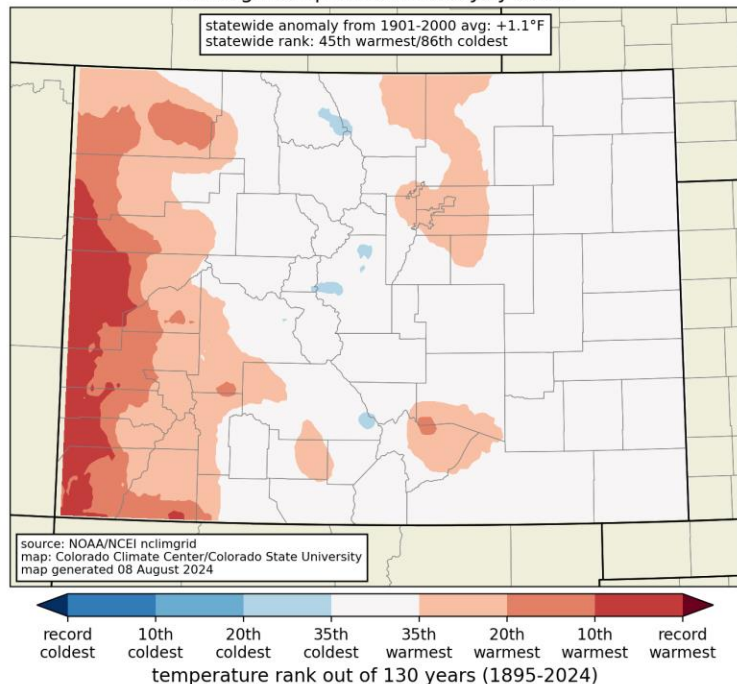




July 2024 Colorado Monthly Climate Summary

temperature

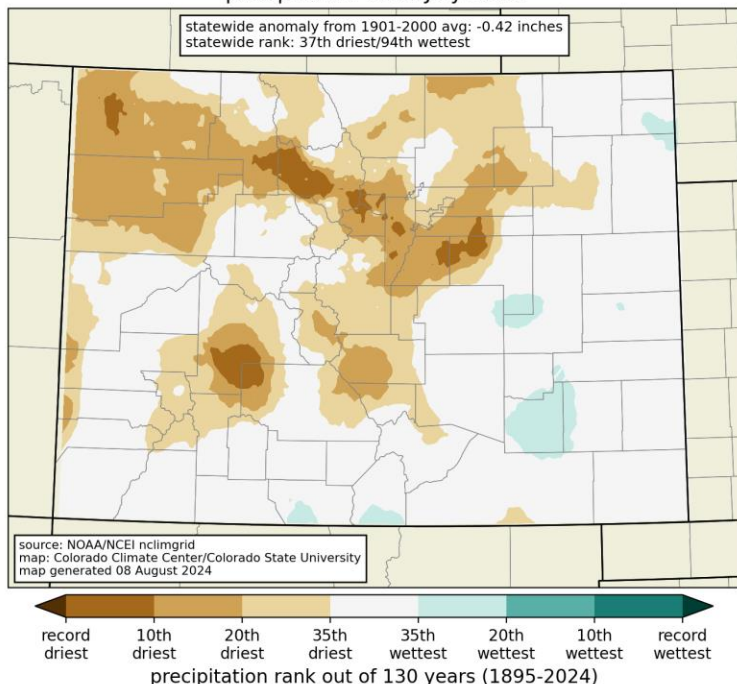
average temperature rank: July 2024



Despite a couple of notable heat waves (discussed further below), because of cool weather early in the month, July 2024 ended up near the middle of the historical distribution for most the state in terms of temperature. The exception was far western Colorado, which saw a much warmer-than average July.

precipitation

precipitation rank: July 2024



July was drier than average across much of the state, including the Front Range, many mountain areas, and northwestern Colorado. Only some small pockets on the eastern Plains saw a July that was wetter than average.



