



# October 2023 Colorado Monthly Climate Summary

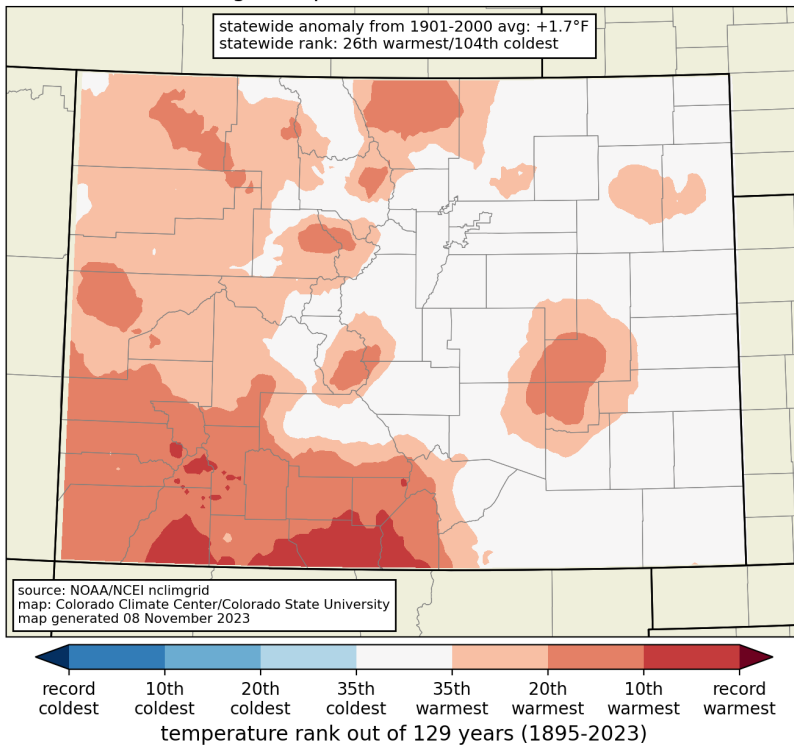
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ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

# temperature

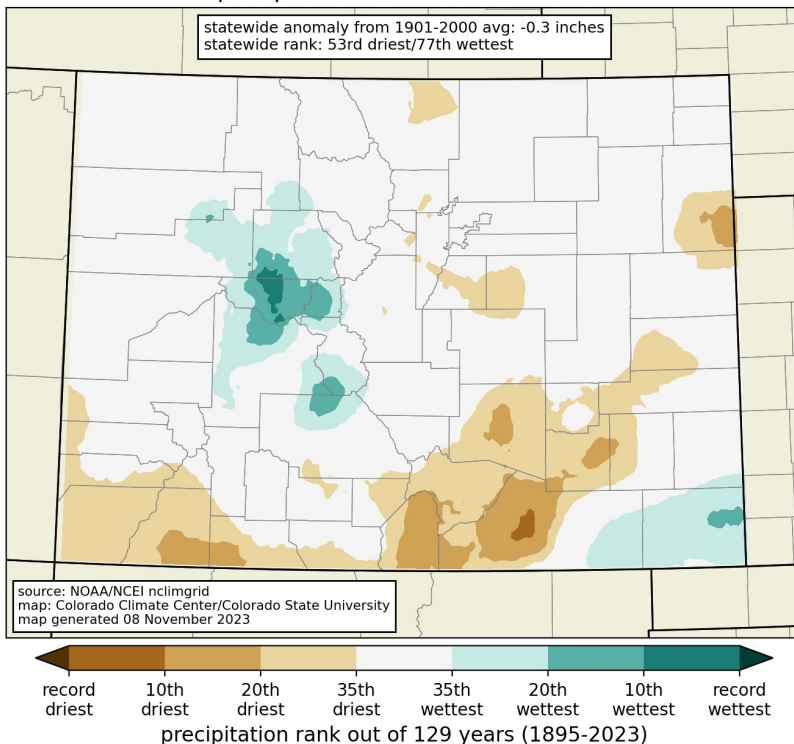
average temperature rank: October 2023



October was the 4<sup>th</sup> straight month of warmer than average conditions across Colorado. The warmth was most apparent in western Colorado, with the southwestern part of the state having a top-20 warm October. Eastern Colorado was closer to average, and no locations were significantly cooler than average in October.

# precipitation

precipitation rank: October 2023



Two storms determined the precipitation pattern in October: a heavy rainstorm in the southeast corner of the state on the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, and a snowstorm in the central mountains on the 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. These areas ended the month wetter than average; the rest of the state was near to below average. The rest of southern Colorado remained dry in October.



