

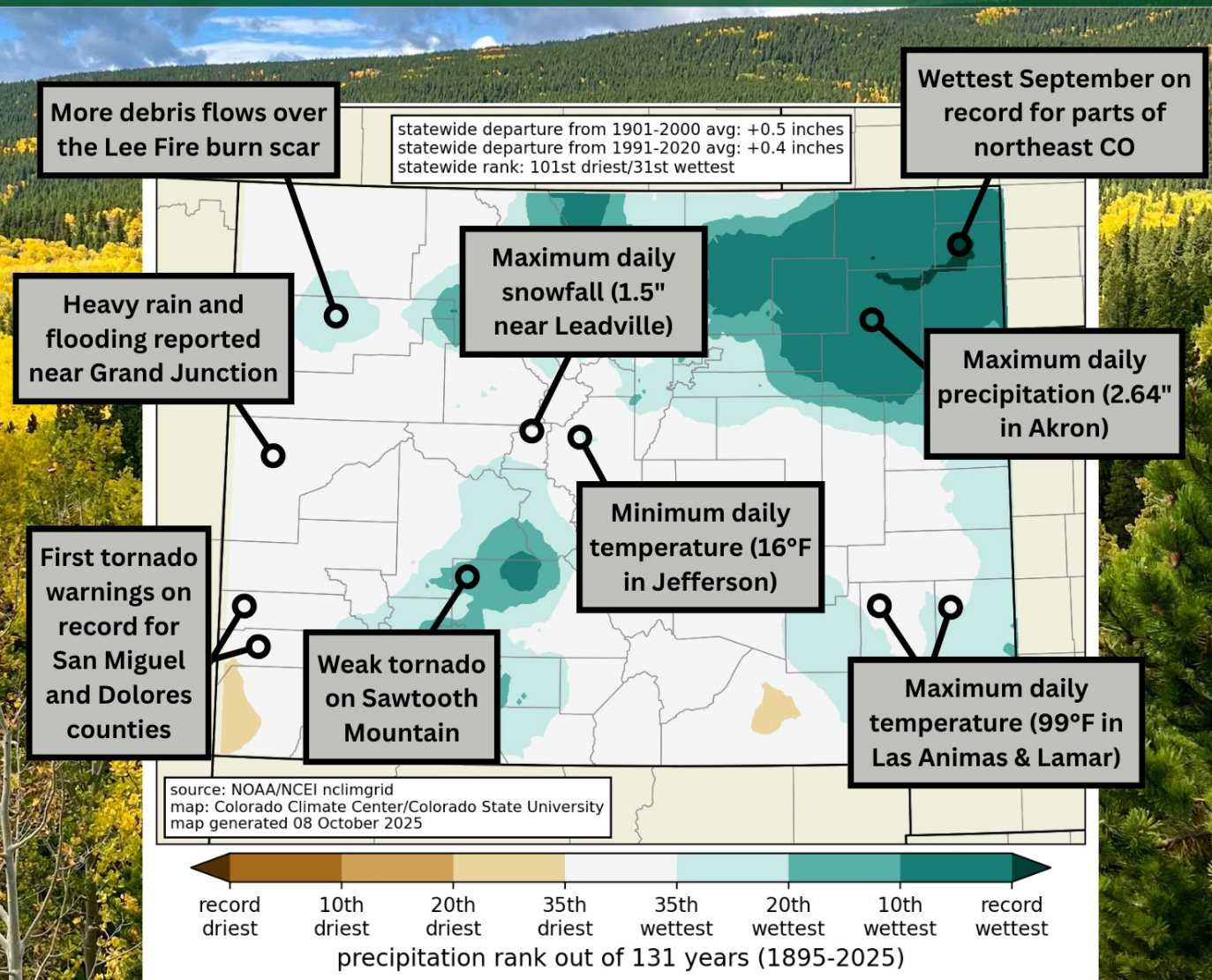
# September 2025

## Colorado Monthly Climate Summary

### Statewide Temperature and Precipitation Ranks for September 2025

(based on 1895-2025 data)

36<sup>th</sup> warmest (near average) ■ 31<sup>st</sup> wettest (above average)



