4°F above the 1991-2020 average, and **0.7°F warmer than the previous warmest summer (2012)**. It was the 22nd driest summer, 1.21" below average for precipitation statewide.

[view all quadrant charts](#)

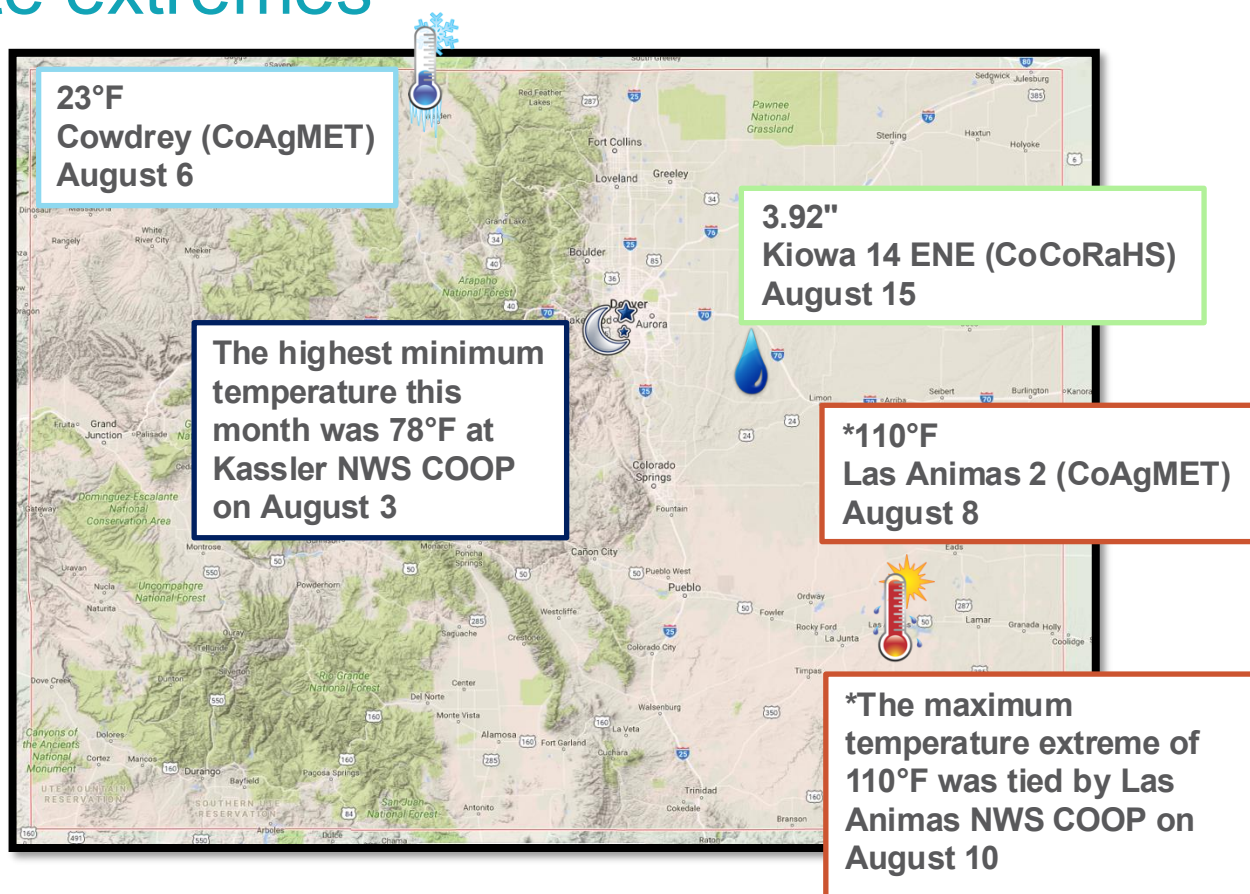


records tied and broken

	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	216/769	2/20	169/566	7/8	20/75	0/0
Monthly	54/41	0/1	20/48	0/0	0/2	0/0
All-time	13/4	0/0	2/8	0/0	0/1	0/0

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

state extremes



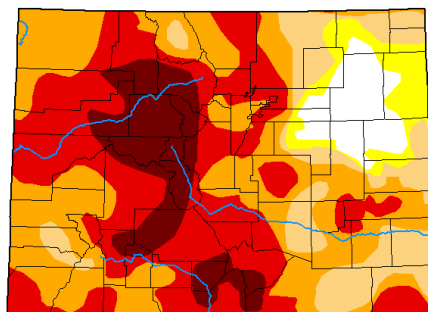
drought

While small parts of Colorado saw improving conditions in August, widespread drought persisted across the state. As of September 1, roughly 89% of Colorado was experiencing some form of drought, down slightly from ~91% at the beginning of the month. Extreme to exceptional drought (D3 to D4) continued to be largely concentrated west of the Continental Divide and across the San Luis Valley, though portions of the Front Range Urban Corridor and Southeast Colorado were also classified under extreme drought. Meanwhile, the drought-free area in Northeast Colorado continued to expand thanks to beneficial rainfall.

