

Photo credit: Noah
Newman

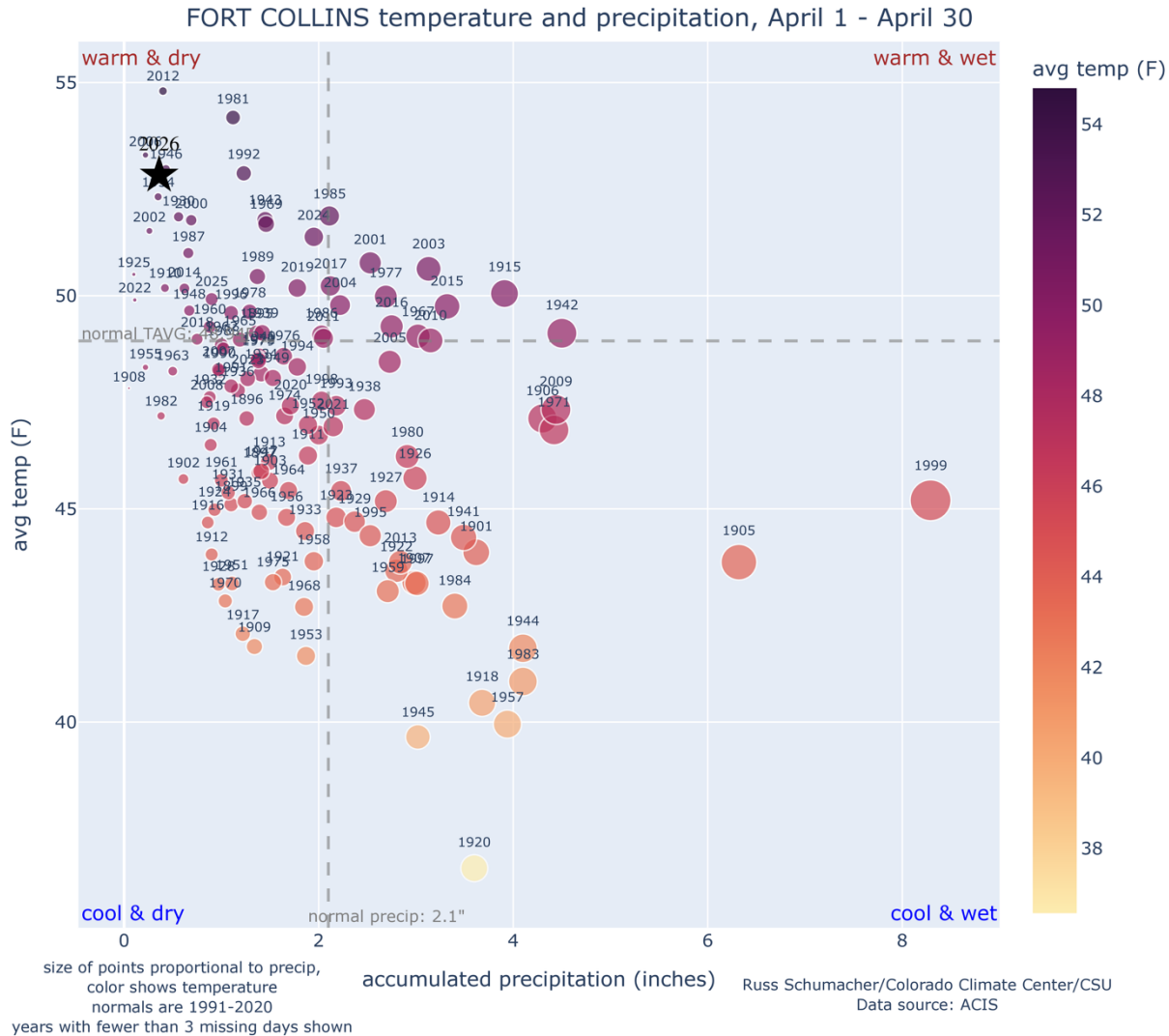
Fort Collins Weather Station Monthly Summary

April 2026



ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Average April Temperature and Precipitation