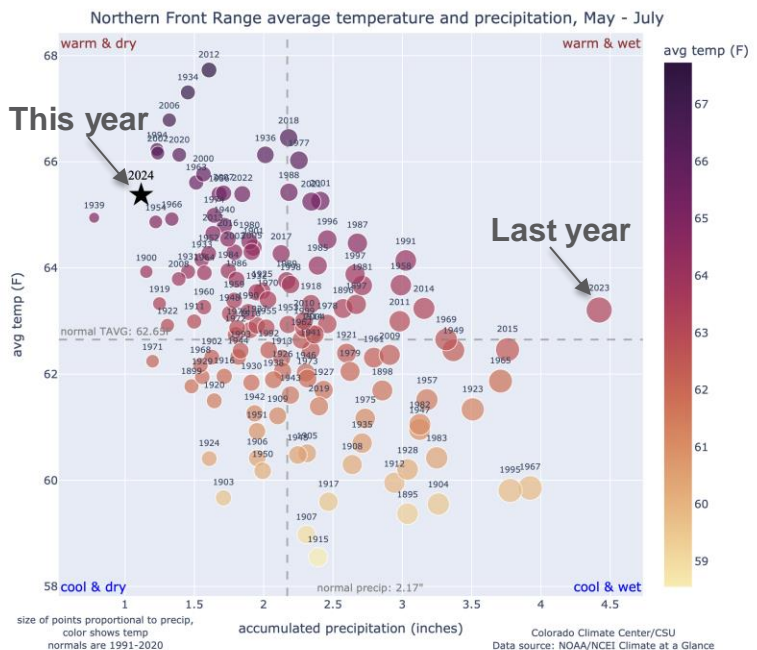
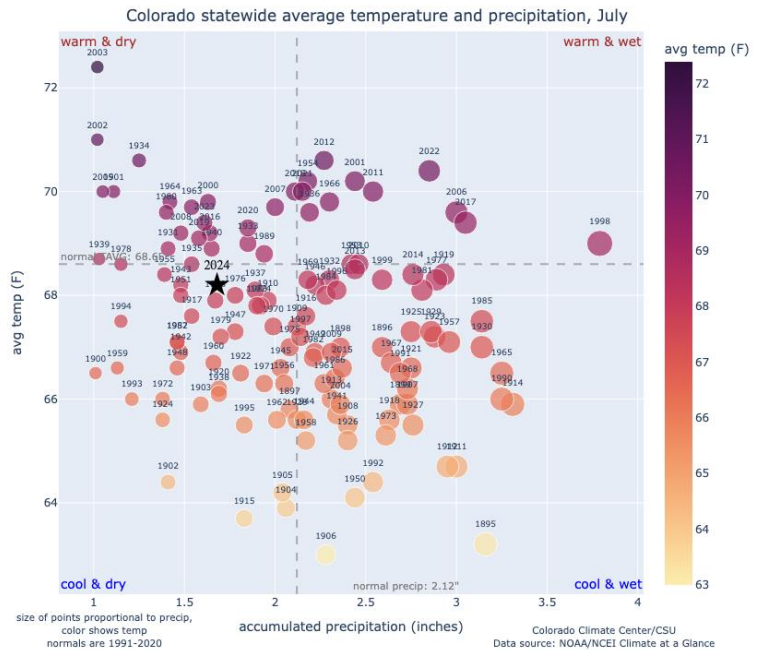
quadrant charts

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.

July 2024 was actually slightly cooler than the 1991-2020 average for Colorado (0.4 °F below average) but was still 1.1 °F warmer than the 20th-century average. It was tied for the 45th-warmest (86th-coolest) July in the 130-year record. It was drier than average statewide: the 37th driest July, at 0.42" below average.

From May through July, the Northern Front Range region was extremely dry: the 2nd driest on record for these three months, behind only 1939. (At the Boulder climate station, it was easily the driest May-Jun-Jul.) The quadrant chart illustrates the huge contrast from last year, which was the wettest May through July on record for this area.

[view all quadrant charts](#)

