

Fort Collins Weather Station Monthly Summary

May 2024



Photo credit:
Alistair Vierod



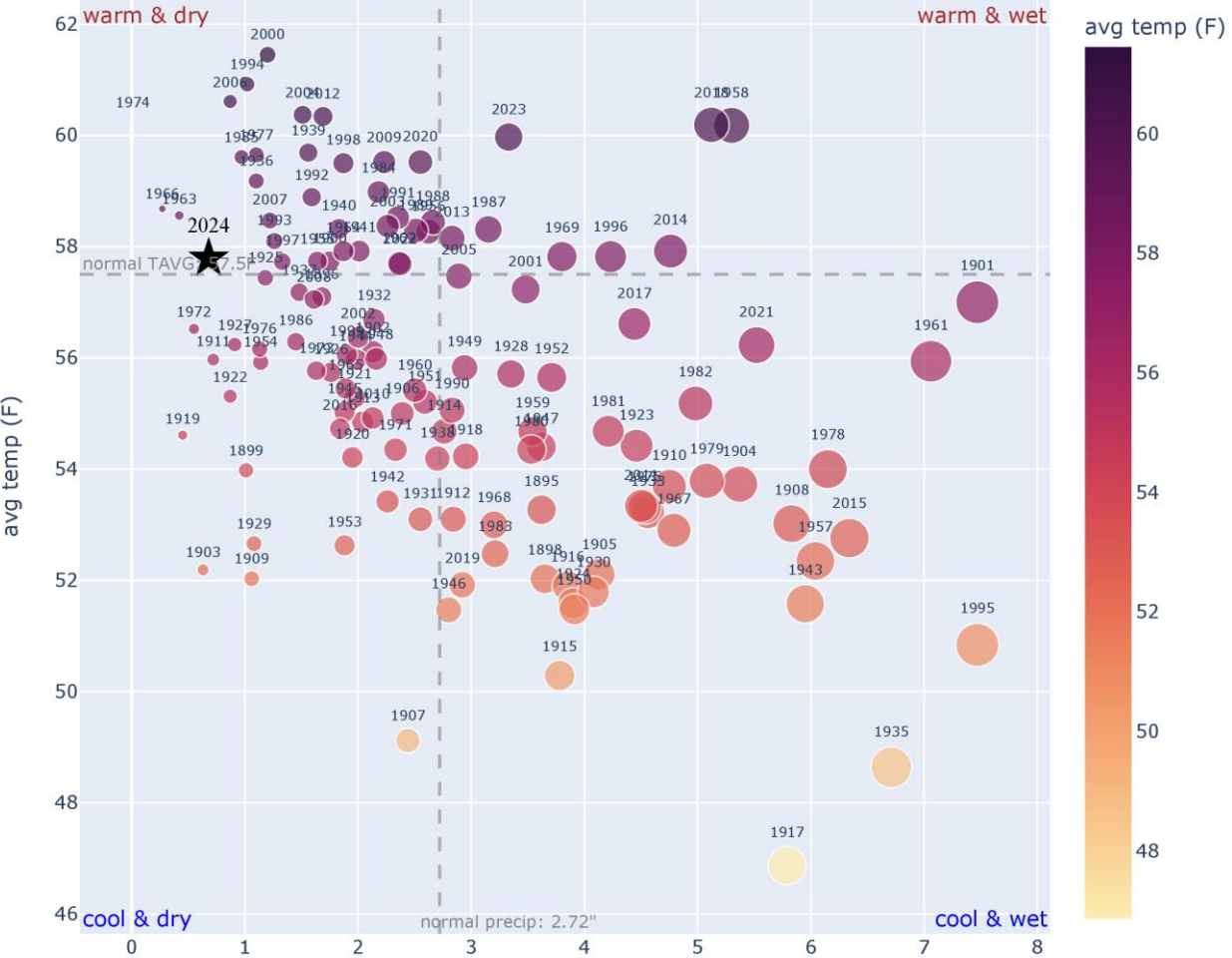
ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



