

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

**Month: August**  
**Year: 2020**



Picture by Noah Newman of a smokey sunrise reflection in the evaporation pan on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Temperature:

Mean  $T_{\max}$  was 90.2°F which is 6.2° above the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the warmest in the 132-year record (1889-2020). The second warmest August is 2011 with 89.8°F and the third warmest is 1995 with 88.4°F.

Mean  $T_{\min}$  was 56.8°F which is 0.1° above the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> warmest in the 132-year record (1889-2020). The last August this warm or warmer was 2019 with 58.5°F.

Mean  $T_{\text{mean}}$  was 73.5°F which is 3.1° above the 1981-2010 the normal for the month. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> warmest in the 132-year record (1889-2020). The warmest August is 2011 with 74.3°F and the second warmest is 1983 with 73.7°F.

Summer (June, July, August) mean temperature was 72.3°F which is 2.5° above the 1981-2010 normal for the season. This ranks as the 5<sup>th</sup> warmest summer on record. See table below for top 5 summers.

The maximum daily temperature for the month was 98°F and occurred on August 18, 22 and 25, 2020.

The minimum daily temperature for the month was 48°F and occurred on August 31, 2020.

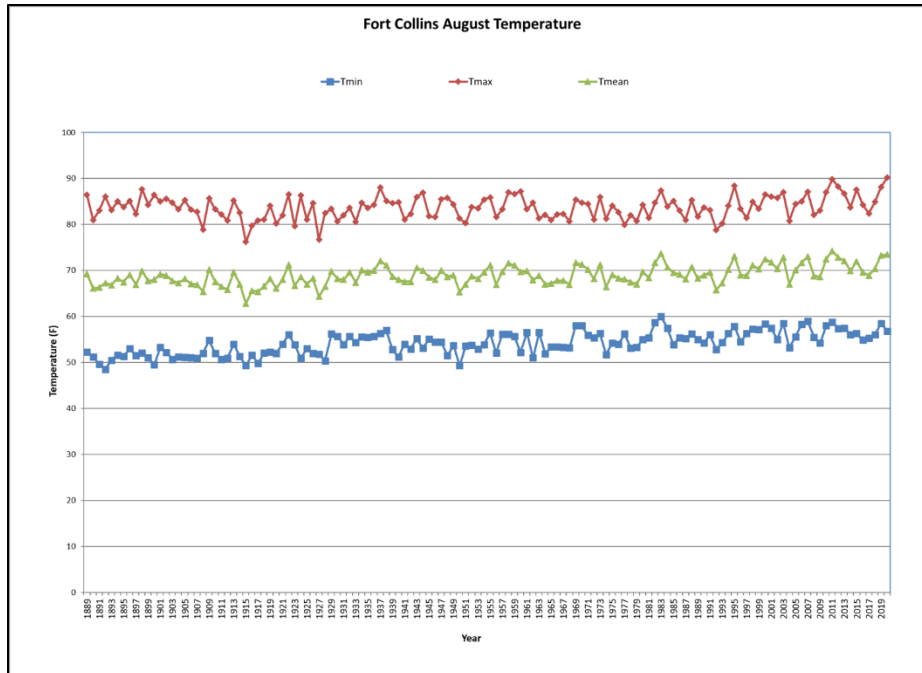


Figure 1: August temperature time series.

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

### *Maximum Daily Temperature Records:*

August 9, 2020: The maximum temperature of 97°F **broke** the previous record for the day of 96°F from 1958 and 2006.

August 18, 2020: The maximum temperature of 98°F **tied** the record for the day set in 1986.

August 22, 2020: The maximum temperature of 98°F **broke** the previous record for the day of 95°F from 1949 and 1960.

August 24, 2020: The maximum temperature of 95°F **broke** the previous record for the day of 94°F set in 1936.

August 25, 2020: The maximum temperature of 98°F **broke** the previous record for the day of 96°F set in 2019.

### *Warmest Minimum Daily Temperature:*

August 26, 2020: The minimum temperature of 64°F **broke** the record warmest minimum temperature for the day of 62°F from 1961, 2011, and 2013.

