

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO Weather Station Monthly Summary Report

Month: April
Year: 2020



April 16, 2020 at 8:00 AM MDT. 8.6" of snow overnight, on the way to 12.3" for the 24-hour period ending 8:00 PM MDT. A new record snowfall for April 16.

Temperature:

Mean T_{\max} was 62.8°F which is 0.6° above the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 47th warmest in the 132-year record (1889-2020), tied with 1896 and 1936. The last April this warm or warmer was 2019 with 63.8°F.

Mean T_{\min} was 32.0°F which is 3.5° below the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 51st coolest in the 132-year record (1889-2020), tied with 1895 and 1897. The last April this cool or cooler was 2013 with 30.4°F.

Mean T_{mean} was 47.4°F which is 1.5° below the 1981-2010 the normal for the month. This is the 67th coolest in the 132-year record (1889-2020), tied with 1993. The last April this cold or colder was 2013 with 43.8°F.

The maximum daily temperature for the month was 81°F and occurred on April 27, 2020.

The minimum daily temperature for the month was 8°F and occurred on April 17, 2020.

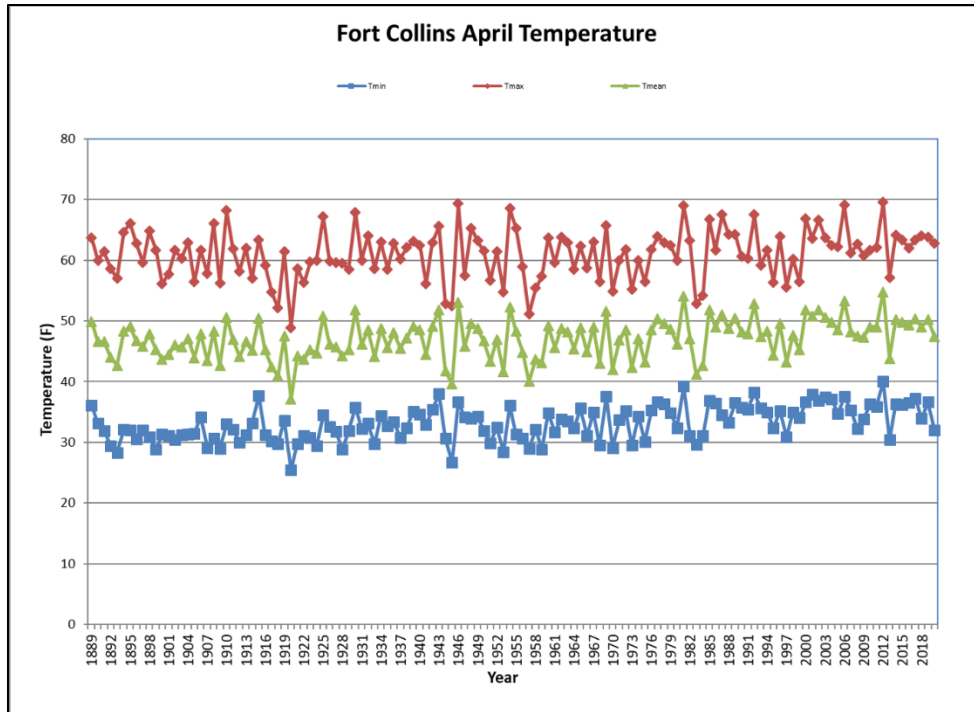


Figure 1: April temperature time series.

Misc. Temperature (record status, thresholds, etc.):

Coldest Maximum Daily Temperature:

April 13, 2020: The max temperature of 30°F beat the previous coldest max temperature for the day of 33°F set in 1933.

Coldest Daily Temperature:

April 17, 2020: The minimum temperature of 8°F beat the previous coldest temperature for the day of 9°F set in 1901.

Warmest Minimum Daily Temperature:

April 28, 2020: The minimum temperature of 51°F beat the previous warmest minimum temperature of 49°F set in 1981.

Precipitation and Snowfall:

Total monthly precipitation was 1.71” which is 0.35” below the 1981-2010 normal for the month (83% of normal). This ranks as the 72nd driest in the 132-year record (1889-2020), tied with 1921. The last April this dry or drier was 2018 with 0.75” of precipitation.

