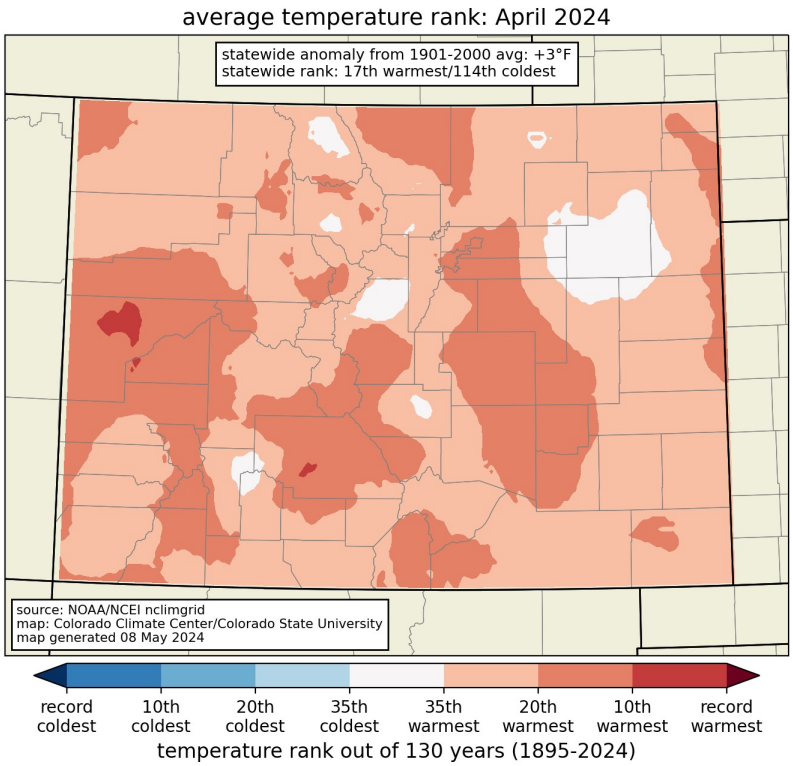
April 2024 Colorado Monthly Climate Summary

COLORADO CLIMATE CENTER

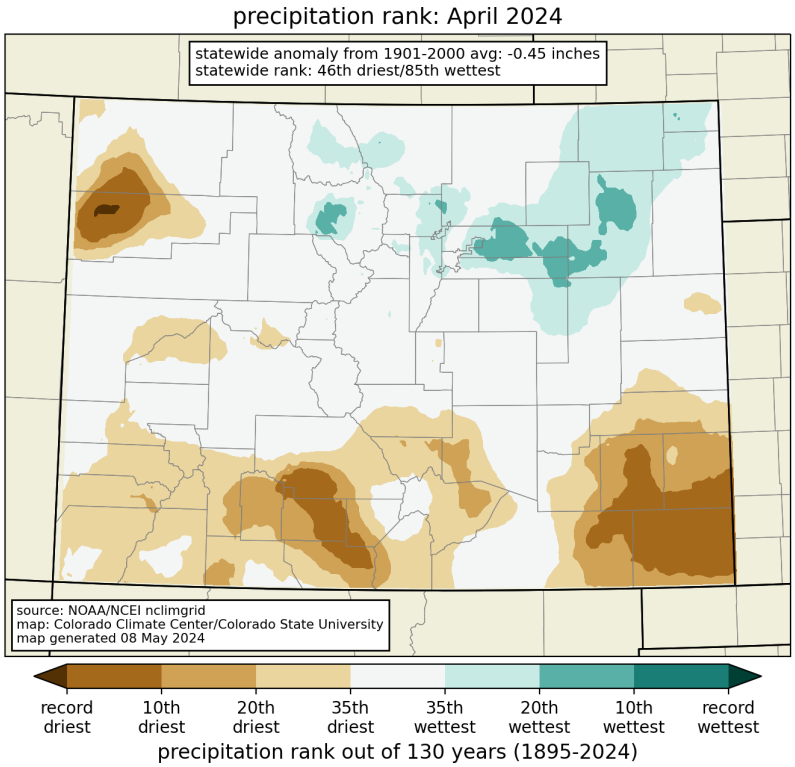
ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

temperature



April 2024 was yet again much warmer than average across Colorado. It was the 10th straight month that was warmer than the 20th-century average statewide. Almost the entire state saw above-average temperatures, with many locations experiencing a top-20 warm April.

