



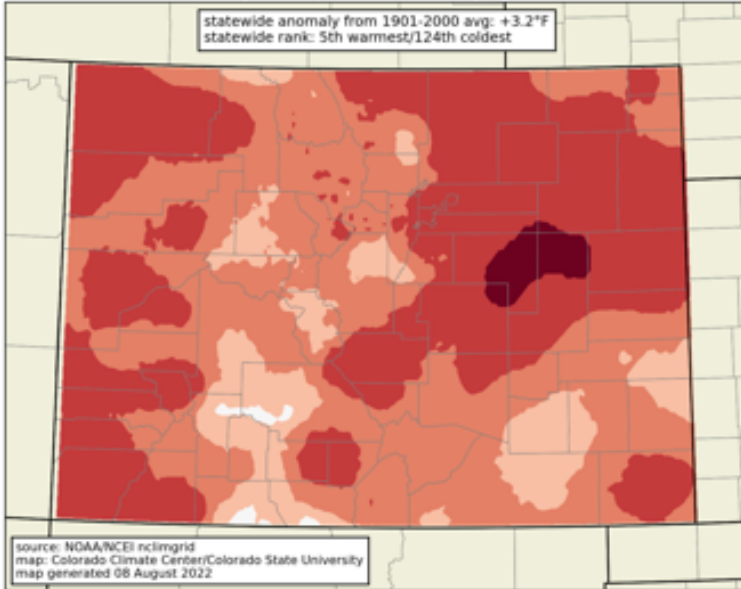
# July 2022 Colorado Monthly Climate Summary

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# temperature

average temperature rank: July 2022

statewide anomaly from 1901-2000 avg: +3.2°F  
statewide rank: 5th warmest/124th coldest



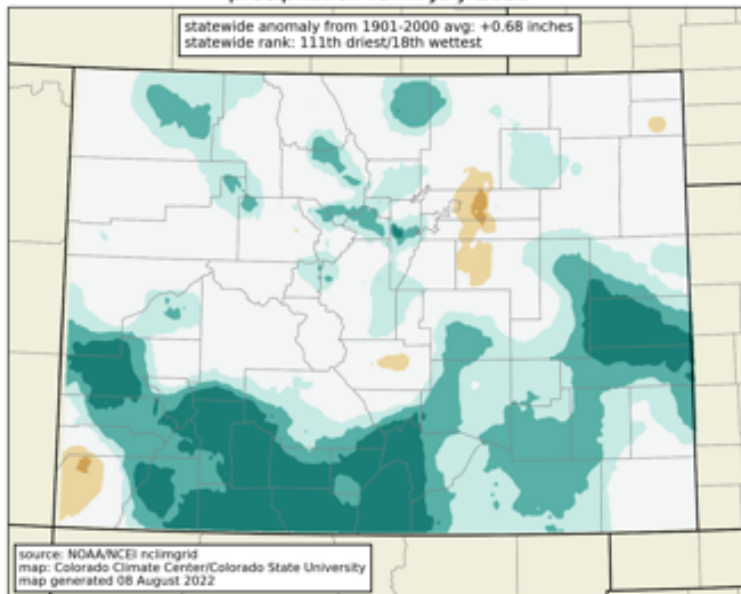
record coldest 10th coldest 20th coldest 35th coldest 35th warmest 20th warmest 10th warmest record warmest  
temperature rank out of 128 years (1895-2022)

July 2022 was much warmer than average and ranked as the 5th warmest July in the 128-year record (and ranked record warmest for July minimum temperatures). Temperature ranks in the top 10 covered much of the west slope and eastern plains. An area around Elbert and Lincoln counties saw record warmth.

# precipitation

precipitation rank: July 2022

statewide anomaly from 1901-2000 avg: +0.68 inches  
statewide rank: 111th driest/18th wettest



record driest 10th driest 20th driest 35th driest 35th wettest 20th wettest 10th wettest record wettest  
precipitation rank out of 128 years (1895-2022)

This was the 18<sup>th</sup> wettest July in the 128-year record. The wettest areas of the state were around southern Colorado, in the San Luis Valley and around the Sangre de Cristo and San Juan mountain ranges. Most of the state received near to above average precipitation for July 2022, with the exception of the plains east of the Denver metro area and in southwest CO, near the Four Corners.