September 2025 Precipitation Rank Map



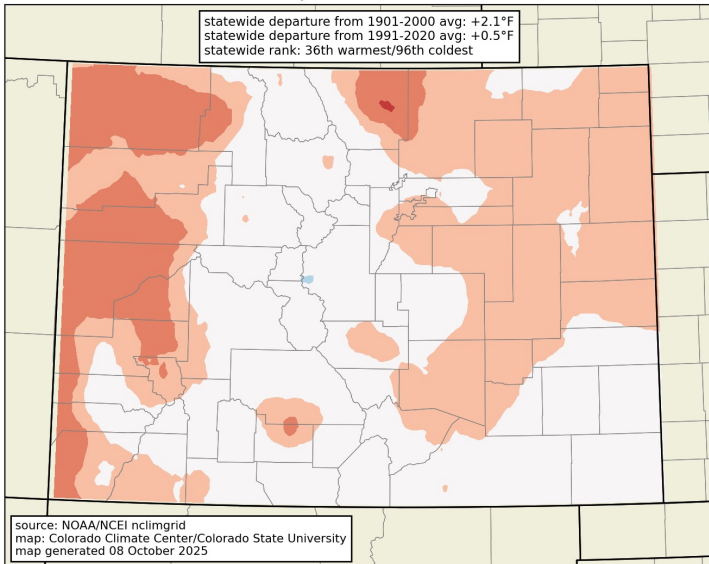
Photo from Peak-to-Peak Highway



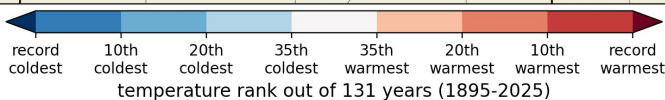
# temperature

average temperature rank  
September 2025

statewide departure from 1901-2000 avg: +2.1°F  
statewide departure from 1991-2020 avg: +0.5°F  
statewide rank: 36th warmest/96th coldest



source: NOAA/NCEI nclimgrid  
map: Colorado Climate Center/Colorado State University  
map generated 08 October 2025

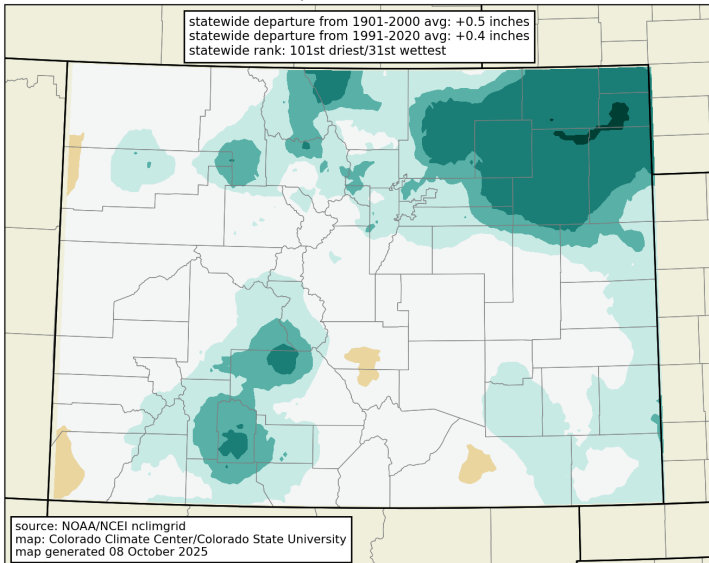


September was the 8<sup>th</sup> straight month with above-average temperatures for Colorado, though it wasn't as markedly warm as some recent months. The western slope continued to be warmer than average in September, and the northern Front Range was also above average. The eastern Plains were slightly warmer than average, and most other areas were closer to normal.

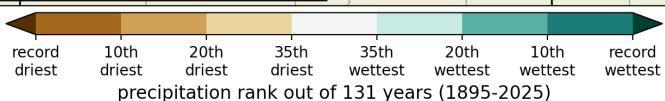
# precipitation

precipitation rank  
September 2025

statewide departure from 1901-2000 avg: +0.5 inches  
statewide departure from 1991-2020 avg: +0.4 inches  
statewide rank: 101st driest/31st wettest



source: NOAA/NCEI nclimgrid  
map: Colorado Climate Center/Colorado State University  
map generated 08 October 2025



September had a few periods of widespread heavy precipitation, most notably on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> across northern Colorado. As a result, the northeastern corner of the state was much wetter than average for September, and a few locations even had their wettest September on record! Parts of central and southern Colorado were also wetter than average for the month.



