



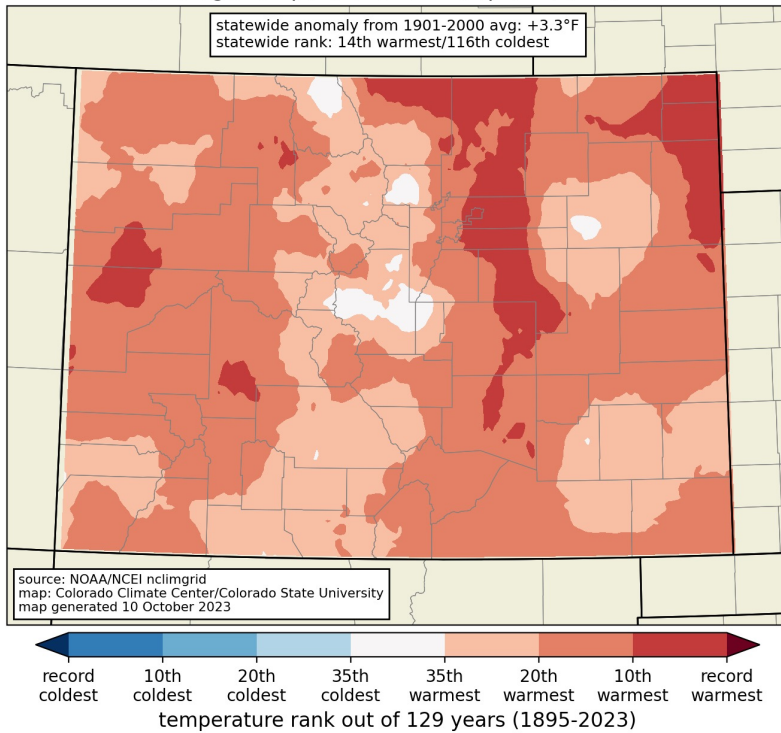
September 2023 Colorado Monthly Climate Summary



ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

temperature

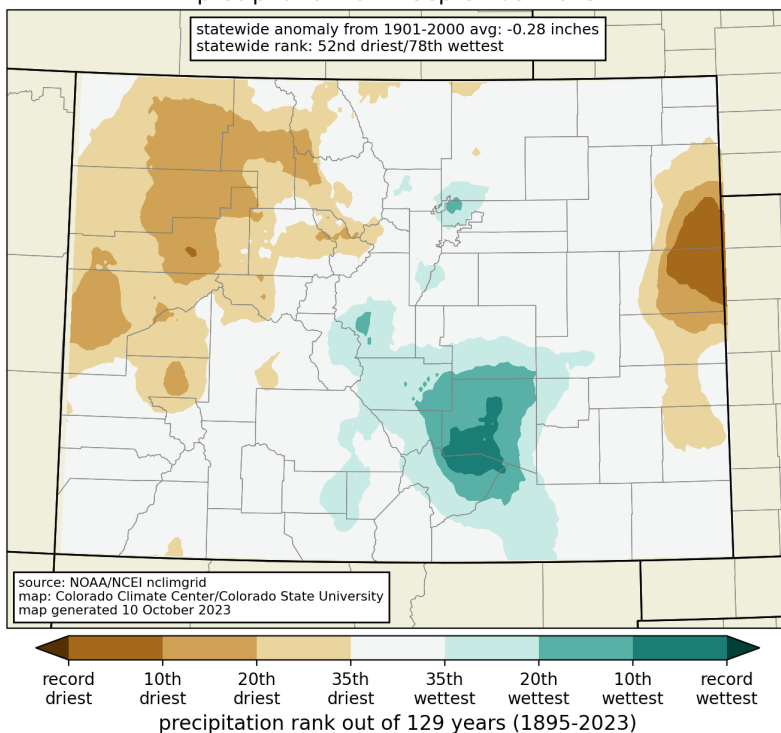
average temperature rank: September 2023



September was the 3rd straight month of warmer than average conditions across Colorado. Nearly the entire state had above-average warmth, with parts of the Front Range and eastern plains, and western slope seeing a top-10 warm September.

precipitation

precipitation rank: September 2023



Precipitation in September was a bit below average statewide. The only area that saw above-average precipitation was in southern Colorado, where parts of Pueblo and Huerfano Counties had a top-10 wet September. In contrast, northwestern and far eastern Colorado saw much drier than average conditions in September.



