



The Weather Wire

May 2015

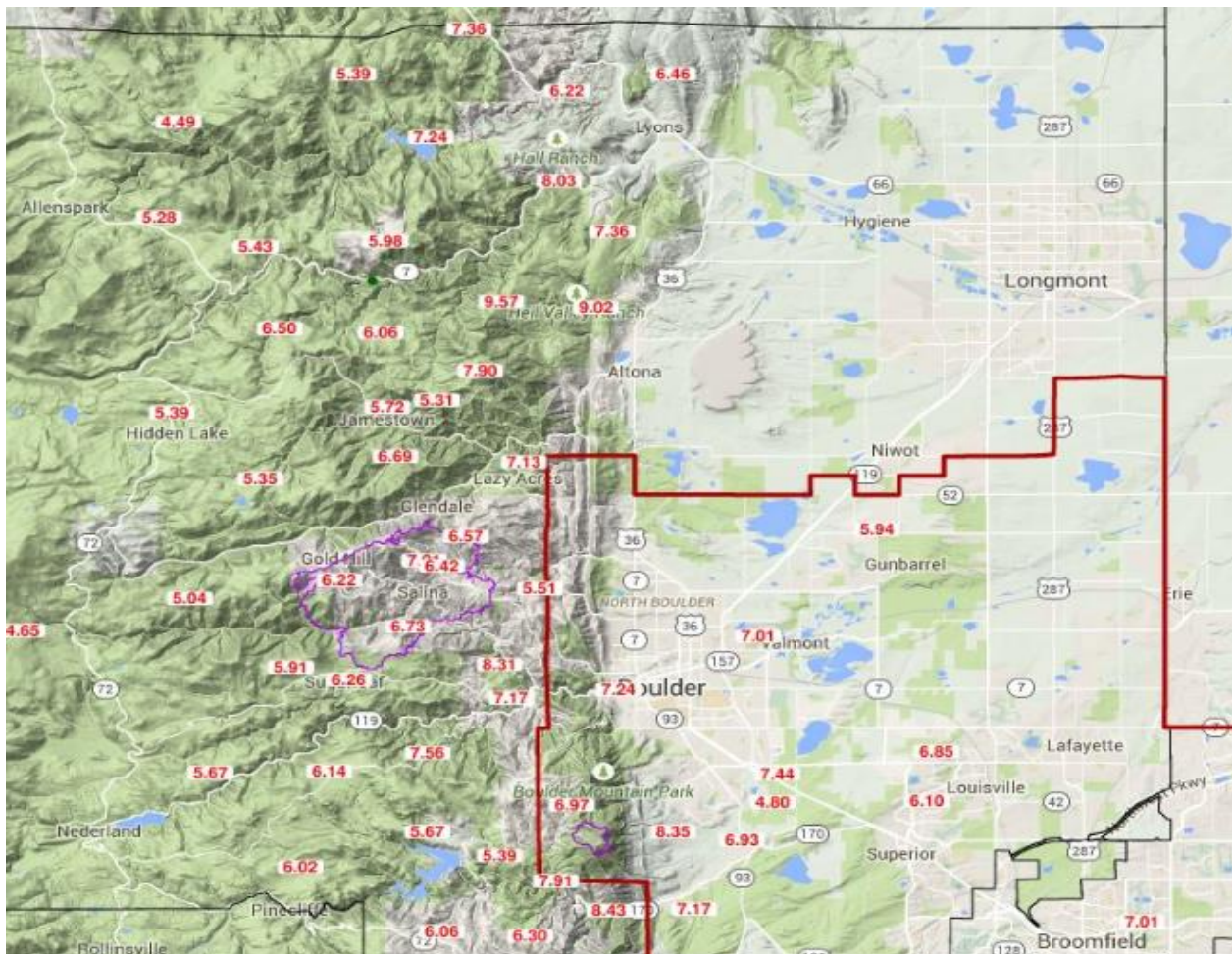
Volume 22 Number 5