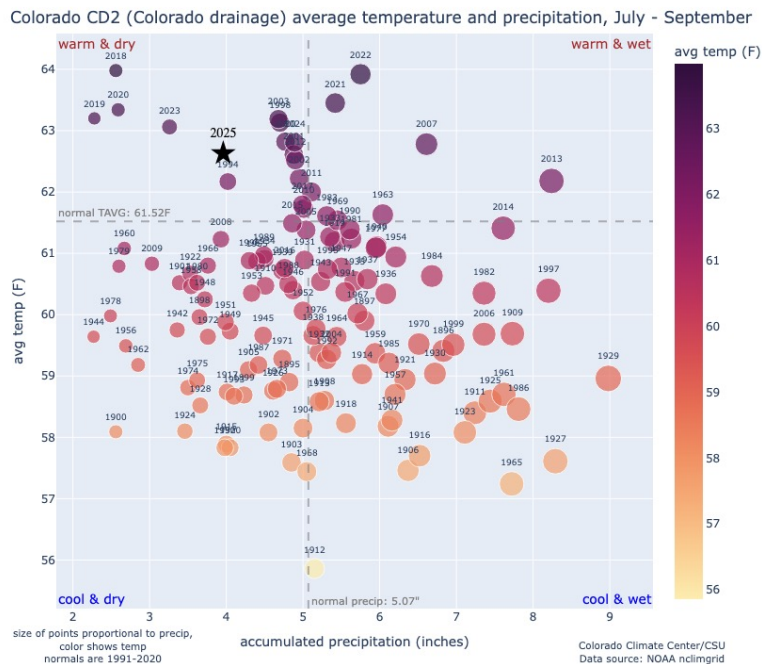
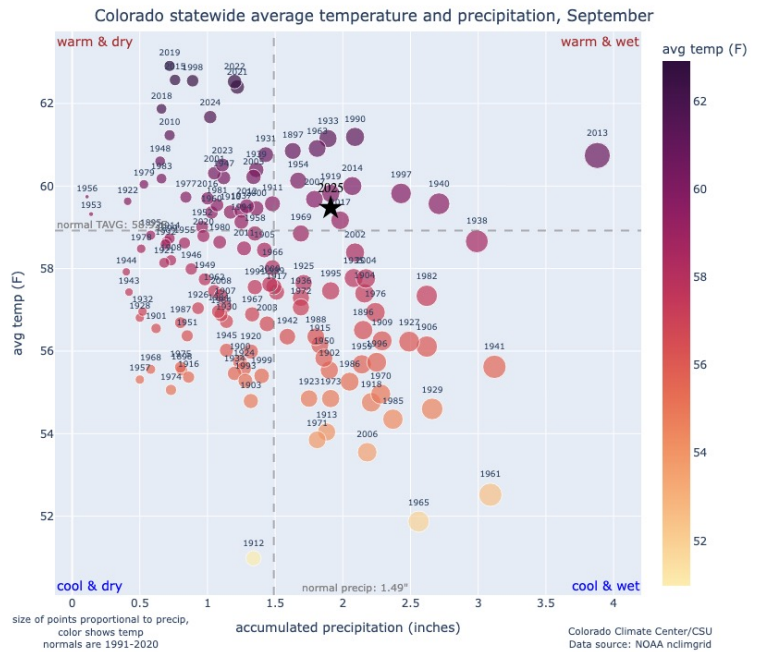
# quadrant charts

Each dot plots the precipitation on the horizontal axis and the temperature on the vertical axis. Dots are colored based on temperature and size is based on precipitation. The current year is denoted with a star. The 1991-2020 averages are denoted by the dashed lines.

Averaged across the state, September 2025 ended up wetter and slightly warmer than average. It was the 36<sup>th</sup>-warmest September, at 0.5° F warmer than the 1991-2020 average and 2.1° F above the 20<sup>th</sup>-century average. Precipitation was 0.4” above the statewide 30-year mean of 1.51” and was the 31<sup>st</sup>-wetter September in 131 years of records.

Although there was some drought relief in late August and September, the key monsoon period of July through September was once again squarely in the warm and dry quadrant in western Colorado. Five of the last eight years have been very warm and dry in western Colorado during these three months of the year.