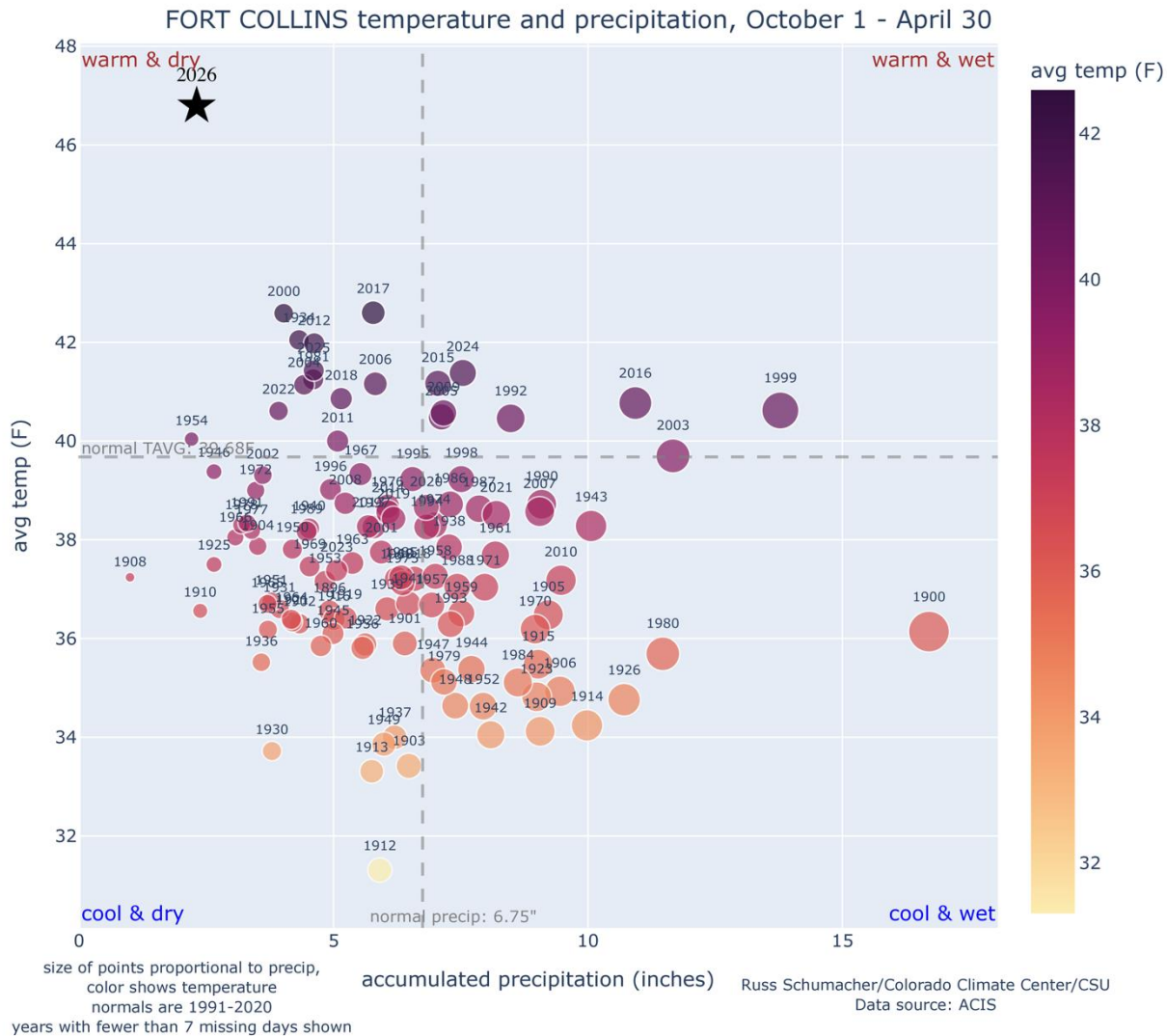
The average air temperature for April 2026 was 53.0 °F, 4.0 °F above our 1991-2020 April normal (49.0 °F) and 5.8 °F above our period of record average (since 1889) of 47.2 °F. This is the warmest April since 2012 (54.8 °F)

We received 0.36" of precipitation for April 2026, 17% of our 1991-2020 normal (2.10"). The last drier April was 2011 (0.29")

We received 1.0" of snowfall in April 2026, 16% of our normal (6.2"). The last April with less snowfall was 2022 (0")



Water Year 2026 Temperature and Precipitation



The average air temperature for water year 2026 to date (Oct 2025 – Apr 2026) is 46.8 °F. This is 7.2 °F warmer than the 1991-2020 normal (39.6 °F), and 9.4 °F warmer than our period of record average (37.4 °F)

This is the warmest October-April on record by a wide margin. The next closest is 2017 (42.6 °F)

We have received 2.31" of precipitation for water year 2026 to date (Oct 2025 – Apr 2026). This is 34% of our 1991-2020 normal (6.75")

The last drier beginning seven months of a water year was 1954 (2.21")