precipitation

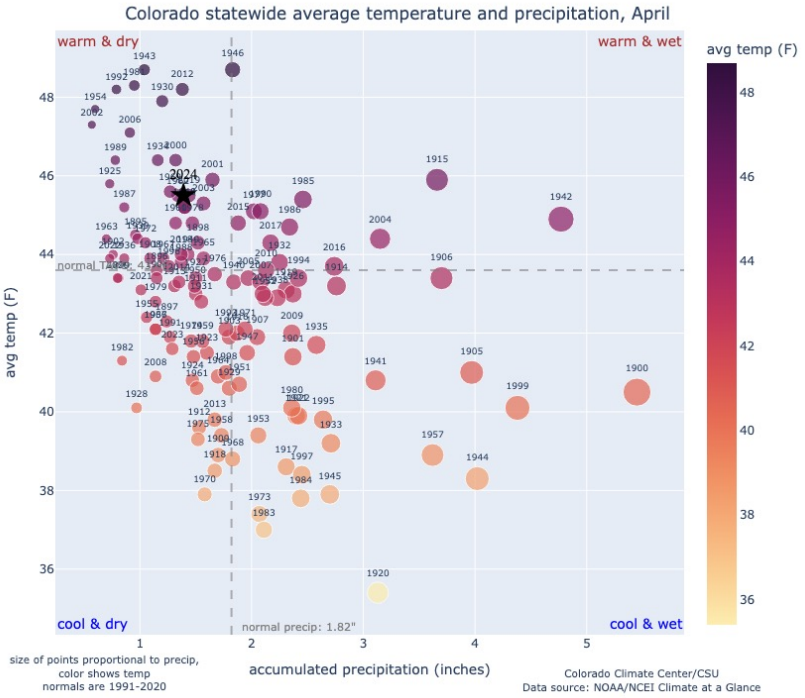


There was a north-south split in precipitation in April, with southern Colorado, especially the southeast corner and the San Luis Valley, experiencing a very dry April, while much of northeast Colorado saw above-average precipitation. Portions of northwest Colorado also were drier than average in April.

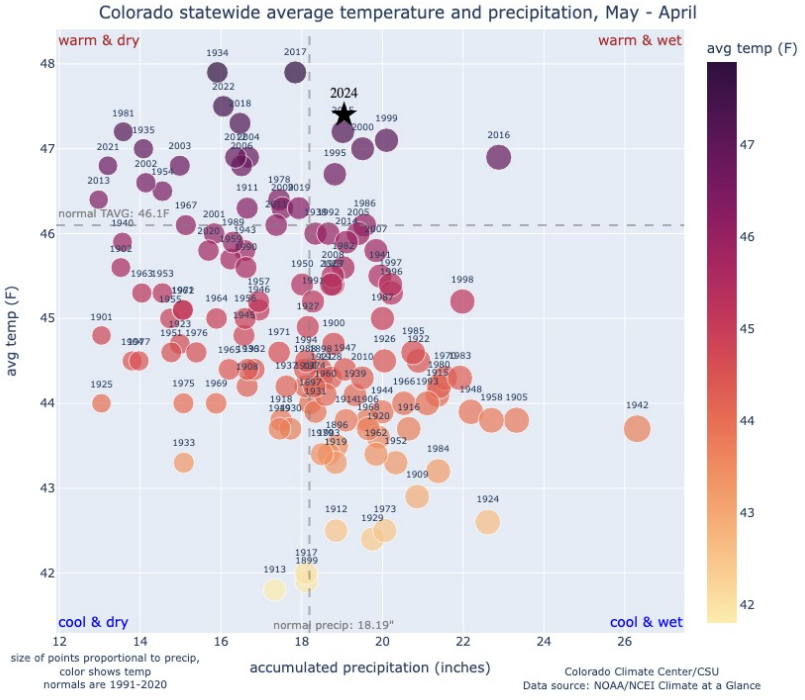
quadrant charts

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.