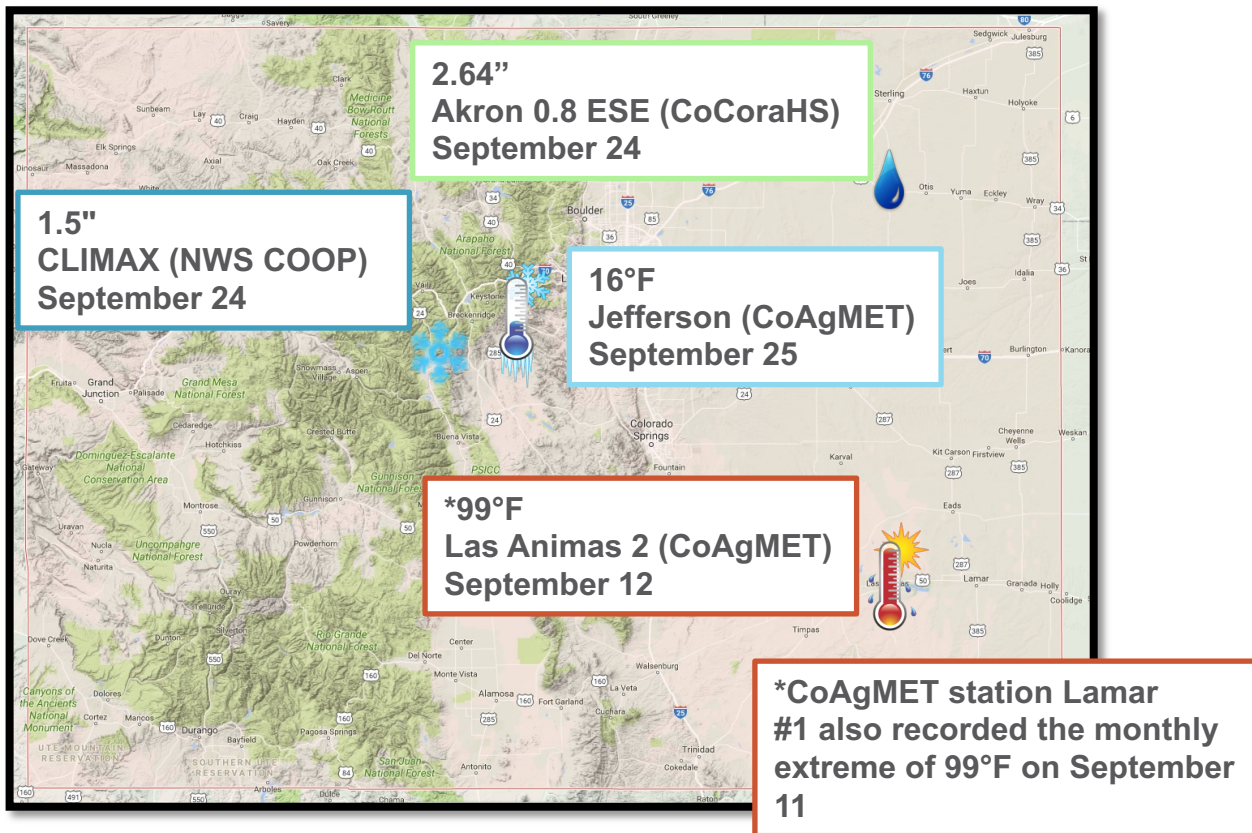
[view all quadrant charts](#)



	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	2/2	10/35	12/30	4/9	28/104	0/0
Monthly	0/0	0/1	2/1	0/0	1/1	0/0
All-time	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0

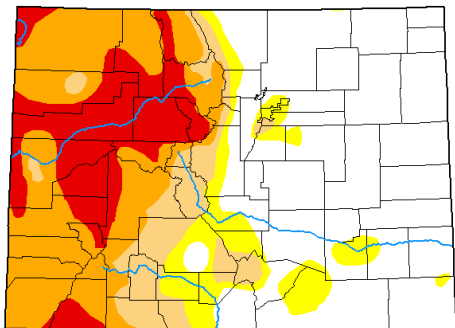
Tied/Broken, from NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information

## state extremes



# drought

## U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado



September 30, 2025  
(Released Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	45.82	54.18	45.19	35.88	14.34	0.00
Last Week 09-23-2025	43.43	56.57	46.17	36.77	15.23	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-01-2025	42.28	57.72	44.30	23.25	8.15	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025	71.40	28.60	10.78	4.08	0.98	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	48.27	51.73	24.40	4.62	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 10-01-2024	48.27	51.73	24.40	4.62	0.00	0.00