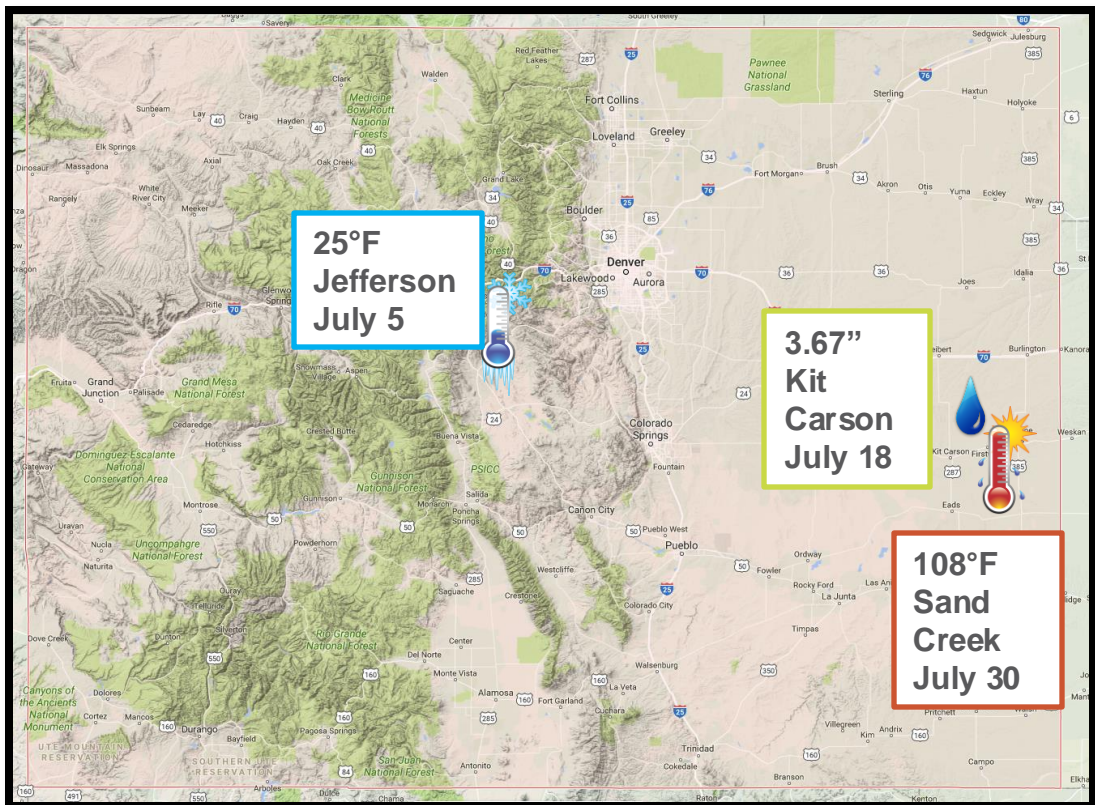


records tied and broken

	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	43/61	6/24	42/118	14/39	22/55	0/0
Monthly	2/0	0/0	1/0	1/1	0/0	0/0
All-time	1/0	0/0	1/0	0/0	0/0	0/0

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

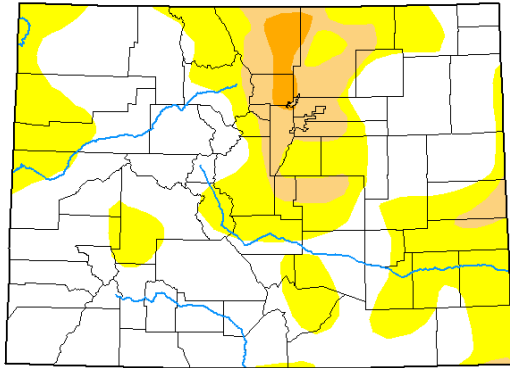
state extremes



drought

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

July 30, 2024
(Released Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	59.29	40.71	9.42	1.53	0.00	0.00
Last Week 07-23-2024	64.30	35.70	7.85	1.32	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 04-30-2024	58.74	41.26	7.73	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2024	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 08-01-2023	73.32	26.68	4.58	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:
 None (White) D2 Severe Drought (Orange)
 D0 Abnormally Dry (Yellow) D3 Extreme Drought (Red)
 D1 Moderately Dry (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>