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Average May Temperature and Precipitation

FORT COLLINS temperature and precipitation, May 1 - May 31



The average air temperature for May 2024 was 57.8 °F, 0.3 °F above our 1991-2020 May normal (57.5 °F)

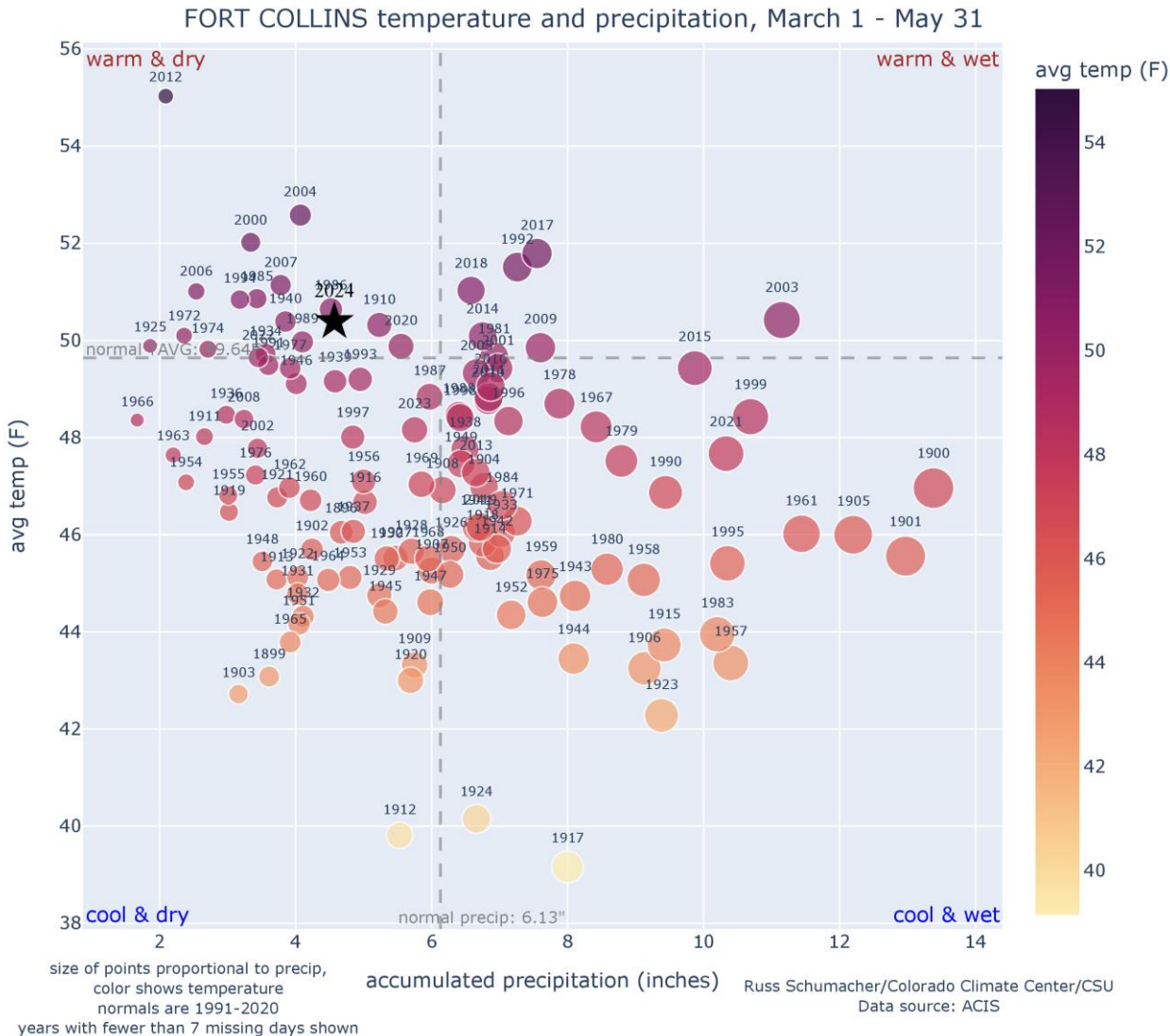
The last warmer May was 2023 (60.0 °F)