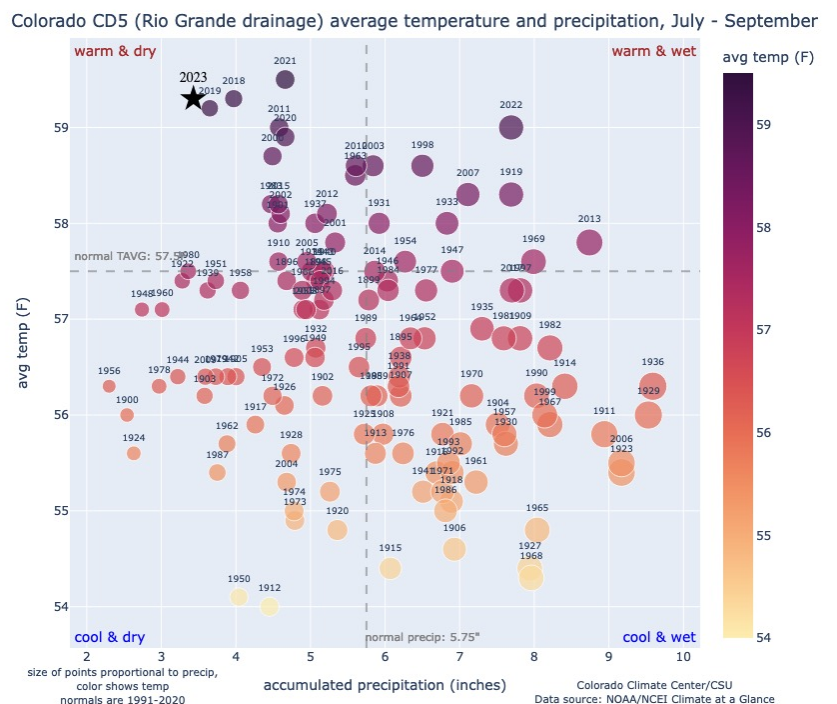
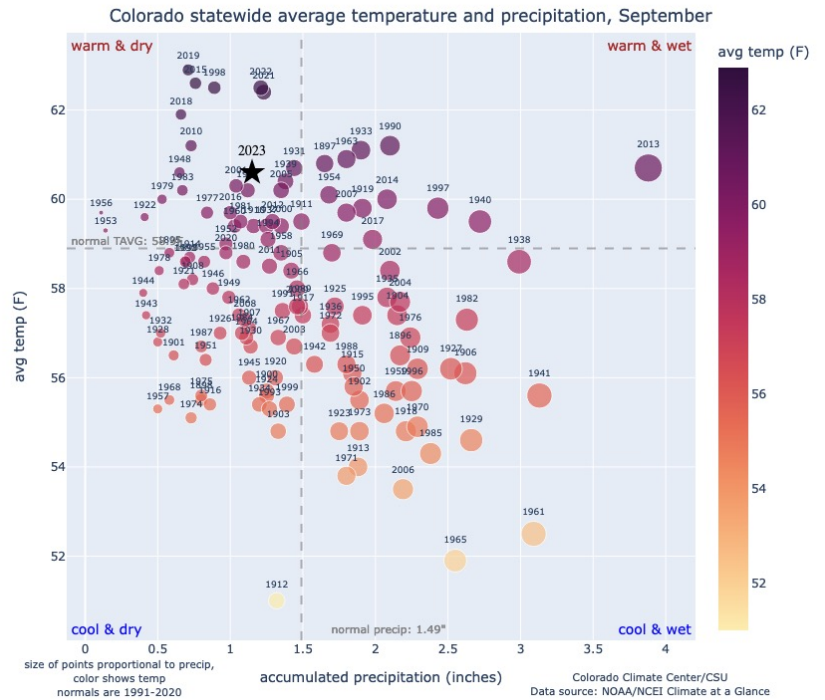
quadrant charts

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.

In the statewide average, September 2023 was in the warm and dry quadrant. It was tied for the 14th warmest September at 1.7° F above the 1991-2020 average and 3.3° F above the 20th century average. It was the 52nd driest September (0.28" below average) out of 129 years on record.

In the Rio Grande river drainage (largely encompassing the San Luis Valley), the last three months were extremely warm and dry. It was the 10th driest and tied for the 2nd warmest Jul-Aug-Sep period. The chart illustrates that in 5 of the last 6 years, Jul-Aug-Sep has been in the warm and dry quadrant in this region, and they stand out from the rest of the historical record.