Water year precipitation through April totaled 6.99” which is 0.13” above the 1981-2010 normal for the water year (102% of normal). This ranks as the 46th wettest start to a water year in the 131-year record (1890-2020), tied with 1958. The last water year this wet or wetter through April was 2016 with 10.93” of precipitation.

April snowfall totaled 18.2” which is 12.0” above the 1981-2010 normal for the month (294% of normal). This ranks as the 11th snowiest April in the 132-year record (1889-2020). The last April with this much snow or more was 2013 with 29.4” of snowfall.

Seasonal snowfall for the 2020 season through April totaled 73.9” which is 18.8” above the 1981-2010 normal for the season (134% of normal). This ranks as the 9th snowiest season through April in the 131-year record (1890-2020). The last season with this much snowfall or more through April was 2010 with 84.6” of snowfall.

April had 7 days with measurable precipitation (≥ 0.01 ”) and 4 days with measurable snowfall (≥ 0.1 ”).

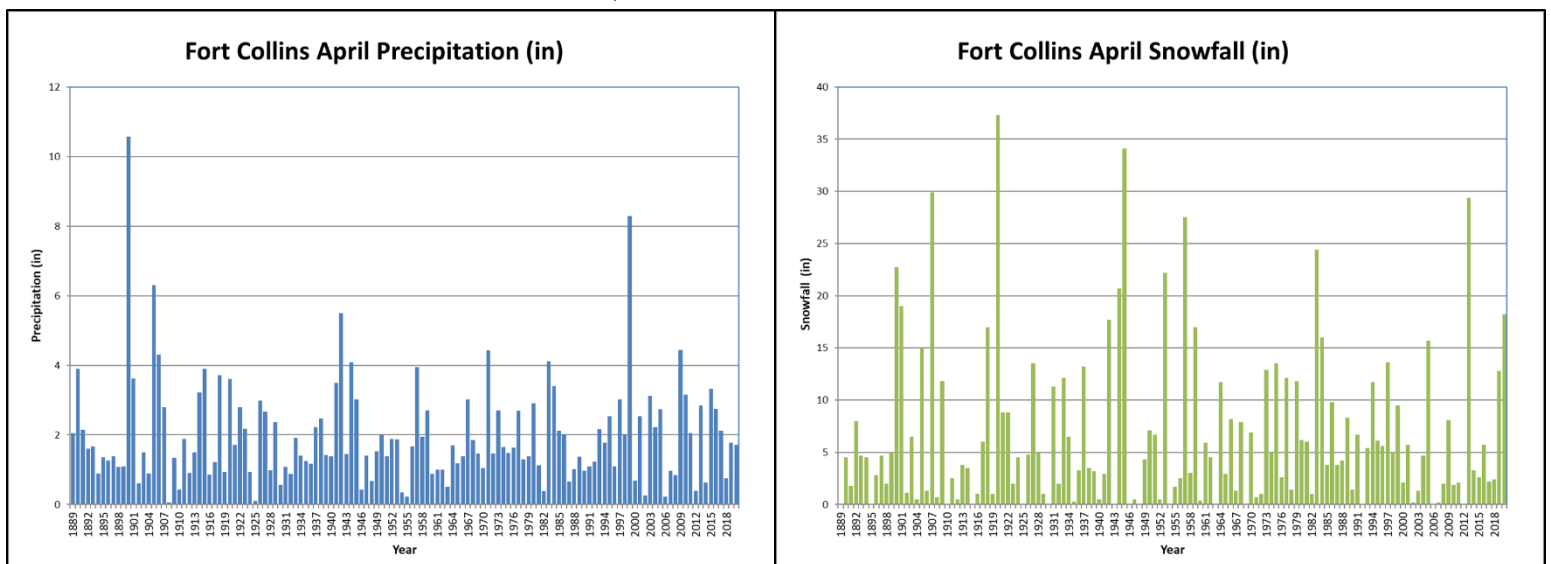


Figure 2: April precipitation (left) and snowfall (right) time series.

Misc. Precipitation (predominant type, record status, etc.):

Daily Precipitation Record:

April 16, 2020: The daily precipitation amount of 1.30" beat the previous record of 0.94" set in 1992.

Daily Snowfall Record:

April 16, 2020: The daily snowfall of 12.3" beat the previous record of 7.1" set in 2013.