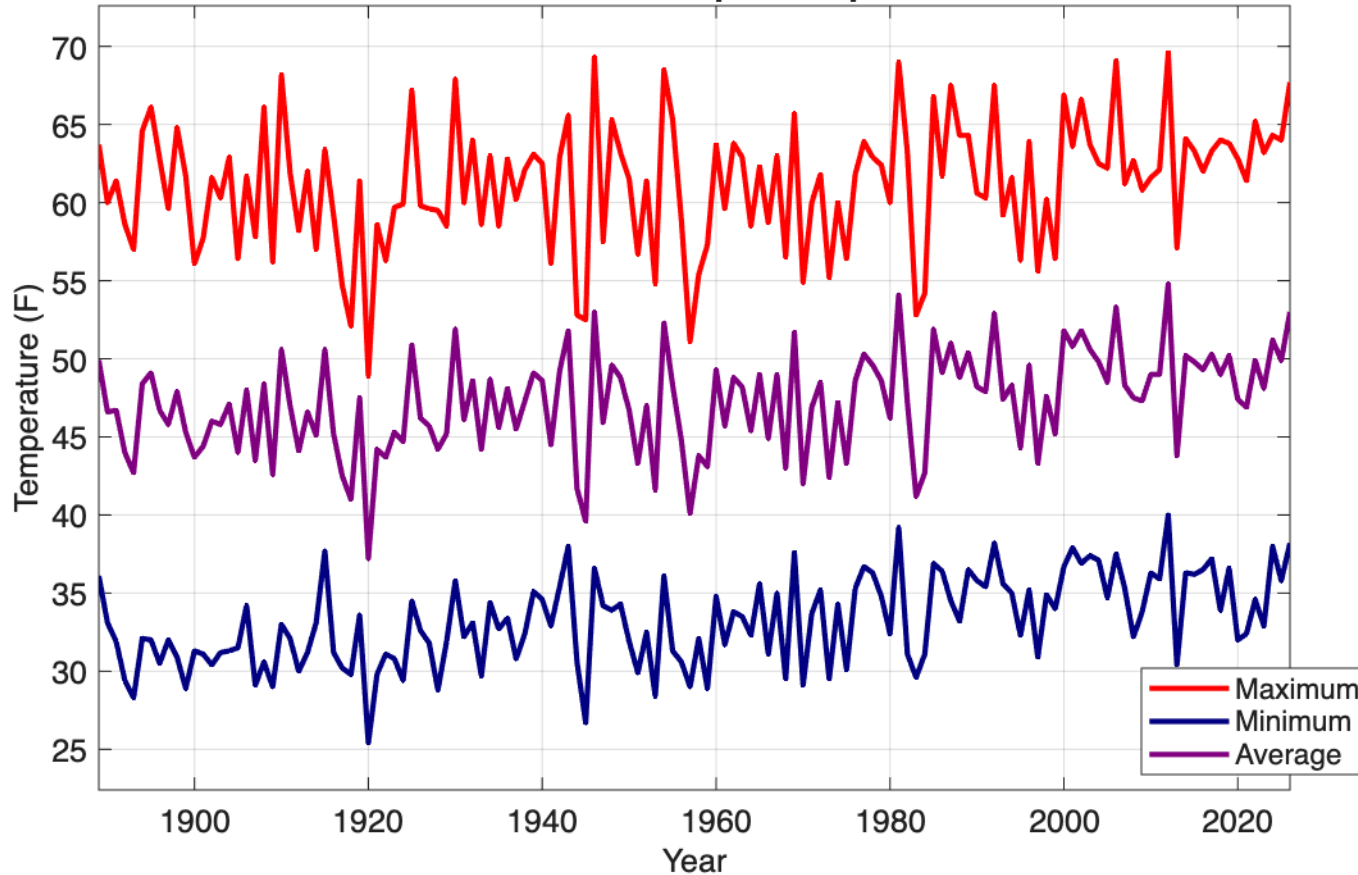
We have received 16.8" of snowfall for the snow season to date. This is 34% of our 1991-2020 normal snow season to date (49.2")

The last snow season through April lower than 2026 was 1946 with just 8.5"