[view all quadrant charts](#)

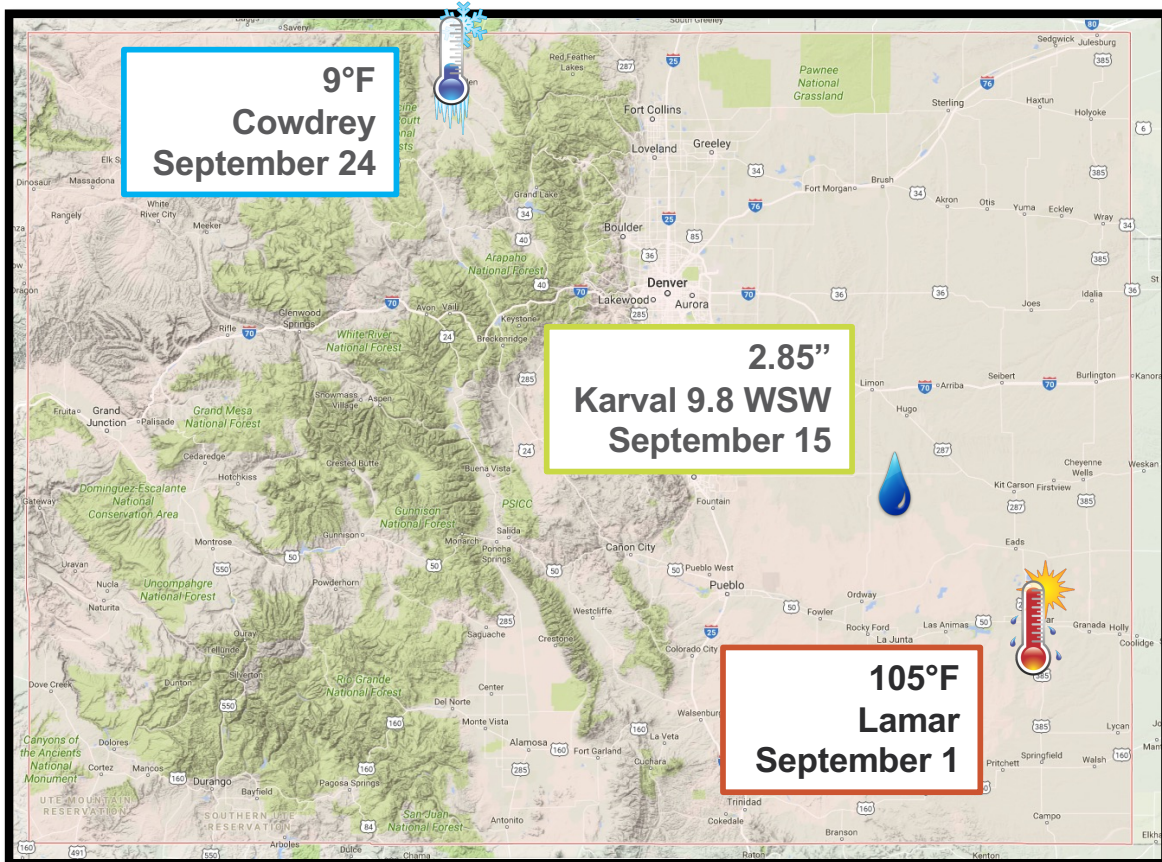


records tied and broken

	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	24/28	7/29	31/53	5/1	13/68	0/0
Monthly	3/1	0/0	1/3	0/0	0/2	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



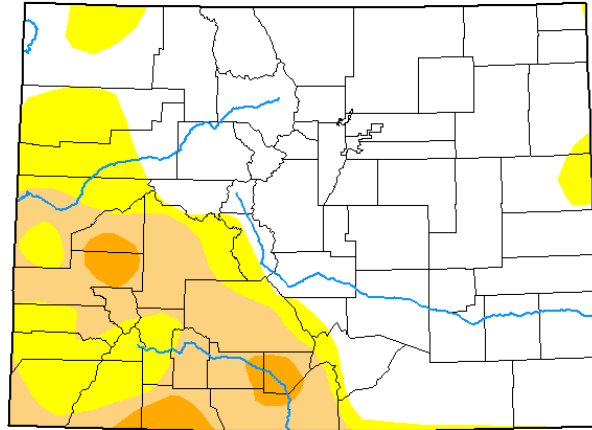
drought

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

September 26, 2023
(Released Thursday, Sep. 28, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought coverage increased slightly in September. Severe drought increased by 2% in southwest Colorado.