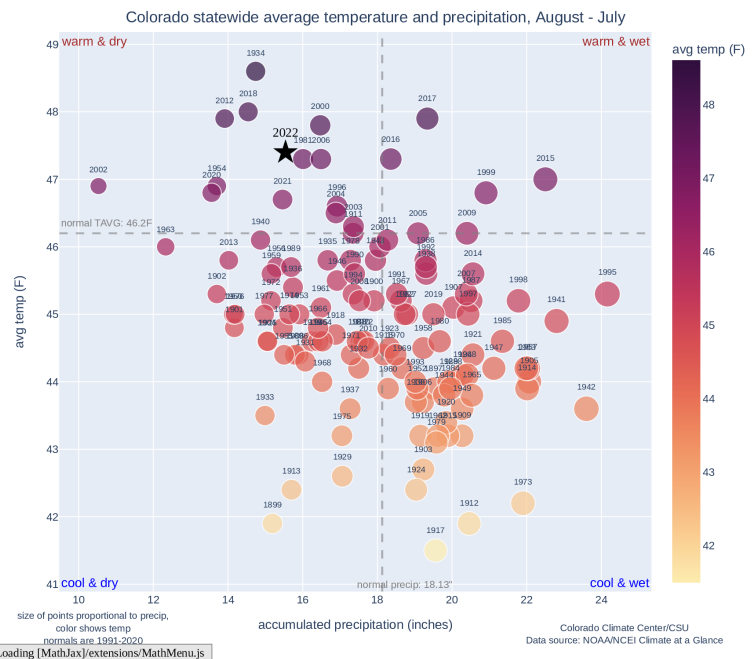
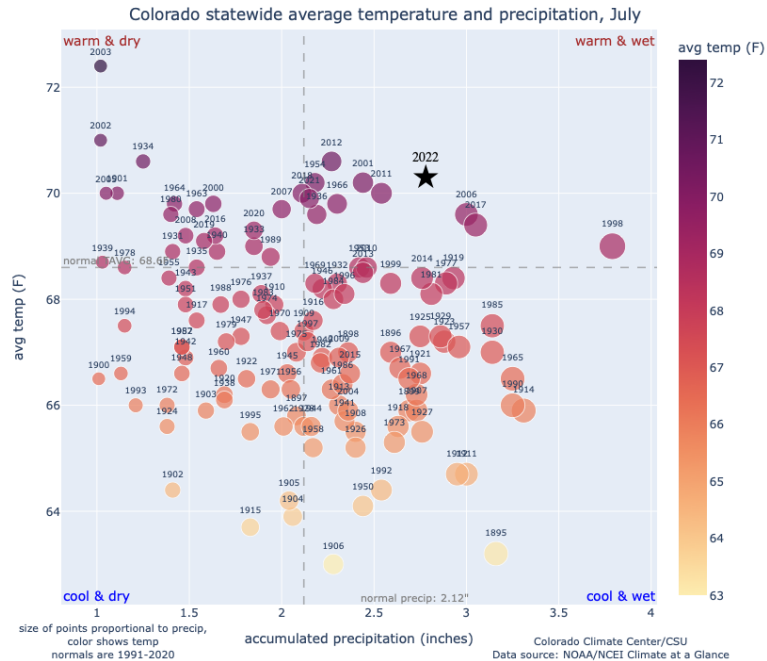
# quadrant charts

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.

With the 5<sup>th</sup> warmest and 18<sup>th</sup> wettest July in the record, the month is in the warm and wet quadrant. Not only is this less common, but this is close to one of the most extreme cases in the warm and wet quadrant. It's also the second consecutive month in the warm and wet quadrant.

Extending out and looking at the last 12 months (August 2021 – July 2022) conditions are in the warm and dry quadrant. The 12-month period ranks as the 6<sup>th</sup> warmest and 25<sup>th</sup> driest.