Quick Melting Snow:

Thanks to a higher sun angle and a warmup of temperatures, the record snowfall was melted rather quickly with 8" melting within the first 24-hours. Most of that was melted between 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM on April 17. The entire snowpack was melted within three days of the storm ending, with the exception of a few traces in shady areas.

Thanks to some number crunching by Colorado State Climatologist, Russ Schumacher, 8" is tied for the 2nd most snow melted in 24 hours. The 12" in three days is tied for the 6th most.

Days with Snow Depth ≥ 1 inch

April had 5 days with 1" of snow or greater on the ground at our 7:00 PM MST observation time. This compares to a normal of 2 days in April. This season has seen 74 days with 1" of snow or greater on the ground through April. This compares to a normal of 46 days.

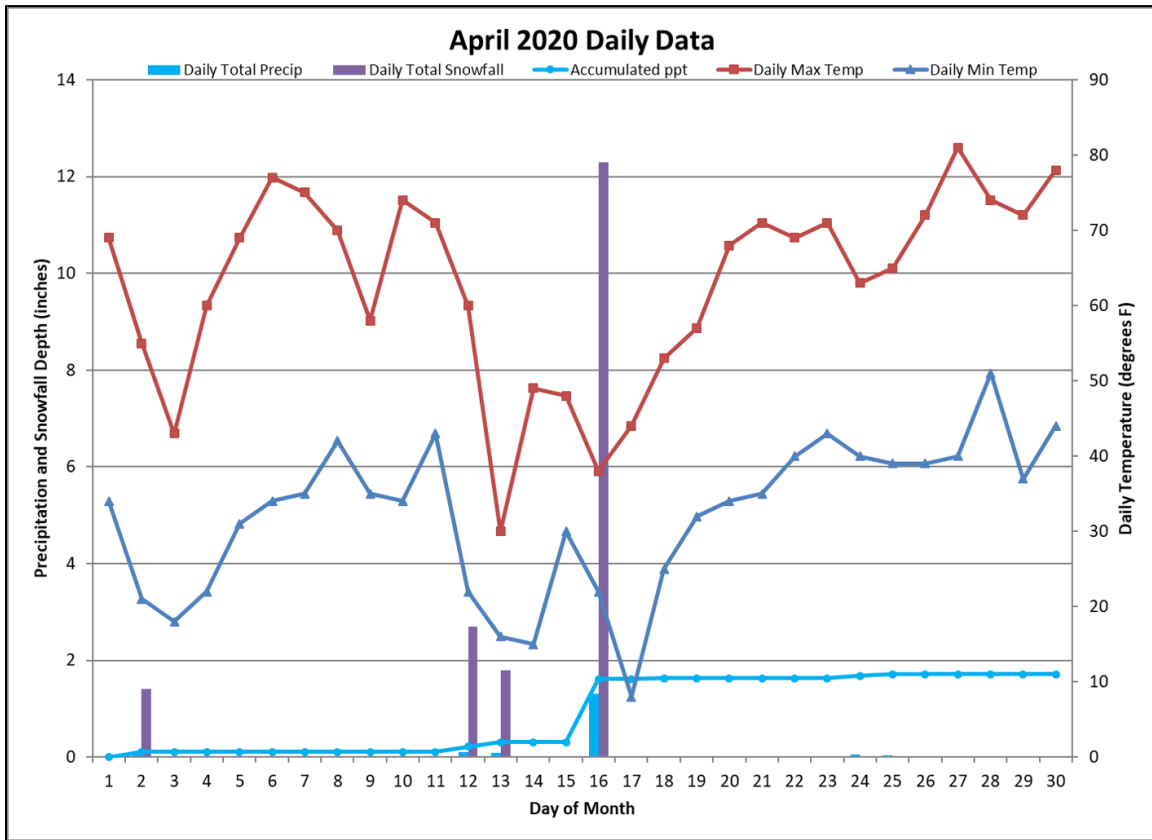


Figure 3: Daily Data for April 2020. Precipitation and temperature both show up on this graph. The y-axis on the left is for precipitation and snowfall. The y-axis on the right is for temperature.

Wind:

In April 2020 there were 13 days with maximum wind gusts ≥ 20 mph and 1 day ≥ 30 mph.

The maximum daily wind gust for the month was 30 mph and occurred on April 12, 2020 at 8:50 PM MST from 30° (NNE).

Evaporation:

Pan evaporation for April 2020 totaled 4.58” which is 0.14” below the normal for April (97% of normal).