Colorado Drought Update Page

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

September 1, 2026
(Released Thursday, Sep. 3, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D1	D1-D2	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4
Current	6.19	83.81	88.85	75.01	44.13	11.97
Last Week (08-25-2026)	4.06	96.94	90.34	78.87	47.52	13.68
3 Months Ago (06-01-2026)	0.55	99.45	92.66	75.98	36.95	8.82
Start of Calendar Year (01-01-2026)	25.96	74.04	46.22	15.77	4.35	0.67
Start of Water Year (09-30-2025)	45.82	54.18	45.19	35.88	14.34	0.00
One Year Ago (09-01-2025)	39.73	60.27	50.71	40.42	25.02	0.00

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

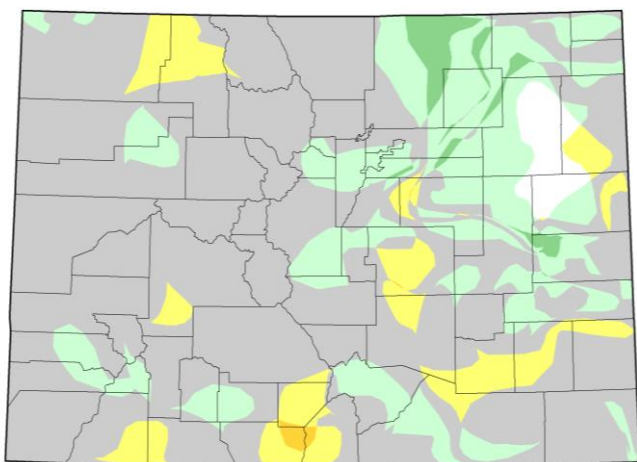
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Colorado 4 Week



September 1, 2026
compared to
August 4, 2026

droughtmonitor.unl.edu



5 Class Degradation (Dark Brown)
 4 Class Degradation (Brown)
 3 Class Degradation (Light Brown)
 2 Class Degradation (Yellow)
 1 Class Degradation (Light Green)
 No Change (White)
 1 Class Improvement (Light Blue)
 2 Class Improvement (Blue)
 3 Class Improvement (Dark Blue)
 4 Class Improvement (Very Dark Blue)
 5 Class Improvement (Black)

The USDMD featured a mix of improving and worsening drought conditions, which were largely dependent on scattered thunderstorm activity. Northeast Colorado saw the most extensive drought improvements, which brought ~6% of the state into drought-free status at the end of the month (up from 3% at the beginning of August). Statewide coverage of extreme (D3) or worse drought also decreased from ~47% to ~44% over this time. For most drought-stricken areas of the state, the added precipitation was enough to prevent worsening drought but not sufficient for drought improvements. Still, drier-than-normal weather brought deteriorating drought conditions to portions of Southeast Colorado, Western Colorado, and the San Luis Valley.



significant events



The grass fire burned near the intersection of Highway 34 and US 85. Photo by Noelle Hinojosa, obtained via [CBS Colorado](#).

On August 8, strong thunderstorm-driven winds brought down branches and powerlines near Greeley. The downed powerlines ignited a grassfire that ultimately burned about 22 acres. The fire tragically killed a woman and a dog, as well as severely burned another man. Firefighters on the scene estimated that [winds were gusting between 85 to 100 mph](#) at the time of the incident, raising suspicion that a local microburst could have been the cause.

Flash flooding continued into August. In the Denver Metro, heavy rain and hail from thunderstorms flooded roadways on August 15. Several vehicles became disabled from the floodwaters, prompting rescues of several drivers. And in Beulah, heavy rain-driven flooding on August 16 caused debris flows near the Aspen Acres burn scar. The flooding unfortunately led to the death of one man in the area.



Blackened flood waters near Beulah. Photo by the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office, obtained via the [Colorado Sun](#).



Flooded roadway with an abandoned vehicle in Meridian (near Centennial). Photo by South Metro Fire Rescue, obtained via [CBS Colorado](#).