Averaged across Colorado, April 2024 was tied for the 17th warmest April in the 130-year record, at 1.9°F above the 1991-2020 average and 3.0°F above the 20th century average. It was the 46th driest (85th wettest) April, at 0.45” below average statewide.



Colorado has seen a long string of warmer-than-average conditions going back to last summer. Over the last 12 months, it has been the 4th warmest May through April period on record, behind only 1934, 2017, and 2022. Precipitation was a bit above average over this period; the 42nd wettest May-April period.



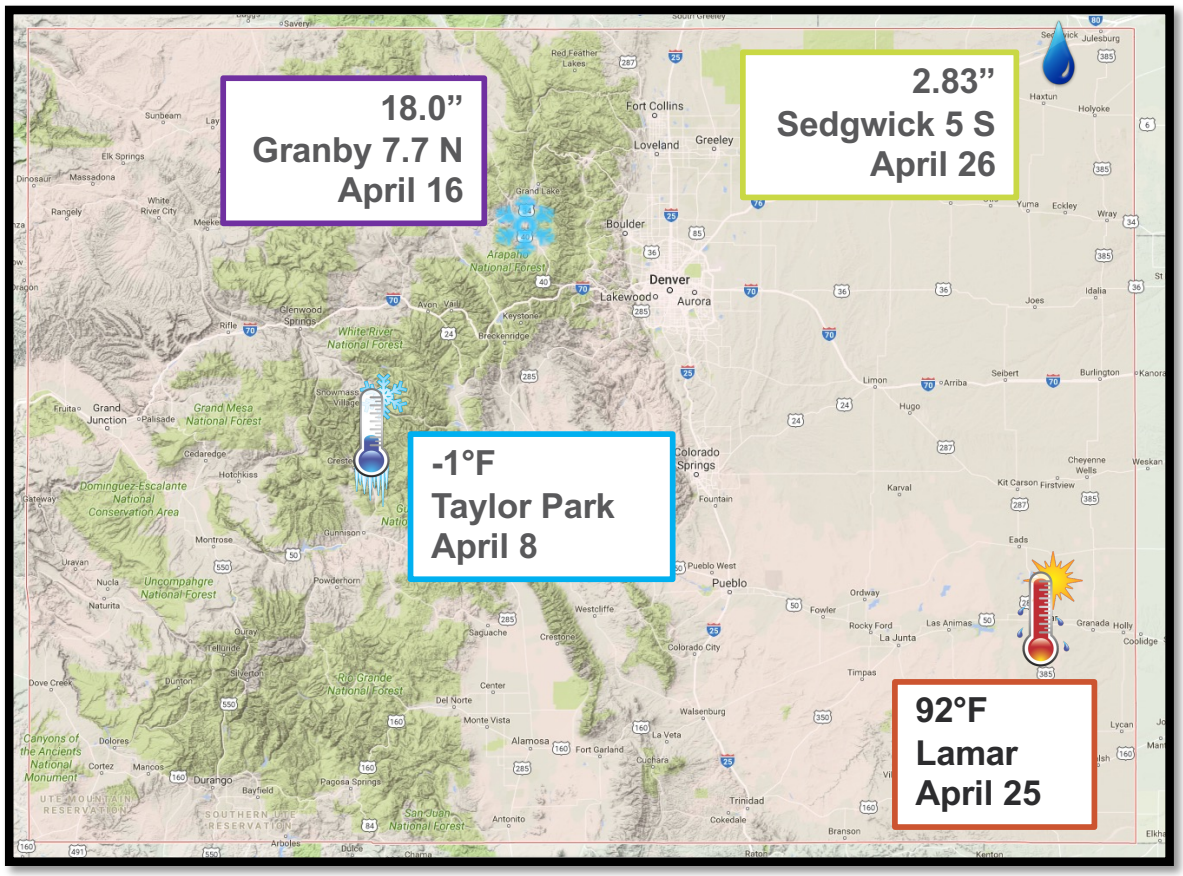
[view all quadrant charts]