**90F Degree Days:**

*August 2020 had 20 days at or above 90F. This ties the most days in the 90s for August with 2011. The average number of days in the 90s for August is 6.*

*Through the end of August, there have been 46 days at or above 90F this summer. The average number of days in the 90s through August is 19.*

*2020 currently ranks as number 2 for the most days at or above 90F. The most 90F+ days in a season is 57 from 2012.*

*Between August 16 and August 27, we saw 12 consecutive days with high temperatures at or above 90F. This is the third longest streak of days hitting 90F and the longest streak starting and ending in August.*

Year	Mean August Temp
2011	74.3
1983	73.7
2020	73.5
2019	73.3
1995	73.1

**Table 1: Top 5 warmest Augusts on record**

Year	Mean Summer Temp
2012	73.8
2006	72.8
2002	72.6
2007	72.4
2020	72.3

**Table 2: Top 5 warmest summers on record**

## Precipitation and Snowfall:

Total monthly precipitation was 0.48” which is 1.12” below the 1981-2010 normal for the month (30% of normal). This ranks as the 24<sup>th</sup> driest in the 132-year record (1889-2020). The last August this crispy or worse was 2019 with 0.20” of precipitation.

Water year precipitation through August totaled 11.50” which is 3.27” below the 1981-2010 normal for the water year (78% of normal). This ranks as the 37<sup>th</sup> driest start to a water year in the 131-year record (1890-2020). The last water year this dry or drier through August was 2012 with 10.06” of precipitation.

Summer (June, July, August) precipitation totaled 1.96” which was 3.52” below the 1981-2010 normal for the season (36% of normal). This ranks as the 13<sup>th</sup> driest summer season on record, tied with 1916. The last summer this dry or drier was 2016 with 1.72” of precipitation during June – August.

August had 5 days with measurable precipitation ( $\geq 0.01$ ”) and 13 days with a trace of precipitation (less than 0.01”)

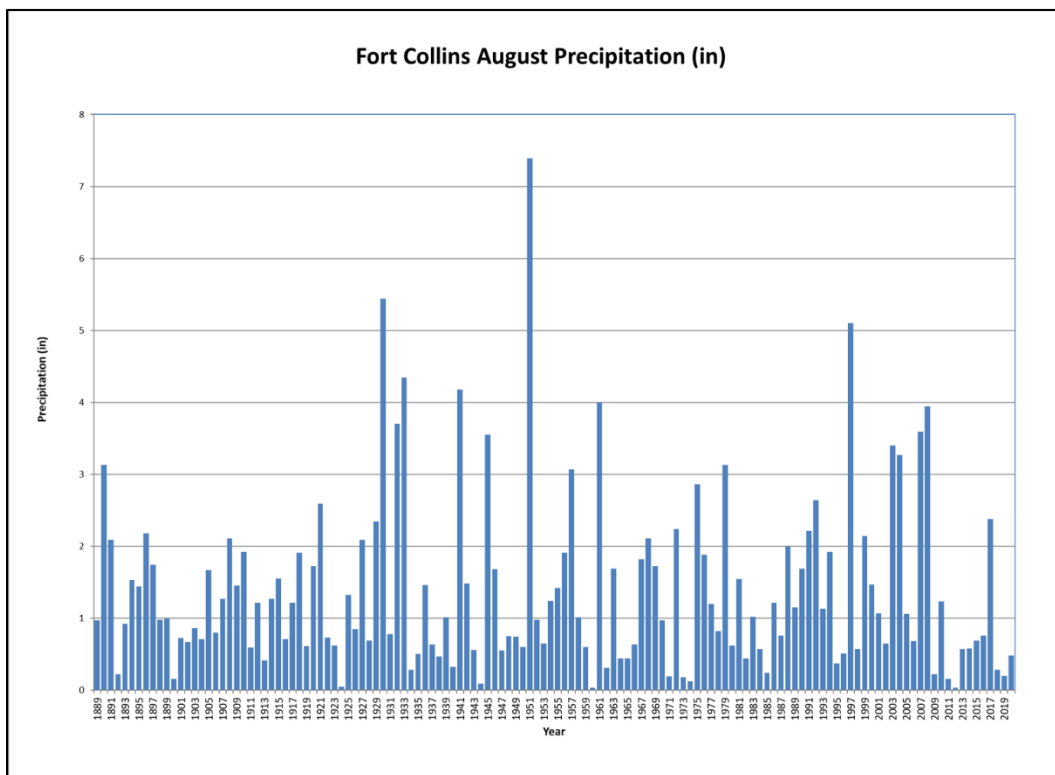


Figure 3: August precipitation time series.