A snowplow clearing piles of hail in Douglas County. Photo by the Douglas County Government, obtained via [KKTV 11](#).



significant events

Prolonged heat waves continued in Colorado in August. Using the heat wave definition from the [Climate Change in Colorado report](#), there were three four-day heat waves in the month, from August 1-4, August 9-12, and August 20-23.

When added to the four that occurred in July, 2026 has had seven heat waves, the most in a single year (with data back to 1951).

Three of the eight hottest four-day periods statewide have occurred this year (see rankings at right)

Top statewide 4-day heat waves

	Statewide avg temperature (F)	start date	end date
1	76.72	2026-07-25	2026-07-28
2	76.51	2012-06-24	2012-06-27
3	76.13	2005-07-20	2005-07-23
4	75.36	2003-07-16	2003-07-19
5	75.06	1990-06-29	1990-07-02
6	74.87	2003-07-24	2003-07-27
7	74.84	2026-08-09	2026-08-12
8	74.60	2026-07-20	2026-07-23
9	74.58	2001-07-05	2001-07-08
10	74.57	2021-06-15	2021-06-18

Hottest statewide August days

	Date	Statewide avg temperature (F)
1	2026-08-03	75.62
2	2026-08-09	75.28
3	2026-08-10	75.21
4	2008-08-03	75.10
5	2026-08-04	74.99
6	2008-08-02	74.81
7	2026-08-12	74.49
8	2025-08-08	74.45
9	2026-08-11	74.39
10	1995-08-08	74.37

Similar to July, August had some extremely hot individual days. Taking the average of the daily high and low temperature, and averaging that across all of Colorado, **the three warmest August days, and six of the 10 warmest August days since 1951 occurred this month.**

August 3, 9, and 10 were especially warm from a combination of both record daytime temperatures and unusually warm overnight lows.

Data from NOAA nClimGrid, 1951-present. “Days” in this dataset are defined from 6am-6am, so August 3 is the average of the high temperature on August 2 and the low on the morning of the 3rd



CCC in the news

- ❑ **August 1, 2026:** [What a federal plan to reallocate the Colorado River's water means for western states](#)
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher on NPR - All Things Considered
- ❑ **August 4, 2026:** [Get to know Colorado. Learn highest, lowest points and other extremes](#)
 - Featuring the Colorado Climate Center in The Coloradoan
- ❑ **August 10, 2026:** [The U.S.'s Largest Reservoir Just Fell to Its Lowest Water Level](#)
 - Featuring data from the Colorado Climate Center in Time.com
- ❑ **August 12, 2026:** [Drought, wildfires force bears and other wildlife into Colorado cities](#)
 - Featuring Colorado Climate Center in The Coloradoan
- ❑ **August 12, 2026:** [Late July heat wave was Colorado's hottest 4-day period on record](#)
 - Featuring data from the Colorado Climate Center in Colorado Newsline
- ❑ **August 14, 2026:** [Can El Niño save Colorado from this historic drought](#)
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher in The Coloradoan



CCC in the news - continued

- ❑ **August 17, 2026:** [Heat-related illnesses spike in Colorado as climate change fuels record temperatures](#)
 - Featuring data from the Colorado Climate Center in Colorado Newsline
- ❑ **August 20, 2026:** [Drought worsens in Colorado and across the West amid 'lackluster monsoon'](#)
 - Featuring the Colorado Climate Center in The Aspen Times
- ❑ **August 21, 2026:** [El Niño gaining strength with increased moisture expected](#)
 - Featuring Peter Goble and Russ Schumacher in The Fence Post
- ❑ **August 22, 2026:** [Fort Collins breaks heat records again this August](#)
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher in The Coloradoan
- ❑ **August 24, 2026:** [Eagle County trail gurus share stories of hiking adaptation, 'trail magic' in drought conditions](#)
 - Featuring data from the Colorado Climate Center Monthly Summary in Vail Daily
- ❑ **August 25, 2026:** [Fall weather preview for Western Colorado](#)
 - Featuring Peter Goble in KJCT ABC News Grand Junction



CCC in the news - continued

- ❑ **August 25, 2026:** [Colorado remains 'epicenter' of worst drought conditions in the West, as heat records pile up](#)
 - Featuring Allie Mazurek in The Aspen Times
- ❑ **August 26, 2026:** [What climate science tells us about the causes of the Colorado River crisis](#)
 - Featuring data from the Colorado Climate Center in Colorado Newslane
- ❑ **August 31, 2026:** [Despite growing super El Niño, Colorado's winter forecast remains uncertain](#)
 - Featuring Peter Goble in the Colorado Sun

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