We received 0.68” of precipitation in May 2024, a mere 25% of our 1991-2020 May normal (2.72”)

The last drier May was 1974 (0.01”)

size of points proportional to precip, color shows temperature, normals are 1991-2020, years with fewer than 3 missing days shown
 Russ Schumacher/Colorado Climate Center/CSU
 Data source: ACIS

Average Spring (March-May) Temperature and Precipitation



Our average spring (March-May) temperature was 50.4 °F, 0.8 °F above our 1991-2020 average of 49.6 °F

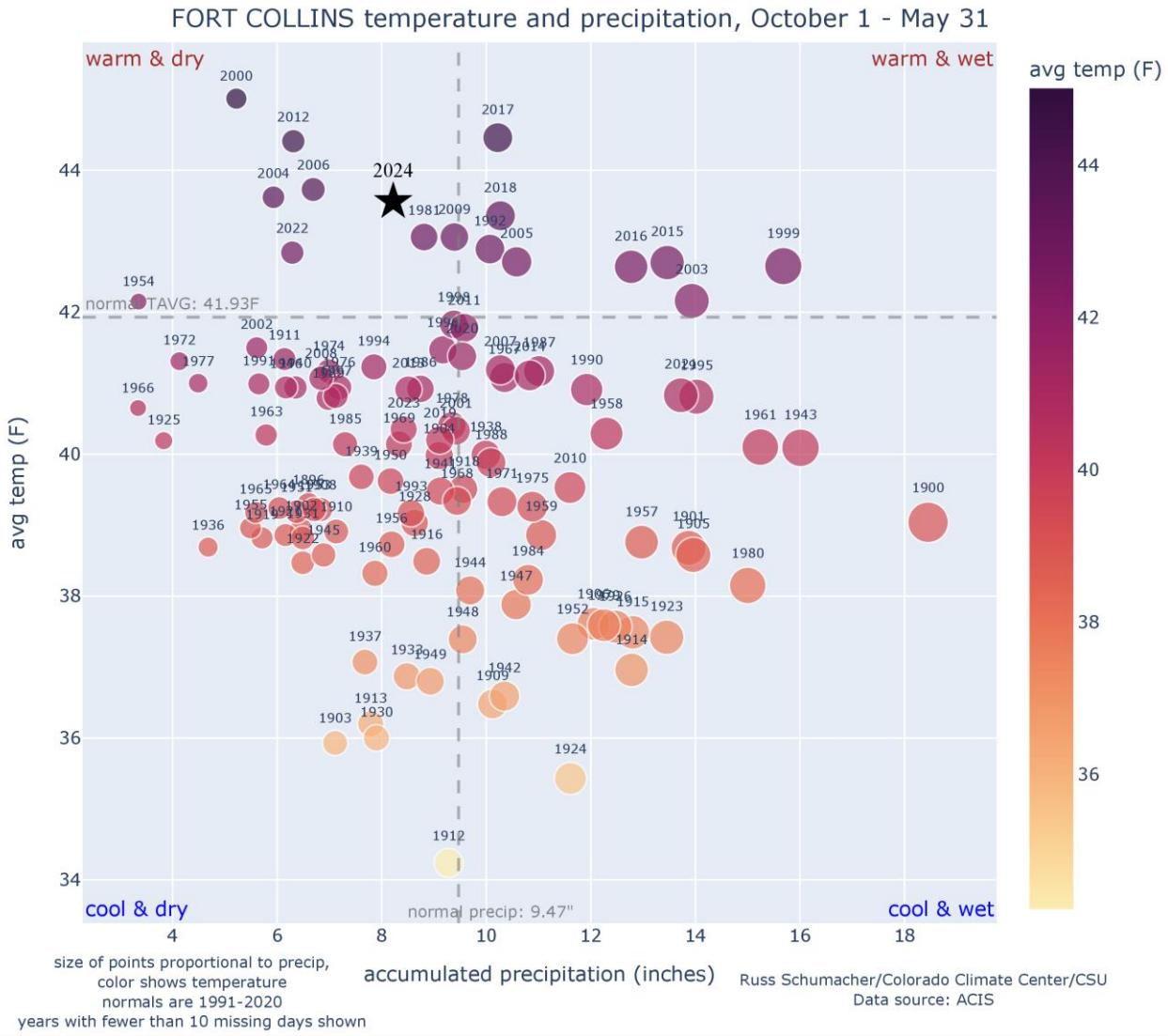
The last warmer spring was 2017 (51.8 °F)