records tied and broken

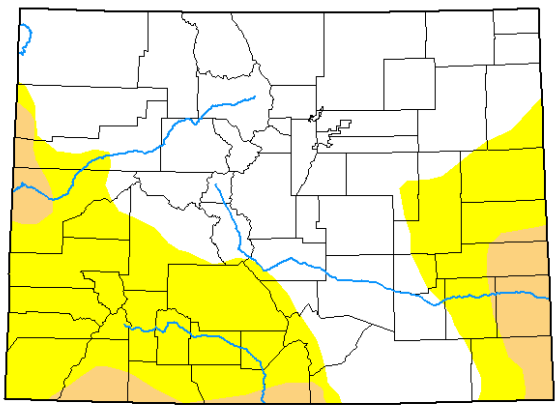
	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	11/**11**	9/**58**	17/**73**	4/**6**	19/**85**	6/**18**
Monthly	0/**0**	0/**0**	0/**2**	0/**0**	1/**2**	0/**0**
All-time	0/**0**	0/**0**	0/**0**	0/**0**	0/**0**	0/**0**

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

state extremes



drought



U.S. Drought Monitor
Colorado

April 30, 2024
(Released Thursday, May. 2, 2024)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	58.74	41.26	7.73	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 04-23-2024	55.90	44.10	7.74	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 01-30-2024	41.97	58.03	27.83	6.69	2.05	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	34.65	65.35	29.59	8.85	2.05	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	65.71	34.29	17.43	2.77	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 05-02-2023	44.07	55.93	29.63	8.07	1.15	0.32

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

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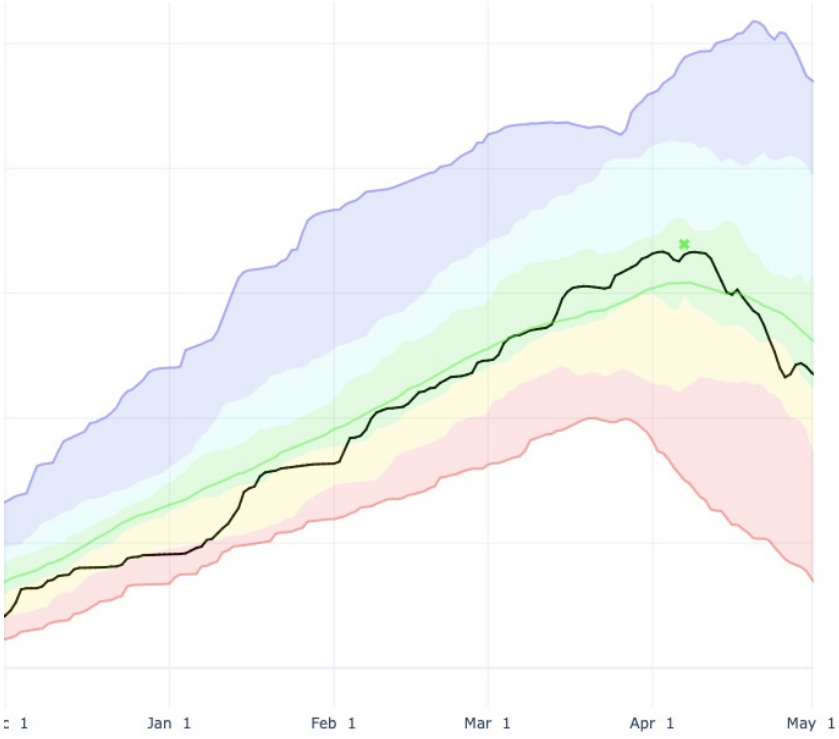
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Some improvement in drought conditions was observed over the San Luis Valley in April. Dry conditions have emerged over southeast CO, and developing drought occurred in April. With little precipitation and warm temperatures, soil moisture conditions have deteriorated.