[view all quadrant charts](#)

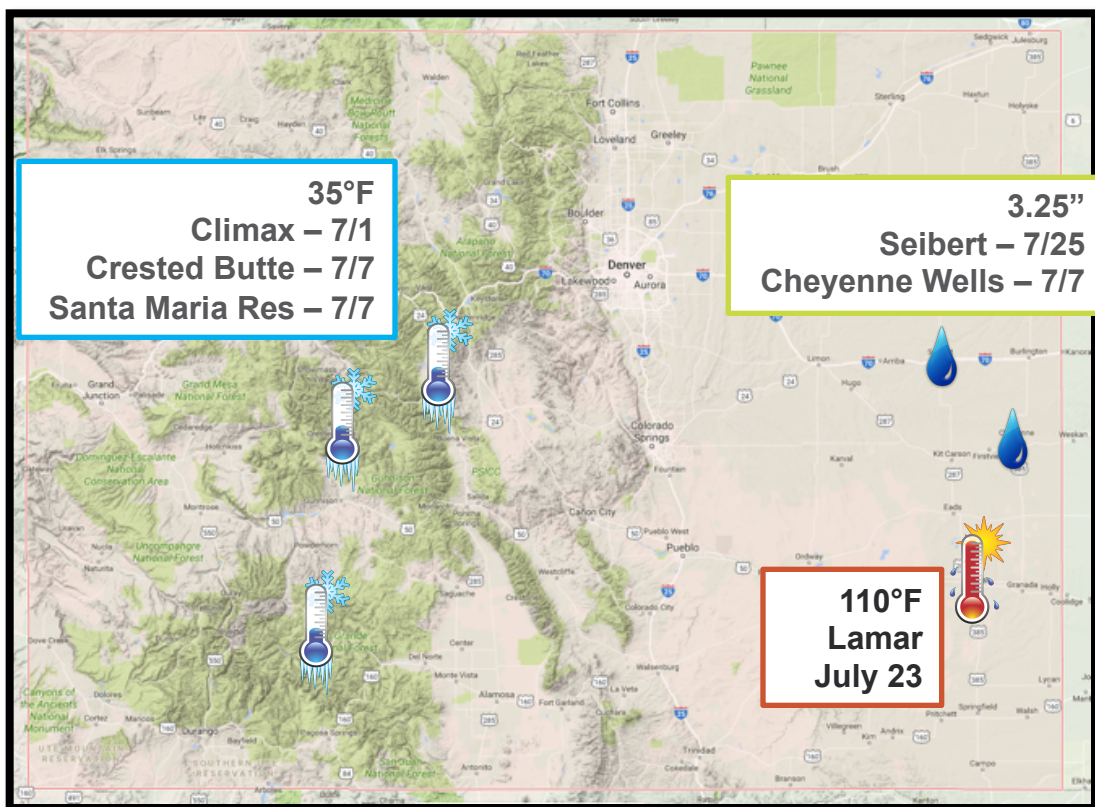


# records tied and broken

	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	45/64	12/55	89/240	3/4	29/104	0/0
Monthly	4/4	0/0	8/7	0/0	0/0	0/0
All-time	2/3	0/0	5/4	0/0	0/0	0/0

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

# state extremes



# drought

## U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

July 26, 2022  
(Released Thursday, Jul. 28, 2022)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	2.78	97.22	79.49	37.00	4.95	0.00
Last Week 07-19-2022	2.78	97.22	82.26	40.36	4.91	0.00
3 Months Ago 04-26-2022	0.00	100.00	88.57	47.62	4.46	0.53
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 07-27-2021	56.19	43.81	38.16	32.98	26.82	15.43

### Intensity:

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

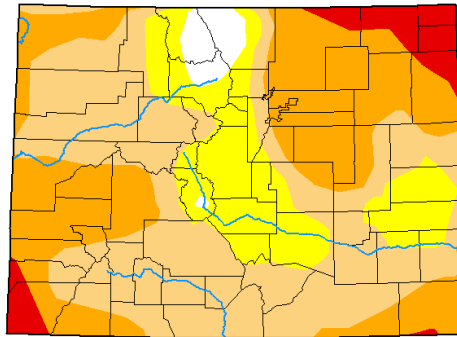
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

### Author:

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National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