We received 4.58" of precipitation this spring. This is 75% of our normal spring precipitation (6.12")

The last drier spring was 2022 (3.45")



Average Water Year to Date Temperature and Precipitation



The average air temperature for our 2024 Water Year to date (since October 1st) is 43.4 °F. This is 1.5 °F above our 1991-2020 normal of 41.9 °F

The last warmer October-May was 2017 (44.3 °F)

We have received 8.22” of precipitation this Water Year to date, 87.2% of our 1991-2020 normal (9.43”)

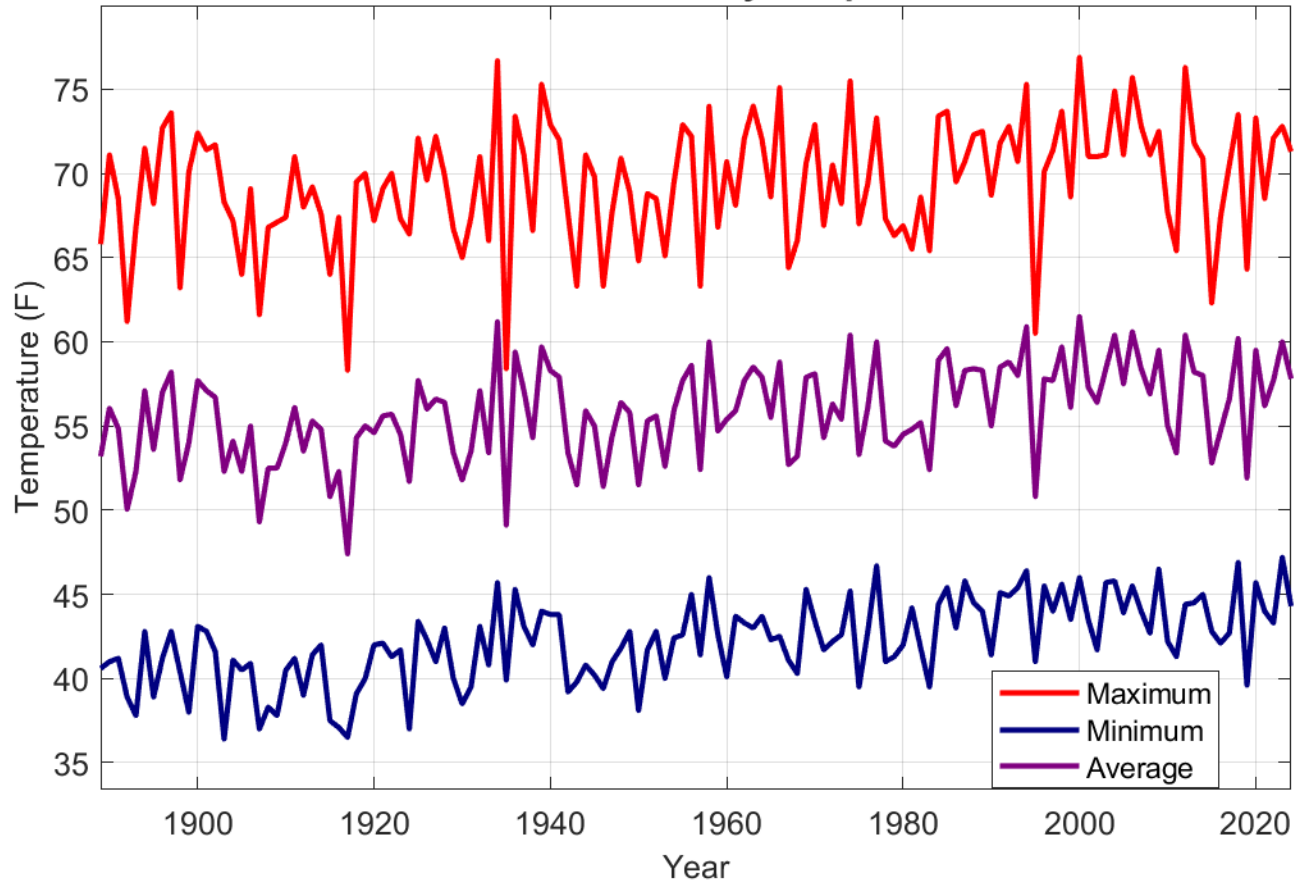
The last Water Year to start at least this dry was 2022 (6.29”)