Author:
Lindsay Johnson
National Drought Mitigation Center

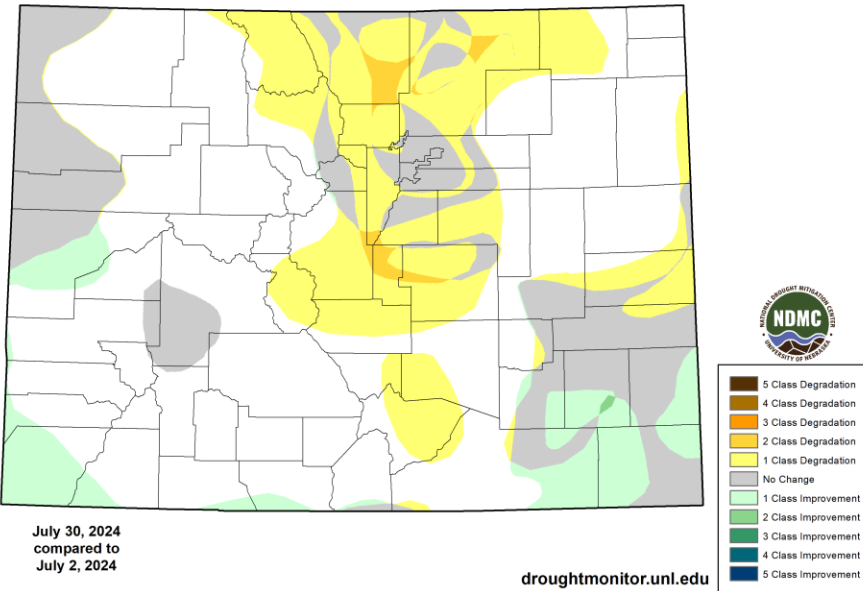


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

As of July 30, 9.42% of Colorado was in drought conditions on the US Drought Monitor (D1 or worse). Much more (40.71%) was considered "abnormally dry" (D0 or worse). Severe drought (D2) developed along the northern Front Range, including parts of Larimer and Boulder counties

[Colorado Drought Update Page](#)

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Colorado
4 Week



July 30, 2024
compared to
July 2, 2024

droughtmonitor.unl.edu



5 Class Degradation (Dark Brown)
 4 Class Degradation (Brown)
 3 Class Degradation (Orange)
 2 Class Degradation (Light Orange)
 1 Class Degradation (Yellow)
 No Change (White)
 1 Class Improvement (Light Green)
 2 Class Improvement (Green)
 3 Class Improvement (Dark Green)
 4 Class Improvement (Teal)
 5 Class Improvement (Dark Blue)

During July, drought conditions worsened across a large fraction of the state. Only small portions of southeastern and western Colorado saw improvements. These degradations were caused by below normal moisture and multiple heatwaves, which increased evaporative demand.



significant events

Notable heat waves occurred across Colorado in both the middle of July and again at the end of the month (continuing into early August).

The mid-July heat wave was especially intense along the Front Range, where it ranked in the top 10 since 1951. Two of our [blog posts](#) in July focused on heat waves – please subscribe to the blog if you haven't!

Ranking of the mid-July 2024 heat wave among all 4-day heat waves since 1951

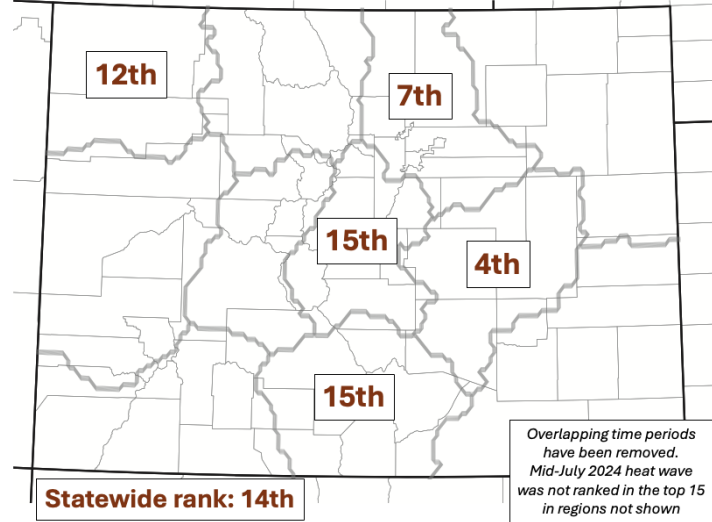


Photo credit: Becky Bolinger

The combination of heat and lack of precipitation led to the rapid growth of multiple destructive wildfires near the end of July. This included the Alexander Mountain Fire west of Loveland (pictured at left), the Stone Creek Fire near Lyons, and the Quarry Fire southwest of the Denver Metro area. These fires tragically caused one fatality, injuries to firefighters, and the loss of numerous homes. The fires continued burning into early August.



CCC in the news

- ❑ [Four wildfires in three days along Colorado's Front Range span more than 9,500 acres, force thousands to evacuate](#)

Featuring Peter Goble in the Denver Post.

- ❑ [How hot was it in Fort Collins? City touches record and could break some this weekend](#)

Featuring Russ Schumacher in the Fort Collins Coloradoan.

- ❑ [Climate change is making Colorado heat waves more likely - and more likely to be extreme](#)

Featuring Russ Schumacher on Colorado Public Radio