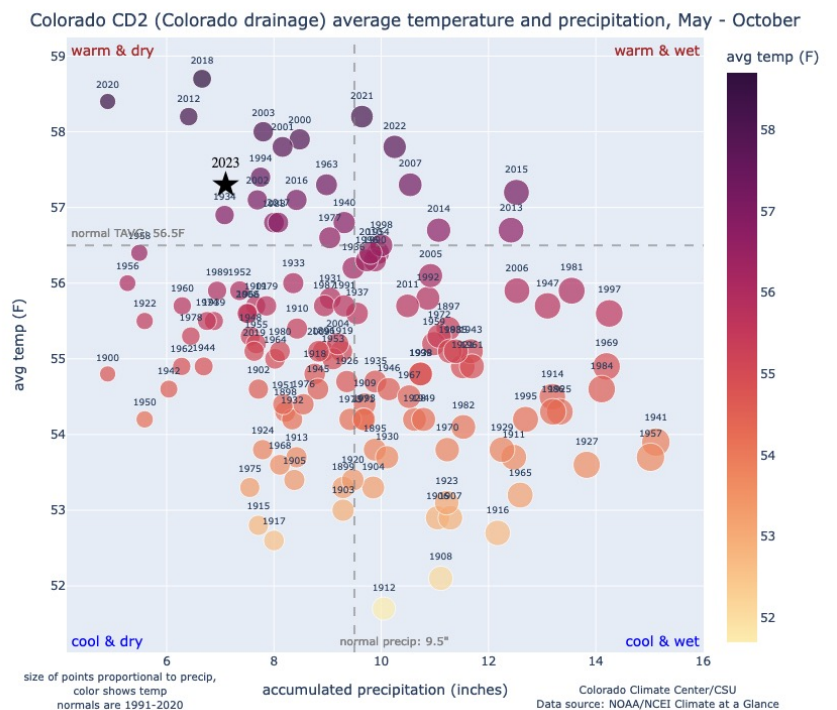
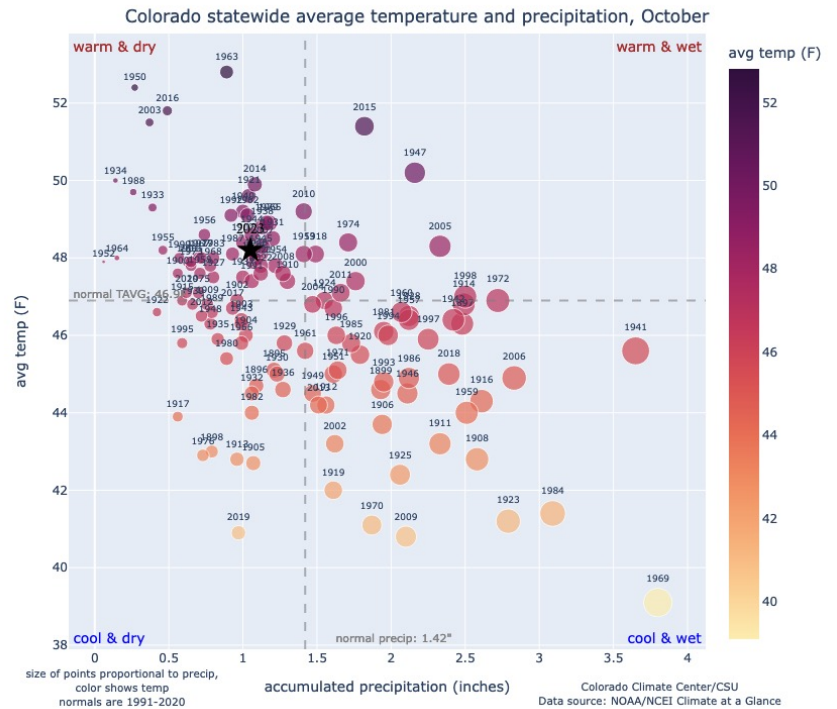
# quadrant charts

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, October 2023 was in the warm and dry quadrant. It was tied for the 26<sup>th</sup> warmest October at 1.3° F above the 1991-2020 average and 1.7° F above the 20<sup>th</sup> century average. It was the 53<sup>rd</sup> driest/77<sup>th</sup> wettest October (0.30" below average) out of 129 years on record.