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

*No precipitation records for August.*

*The highest one-day precipitation total for August 2020 was 0.30" falling on August 1<sup>st</sup>.*

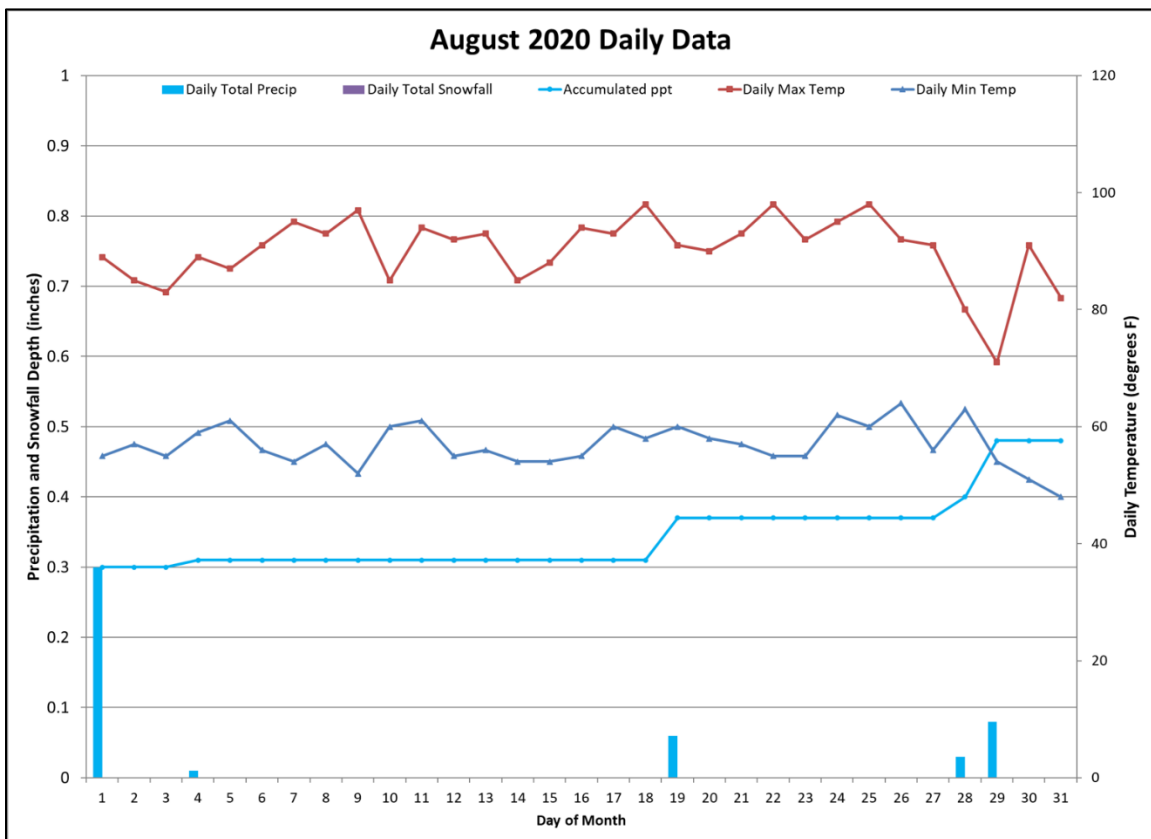


Figure 4: Daily Data for August 2020. Precipitation and temperature both show up on this graph. The y-axis on the left is for precipitation and snowfall. The y-axis on the right is for temperature.

**Wind:**

In August 2020 there were 11 days with maximum wind gusts  $\geq 20$  mph and 2 days  $\geq 30$  mph.

The maximum daily wind gust for the month was 32 mph and occurred on August 12, 2020 at 6:39 PM MST from  $100^\circ$  (ESE).

**Evaporation:**

Pan evaporation for August 2020 totaled 6.66" which is 0.18" above the normal for August (103% of normal).