The percentage of Colorado in no dry categories decreased from 71% to 66%.



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	65.71	34.29	17.43	2.77	0.00	0.00
Last Week 09-19-2023	70.81	29.19	15.77	2.77	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-27-2023	98.11	1.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2023	39.97	60.03	33.83	12.28	1.91	0.01
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	15.46	84.54	45.65	15.47	3.73	0.57
One Year Ago 09-27-2022	15.46	84.54	45.65	15.47	3.73	0.57

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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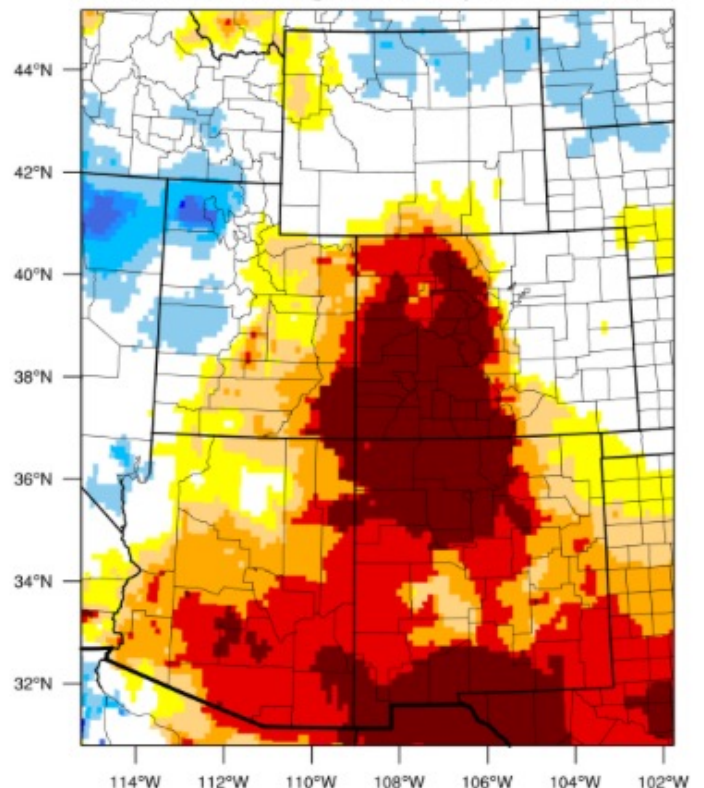
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

[Colorado Drought Update Page](#)

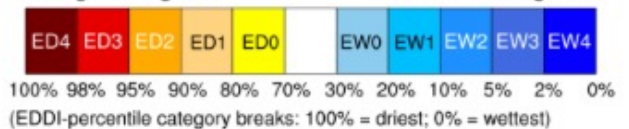
evaporative demand

The EDDI product shows how much moisture the atmosphere wants to take from the surface. For Jul-Aug-Sep EDDI was extremely high (exacerbating drought and stressing vegetation) for all of western CO. Thanks to an active storm pattern and generally higher humidity, eastern CO EDDI remained in the near normal range for the summer.

3-month EDDI categories for September 29, 2023



Drought categories Wetness categories



Generated by NOAA/ESRL/Physical Sciences Laboratory



CCC in the news

- ❑ [After a wet water year, can Colorado hope for a repeat? Not quite, experts say.](#)
 - Colorado Sun, September 27, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [Colorado Hailstone Confirmed As New State Record](#)
 - Weather Underground, September 27, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Rebuilding after wildfire: Help is scarcest for those who need it most](#)
 - Christian Science Monitor, September 25, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Colorado's water watchers celebrate wetter-than-average year](#)
 - Colorado Politics, September 19, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [Colorado already warmed 2.9 degrees, could warm by 5.5 degrees by 2050](#)
 - World News, September 8, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [CSU study reveals potential for growing Colorado wine industry outside the Western Slope](#)
 - The Denver Gazette, September 7, Peter Goble
- ❑ [Report: West particularly hard hit by hotter fall temperatures](#)
 - Boise State Public Radio, September 7, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [Colorado faces a water-stressed future. Here's how the state uses its existing supply.](#)
 - The Colorado Sun, September 5, Russ Schumacher