For western Colorado, the 6-month period between May and October was warm and dry. It was the 18<sup>th</sup> driest and tied for the 10<sup>th</sup> warmest May through October period. After big snows and ample runoff early in 2023, the summer monsoon was less active than usual, and drought has returned to western Colorado, as illustrated in the “drought” section later in the summary.

[view all quadrant charts](#)

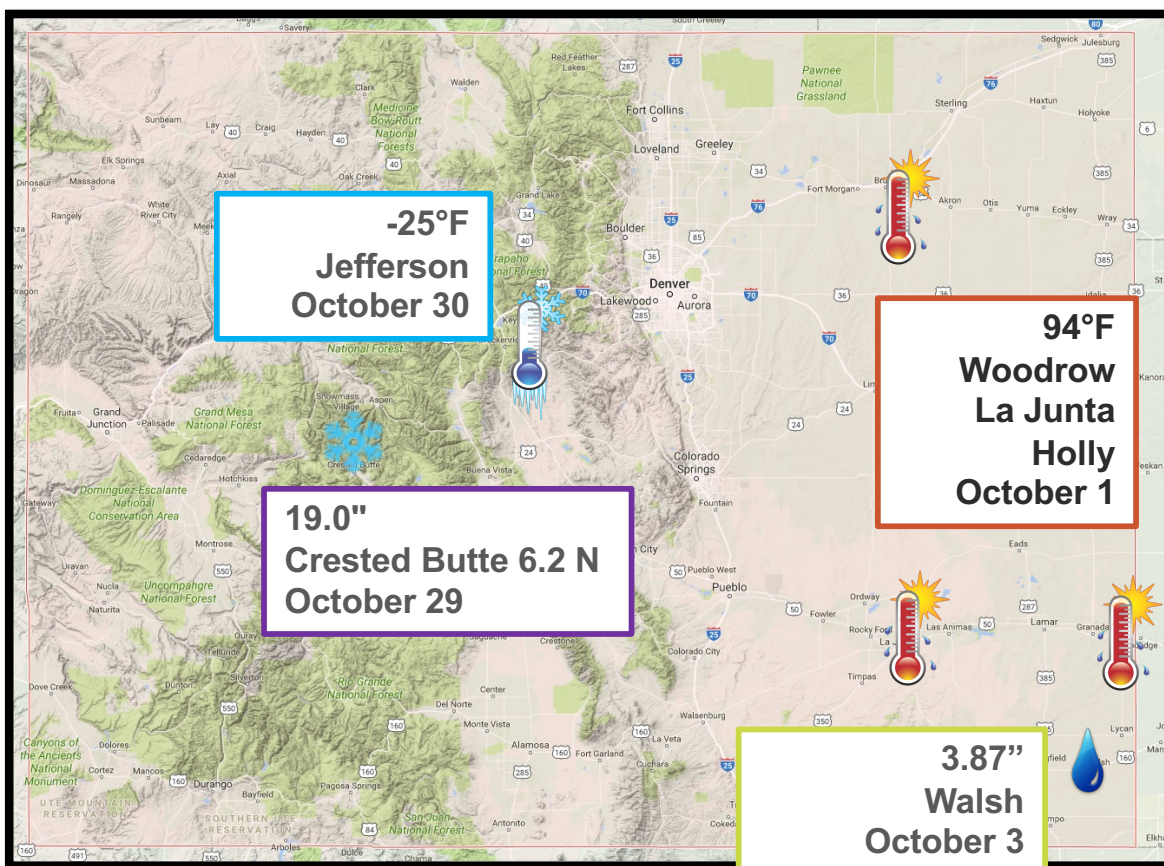


# records tied and broken

	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	39/77	5/12	35/131	7/23	22/71	3/6
Monthly	0/0	0/0	6/7	3/5	3/11	0/0
All-time	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/0

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

# state extremes





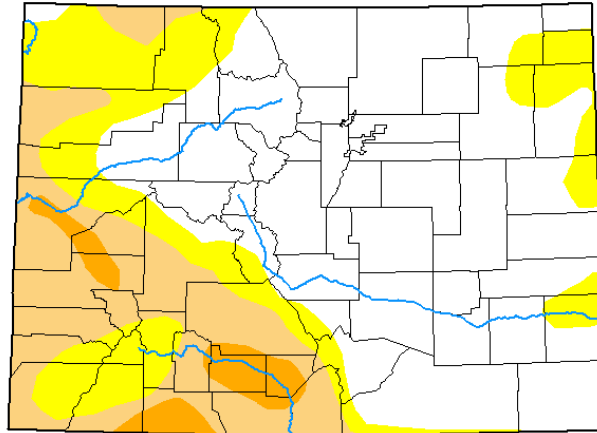
# drought

## U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

**October 31, 2023**  
(Released Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Thanks to a couple October storms, conditions improved in parts of the Central Mountains and West Slope.