[Colorado Drought Update Page]

snowpack

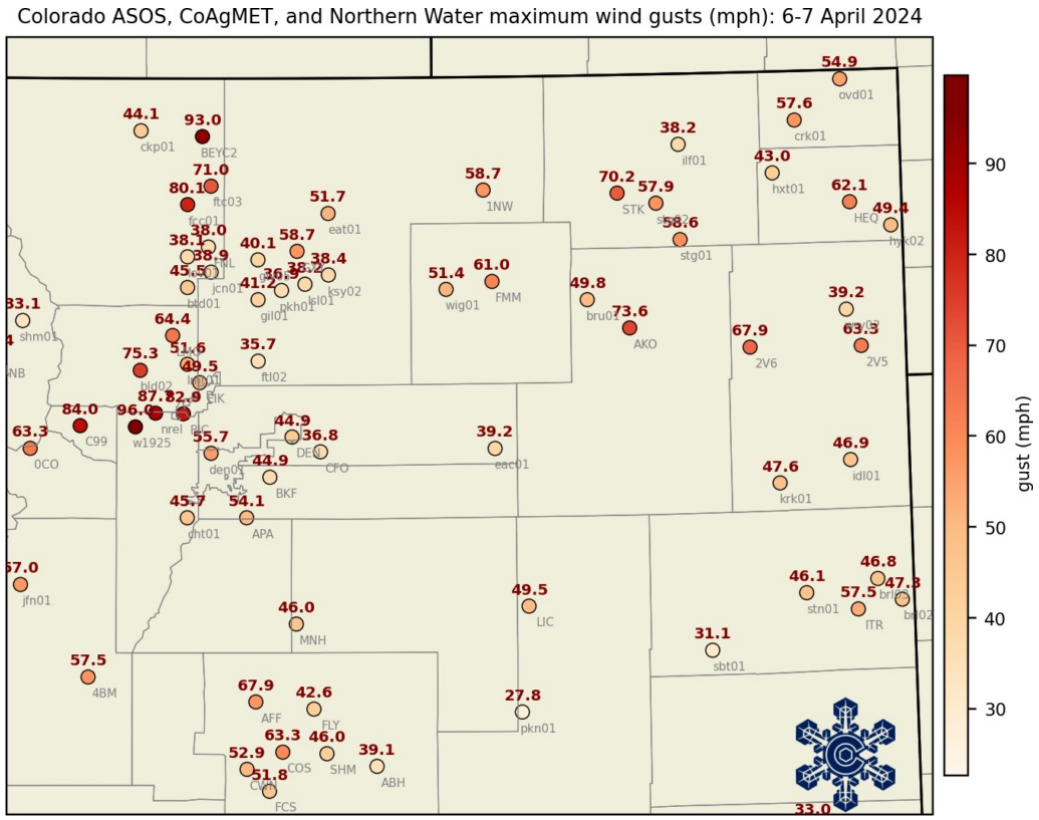
Statewide snowpack peaked near average and on time in early April. Most basins saw near-to-above average peak snowpack. With warmer temperatures and lower snow accumulations in April, melting began rapidly and at a much faster rate than normal. At the end of April, snowpack was below average with the southern basins hit the hardest.



Read more about this season's rapid melt in our [blog post].

significant events

Map of the maximum wind gusts (miles per hour) at weather stations across northeast Colorado on April 6-7, 2024. Most of these weather stations have wind measurements at 10 meters above ground, but some (like most CoAgMET stations) are closer to the ground, and accordingly have lower wind speeds.



An intense windstorm affected Colorado on April 6-7. The strongest wind gusts were along the Front Range, with several reports of 90 mph or higher. But the eastern Plains also felt the intense winds, with gusts over 70 mph at Sterling and Akron. This windstorm prompted the first-ever preemptive power shutdown in Colorado, which made headlines and had wide-ranging impacts to communities.

For an even closer look at this windstorm and how it compares to other major windstorms, check out this post on our blog: https://climate.colostate.edu/blog/index.php/2024/04/09/an-impressive-april-windstorm/