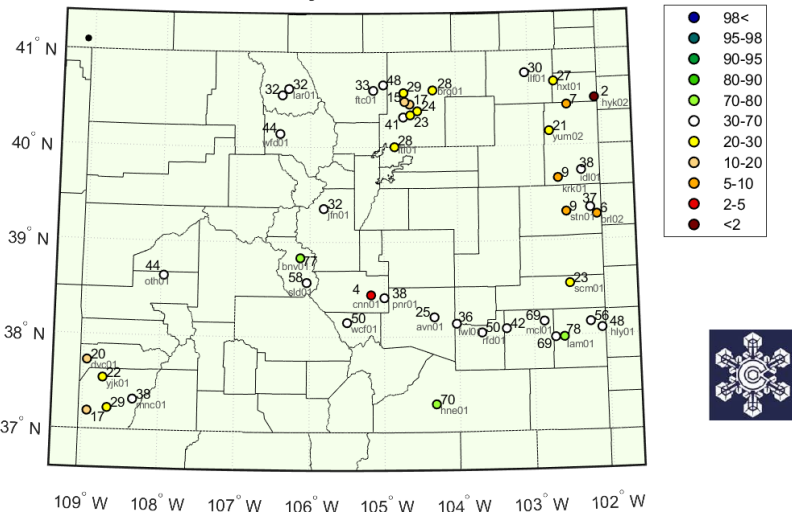
Large areas of southern CO saw improvement in drought conditions in July. D3 was removed throughout much of the southern counties, and D2 was removed from the San Luis Valley.

In northeast CO, where they continuously missed out on the storm activity, drought coverage increased in severity, with expanding D2 and D3 conditions.

## [Colorado Drought Update Page](#)

# evaporative demand

Growing Season Water Balance (P/PET) Percentiles  
July 29, 2022



Many areas of the state are seeing higher evaporative demand vs. precip for the growing season. At Holyoke (northeast CO), evaporative demand increased rapidly in July. Combined with low precipitation accumulations, the water balance is at the 2<sup>nd</sup> percentile, indicating extreme drought conditions.

Water balance shows the relationship between precipitation and evaporative demand. Low percentiles indicate poor water balance conditions.



# significant events

## July 2022 heat wave: where did it rank?

Station	Rank among all-time hottest 10-day periods	Dates	10-day average temperature
Fort Collins	1 <sup>st</sup>	July 14-23	79.4°F
Greeley UNC	1 <sup>st</sup>	July 14-23	84.0°F
Montrose	1 <sup>st</sup>	July 14-23	80.5°F
Walsh 1 W	1 <sup>st</sup>	July 15-24	86.2°F
Denver International AP	6 <sup>th</sup>	July 14-23	82.0°F
Colorado Springs	8 <sup>th</sup>	July 14-23	78.4°F
Denver-Central Park	12 <sup>th</sup>	July 14-23	80.4°F
Pueblo	17 <sup>th</sup>	July 14-23	83.1°F
Grand Junction	22 <sup>nd</sup>	July 14-23	85.1°F

A combination of hot days and unusually warm nights during a July heat wave led to new records for the warmest 10-day period at some long-term stations



# CCC in the news

- ❑ [Colorado River basin farms stunted by megadrought, as more sacrifice lies ahead](#)
  - Colorado Springs Gazette, July 29, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Unusual Heavy Rainfall Prompts More Need for Preparedness in Northern Colorado](#)
  - North Forty News, July 28, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Colorado monsoon season: Burn scars from previous fires present flood concerns in late July](#)
  - CBS News Denver, July 25, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [Yes, Colorado has a monsoon season. Here's how it impacts flash flooding](#)
  - The Coloradoan, July 24, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [How common are 100-degree days in Fort Collins?](#)
  - The Coloradoan, July 23, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Why nighttime heat matters so much](#)
  - Big Pivots, July 21, Peter Goble
- ❑ [Q&A: Colorado State climatologist on record heat, wildfire outlook and climate change](#)
  - CSU Source, July 20, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Parched soils “continue to deteriorate” as Colorado’s high plains wait for rain](#)
  - The Denver Post, July 16, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [We asked the experts: Can Colorado's extreme weather be attributed to climate change?](#)
  - The Coloradoan, July 7, Becky Bolinger