Drought conditions spread across southwest and western CO, with introduction of D0 in eastern CO.



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	58.00	42.00	21.66	3.73	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 10-24-2023	57.87	42.13	22.23	4.43	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 08-01-2023	73.32	26.68	4.58	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-03-2023	39.97	60.03	33.83	12.28	1.91	0.01
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-26-2023	65.71	34.29	17.43	2.77	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 11-01-2022	16.91	83.09	46.57	14.28	3.13	0.57

Intensity:  
 None (White)      D2 Severe Drought (Orange)  
 D0 Abnormally Dry (Yellow)      D3 Extreme Drought (Red)  
 D1 Moderate Drought (Light Orange)      D4 Exceptional Drought (Dark Red)

*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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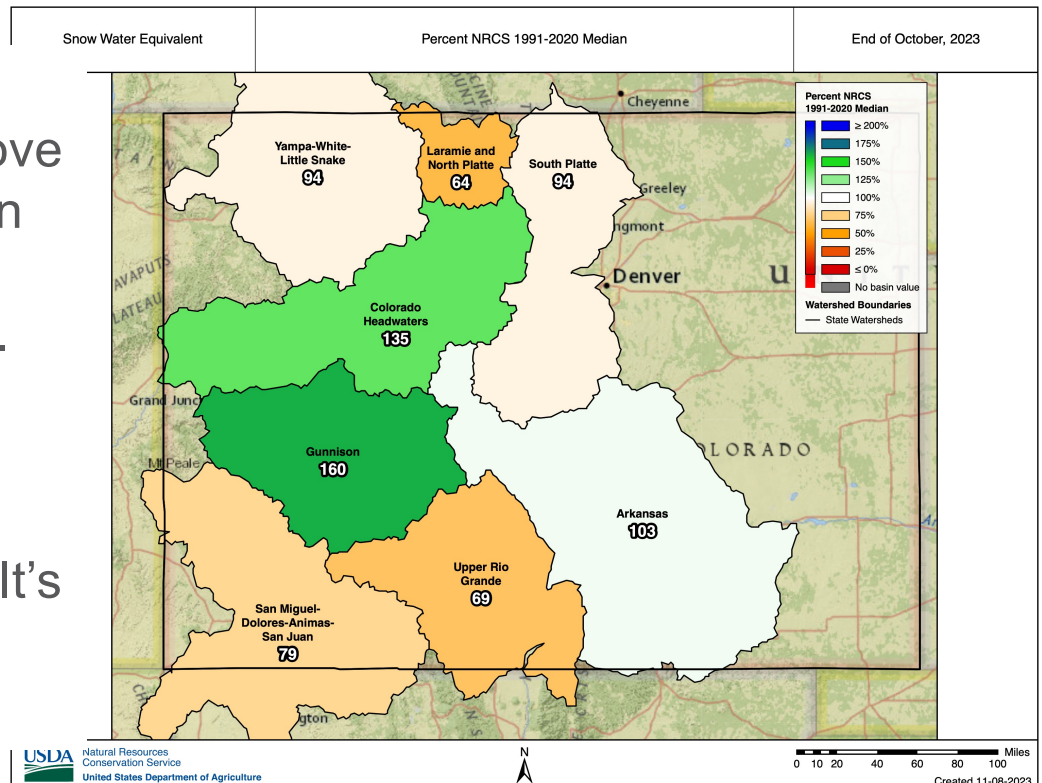


[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

## [Colorado Drought Update Page](#)

# snowpack

Snowpack is off to a mixed start, with above average conditions in the CO headwaters and Gunnison basin. North Park and the San Luis Valley are showing below average conditions. It's still very early in the season though.



# CCC in the news

- ❑ [Science for All](#)
  - October 31, CSU Source, CoCoRaHS
- ❑ [Fort Collins' first snowfall, coldest temps of season forecast as weekend storm approaches](#)
  - October 27, The Coloradoan, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [CSU study looks into how Palisade's grape-growing success can be achieved elsewhere](#)
  - October 19, Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, Peter Goble
- ❑ [New Colorado climate report says state will continue to heat up, but whether it will dry out is unclear](#)
  - October 6, Freshwater News, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [The Farmers' Almanac predicts normal temps and a wet winter for Florida. How accurate is it?](#)
  - October 2, multiple Florida outlets, Russ Schumacher