**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>

Author:  
Curtis Rigant  
National Drought Mitigation Center

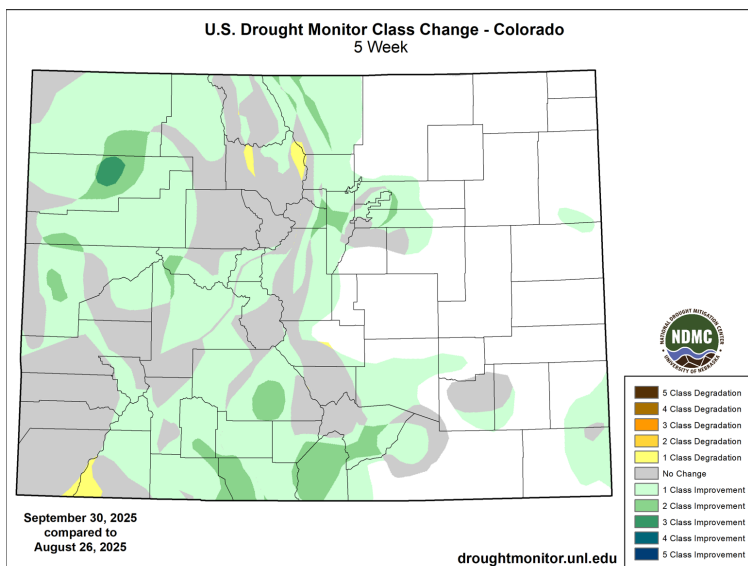


[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

September brought widespread drought improvements across Colorado. The exceptional drought area that developed last month was fully eradicated, and the percent area of the state experiencing extreme drought or worse dropped from ~29% at the end of August to ~14% at the end of September. Approximately 45% of Colorado is currently experiencing drought (down from ~53% at the end of August).

## [Colorado Drought Update Page](#)

Most of the state that has been experiencing drought saw at least some improvements during September. Upwards of 3-category improvements occurred over the area near the Lee Fire burn scar between the end of August to the end of September. Other locations along the West Slope (such as Grand Junction) as well as southern Colorado (such as the San Luis Valley) saw 2-category improvements in September. Precipitation also benefitted the Eastern Plains, allowing for most locations to stay drought-free, though some D1 conditions remain over parts of the Denver Metro. Only a few areas, including Rocky Mountain National Park and the Four-Corners region, saw 1-category degradations.



# significant events

Several rounds of strong to severe thunderstorms brought heavy rain, flooding, debris flows, lightning, and even a tornado to western CO in September. Near the Lee Fire burn scar, heavy rain led to debris flows on at least three dates throughout the month. Additional localized flooding occurred in several other areas of the state, including the south side Grand Junction, where over 2" of rain fell in just 2-3 hours on Sep. 4 (a greater than one-in-200 year flood event for that area).



*Mud covering a trail due following heavy rain and flooding in Grand Junction (photo via @gjparksandrec on Instagram).*

In addition to heavy rainfall and flash flooding, a brief EF-1 tornado occurred on Sawtooth Mountain on Sep. 13 in Saguache County [according to NWS Pueblo](#). Other storms in southwest CO prompted tornado warnings that day—including the first tornado warnings on record for San Miguel and Dolores counties. While no additional tornadoes occurred in Colorado, [an additional two tornadoes did spawn just across the border in Utah](#), one of which was visible from parts of Montezuma County.

September's storms also brought tragedy: in Conejos County, two men were killed by lightning on Sep. 11 while on a hunting trip.



*Tree damage from the Sawtooth Mountain tornado on Sep. 13 (photo from NWS Pueblo, obtained via the Denver Gazette).*



# CCC in the news

- ❑ **September 2, 2025:** [Winter preview for Western Colorado](#)
  - Featuring Peter Goble on KJCT News
- ❑ **September 2, 2025:** [Will recent rainfall help reverse western Colorado's extreme drought conditions?](#)
  - Featuring Allie Mazurek in the Post Independent
- ❑ **September 11, 2025:** [Widespread drought grips western Colorado](#)
  - Featuring Peter Goble in CBS News
- ❑ **September 12, 2025:** [131 years of data show historic dry spell in western Colorado](#)
  - Featuring Allie Mazurek in the Fence Post
- ❑ **September 23, 2025:** [Persistent rain washes away the most extreme drought on Colorado's Western Slope, but concerns remain](#)
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in the Summit Daily
- ❑ **September 24, 2025:** [Western Colorado sees relief after record-breaking summer drought](#)
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in KSJD

**Happy New Water Year, and stay tuned for our Water Year 2025 summary, coming soon!**