This is the first month that our Water Year to date precipitation has been below normal since January

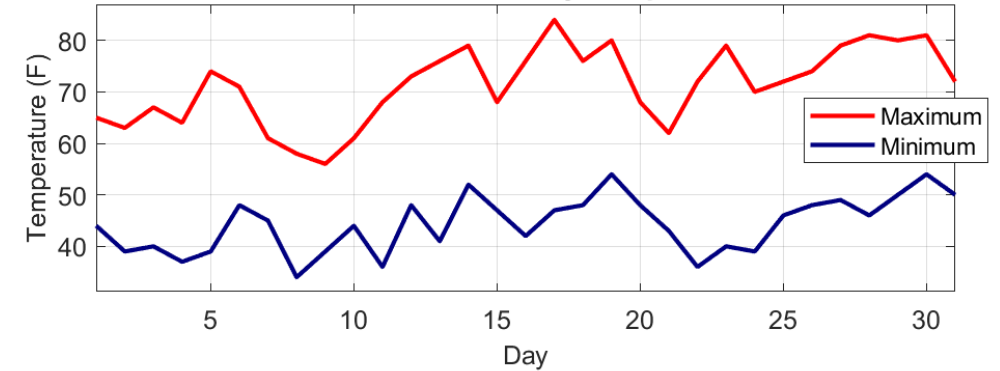


May 2024 Time Series Graphics

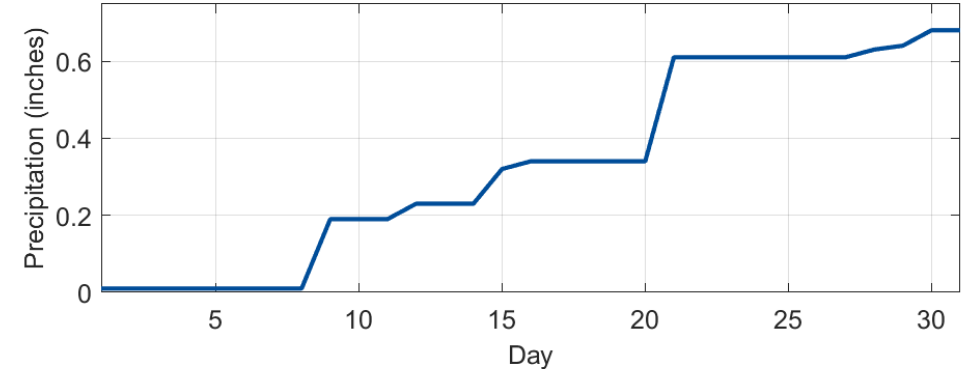
Fort Collins Weather Station May Temperature Timeseries