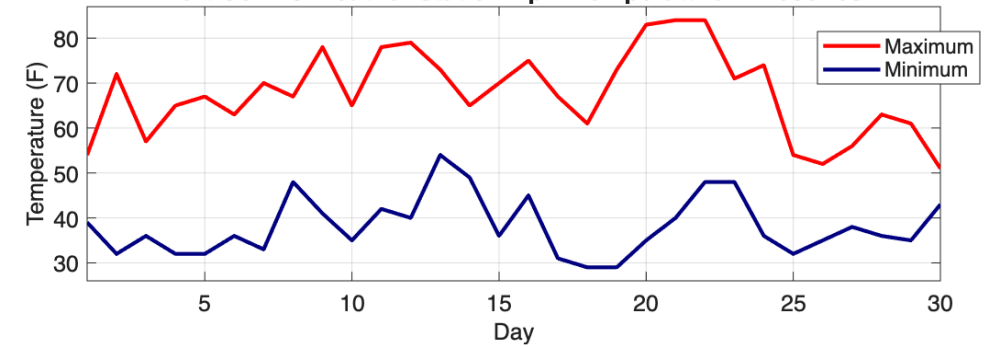


April 2026 Time Series Graphics

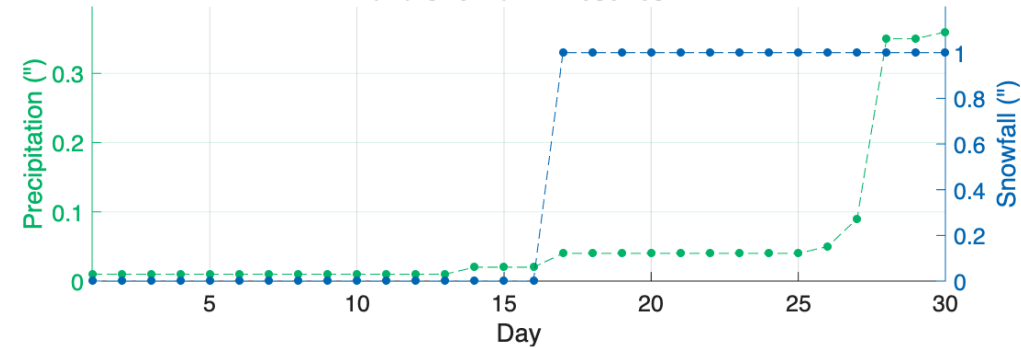
Fort Collins Weather Station April Temperature Timeseries



Fort Collins Weather Station April Temperature Timeseries



Fort Collins Weather Station April Precipitation and Snowfall Timeseries



Highest Daily T_{max} : 84 °F on April 21st, 22nd

Lowest Daily T_{min} : 29 °F on April 18th, 19th

Highest Daily Precipitation: 0.26" on April 28th

Highest Daily Snowfall: 1.0" on April 17th



Additional April 2026 Statistics

	Observed	1991-2020 Normal	POR Average	Depart from Normal	Depart from POR Average	Last Above	Last Below
T_{mean} °F	53	49	47.2	4	5.8	2012	2025
Mean(T_{max}) °F	67.7	62.5	61.2	5.2	6.5	2012	2025
Mean(T_{min}) °F	38.2	35.4	33.2	2.8	5	2012	2025
Precipitation "	0.36	2.1	1.94	-1.74	-1.58	2025	2011
Snowfall "	1	6.2	6.5	-5.2	-5.5	2025	2022
Oct-Apr Precipitation "	2.31	6.75	6.2	-4.44	-3.89	2025	1954
Oct-Apr Snowfall "	16.8	49.1	46.6	-32.3	-29.8	2025	1946

	Value	Date
Max(T_{max}) °F	84	21 st , 22 nd
Min(T_{max}) °F	51	30 th
Max(T_{min}) °F	54	13 th
Min(T_{min}) °F	29	18 th , 19 th
Max(Daily Precip)"	0.26	28 th
Max(Daily Snowfall)"	1.0	17 th
Peak Wind Gust (mph)	33.1	13 rd

Days Precip > 0	13
Days Snowfall > 0	1
Days Precip > Trace	7
Days Snowfall > Trace	1
Days Wind Gust > 20mph	13
Peak Wind Gust Direction	305
Peak Wind Gust Time	0307 MST
Pan Evaporation	*5.16" (109% of normal)

POR = period of record (1889-2026)

*Pan Evaporation measurements began on April 5th



Daily Records Broken

We broke the record for highest maximum daily temperature on April 20th with a high of 83 °F. The previous record was 82 °F in 1989

We broke the record for highest minimum daily temperature on April 13th a low temperature of 54 °F. The previous record was 51 °F in 1932

Photo Credit:
Noah Newman



Feature Story: March > April > May?

Our monthly average temperature of 53.0 °F was 4 °F warmer than our 1991-2020 April normal... but still **colder than March 2026 (53.7 °F)**

March has only been warmer than April one other time since records began in 1889: That was in 1918. The circumstances were quite different. In 1918, the March average temperature was 42.9 °F, and the April average temperature was 41 °F

While still unlikely, Fort Collins has an outside shot of experiencing what I call a “Benjamin Button Spring.” This is not an official term in the American Meteorological Society glossary. A “Benjamin Button Spring” is one in which March is warmer than April which is warmer than May. Odds are that May will be warmer than March and April. Our 1991-2020 normal is 57.5 °F, and a -4.5 °F anomaly would be much different than any recent month, but it’s possible. The average May temperature in 2019 was 52.0 °F. Moreover, Fort Collins is bracing for a potentially significant snowstorm this week with low temperatures in the mid-to-low 20’s. That’s cooler than anything in April. We have never seen a “Benjamin Button Spring” before, and if we do, don’t expect to see another one in your lifetime.



CONTACT US!

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