Fort Collins Weather Station May Temperature Timeseries



Fort Collins Weather Station May Precipitation Timeseries



Highest Daily T_{\max} : 84 °F on May 17th

Lowest Daily T_{\min} : 34 °F on May 8th

Highest Daily Precipitation: 0.27" on May 21st

Highest Daily Pan Evaporation: 0.32" on May 17th

Total Pan Evaporation: 6.23" (105% of normal)



Additional May 2024 Statistics

	Observed	1991-2020 Normal	POR Average	Depart from Normal	Depart from POR Average	Last Above	Last Below
Tmean °F	57.8	57.5	55.8	0.3	2	2023	2022
Mean(T _{max}) °F	71.3	70.9	69.4	0.4	1.9	2023	2021
Mean(T _{min}) °F	44.3	44.1	42.2	0.2	2.1	2023	2022
Precipitation “	0.68	2.72	2.79	-2.04	-2.11	2023	1974
Snowfall “	0	1.5	1.3	-1.5	-1.3	2021	0
Water Year Precip “	8.22	9.43	9.03	-1.21	-0.81	2023	2022
Seasonal Snowfall “	37	50.7	48.3	-13.7	-11.3	2023	2018
POR = period of record (since 1894)							

	Value	Date
Max(T _{max}) °F	84	17 th
Min(T _{max}) °F	56	9 th
Max(T _{min}) °F	54	19 th
Min(T _{min}) °F	34	8 th
Max(Daily Precip)“	0.27	21 st
Max(Daily Snowfall)“	0	N/A
Peak Wind Gust (mph)	39.6	6 th

Days Precip > 0	20
Days Snowfall > 0	0
Days Precip > Trace	9
Days Snowfall > Trace	0
Days Wind Gust > 20mph	18
Peak Wind Gust Direction	168
Peak Wind Gust Time (MST)	1349 MST



Feature Story: Low Precipitation

May is the wettest month of the year climatologically for Fort Collins. The average of 2.72" of precipitation stands head and shoulders above other months. April is the next closest at 2.10". Everything else is below 2.00". This May (0.68") was the driest in the last 50 years!

Is this a trend? No. Climate models suggest our wet season may shift slightly earlier in the year (raising precipitation in March/April at the expense of June more so than May), but our recent trend has been towards wetter Mays. Our 1991-2020 normal May is 2.72". Our average of the last 10 years (2014-2023) is 3.91". Our drought conditions over the last 10 years have been relatively benign compared to many other areas across the state, and a big reason for this is the wet season has come in above average numbers right on schedule.

Can we make up this deficit? If June 2023 taught us anything, yes, absolutely. However, northern Colorado farmers prefer to receive their moisture from the cool, gentle rains of April and May to the hail and intense downpours of summer. Thankfully, 2023 moisture, and February-April moisture was above normal.



A severe storm striking Greeley as seen from Colorado State Atmospheric Science campus, but like much of the moisture this month, mostly missing us. Time lapse credit: Russ Schumacher

https://youtu.be/eAGC8SKfWpg?si=302PmOs8zDPy8Gh_



Feature Story: Low Precipitation

February 2024 (2.03”) pulled a “Freaky Friday” with May 2024. This is only the sixth time February has been wetter than May, and the second time February has been the wettest month in the calendar year through May. The last time was 1903. February has never been the wettest month of the calendar year through June. Conversely, May is the second driest month of the 2024 calendar year so far. May is the wettest month of the entire calendar year 37.5% of the time, a much higher fraction than any other year.



Source: <https://www.tvinsider.com/show/freaky-friday-2003/>



Records Broken

No daily or monthly records were
broken in May 2024



Photo Credit: Alistair Vierod



CONTACT US!

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