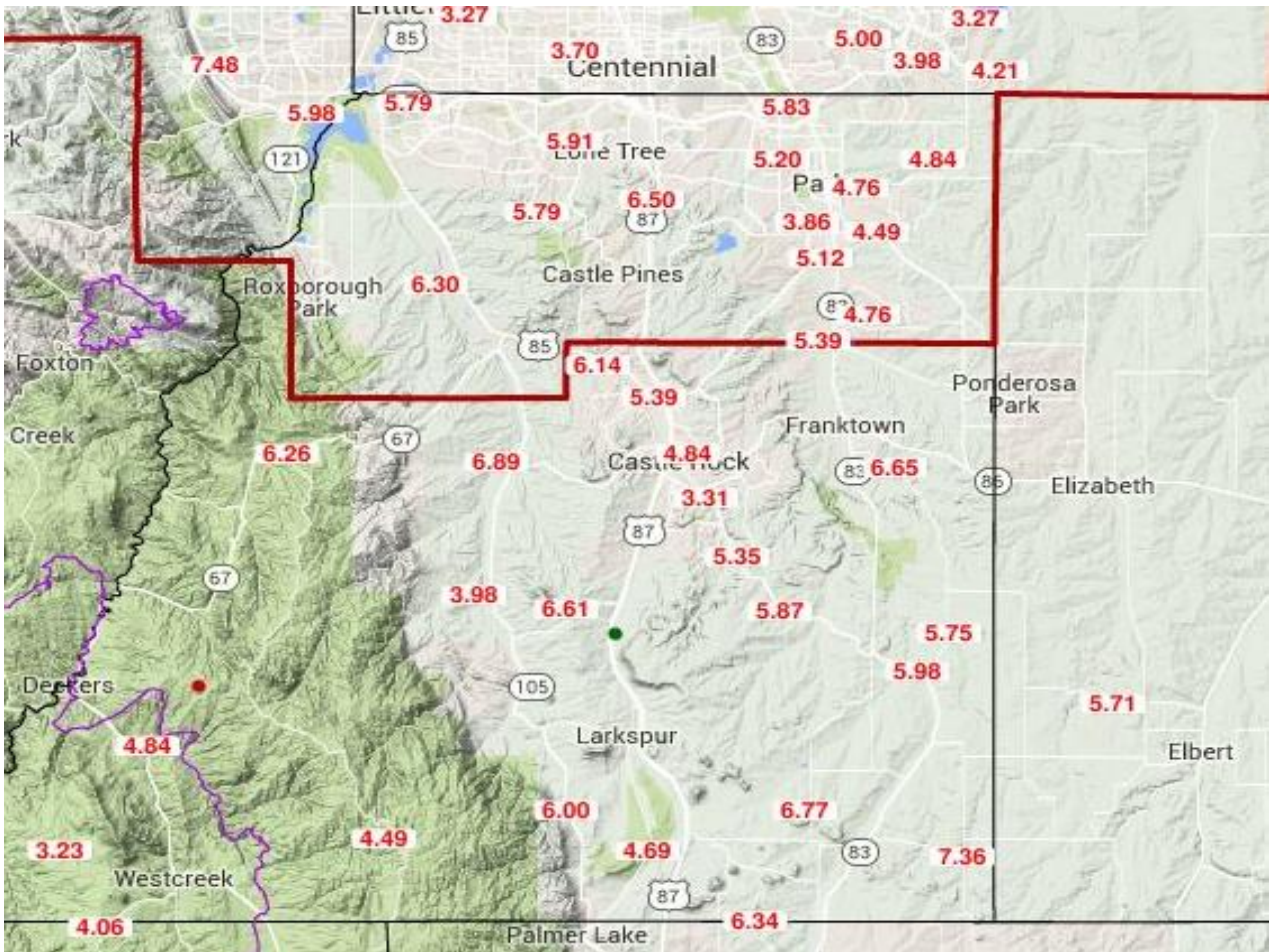
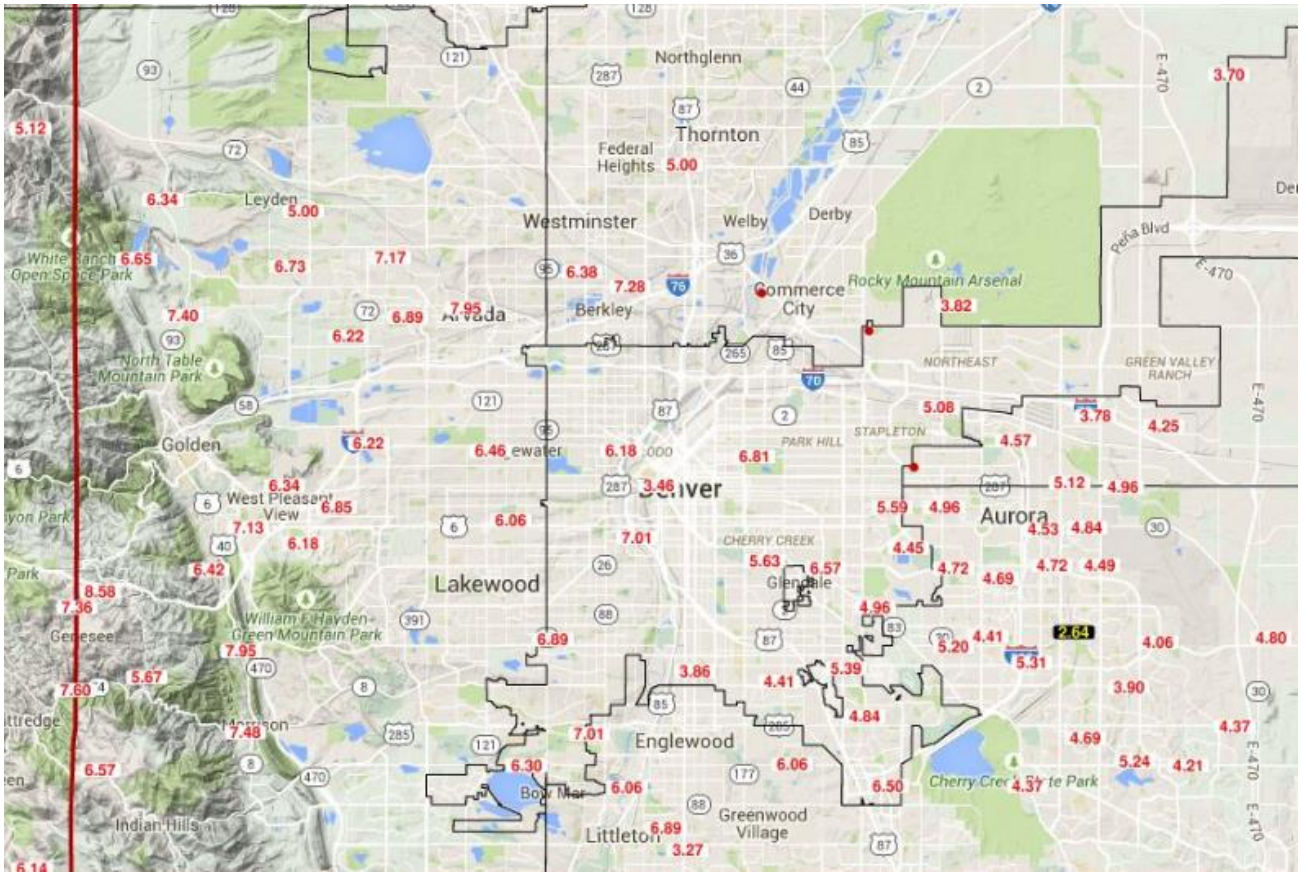
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30-Day Rainfall Totals/Wet Weather Pattern

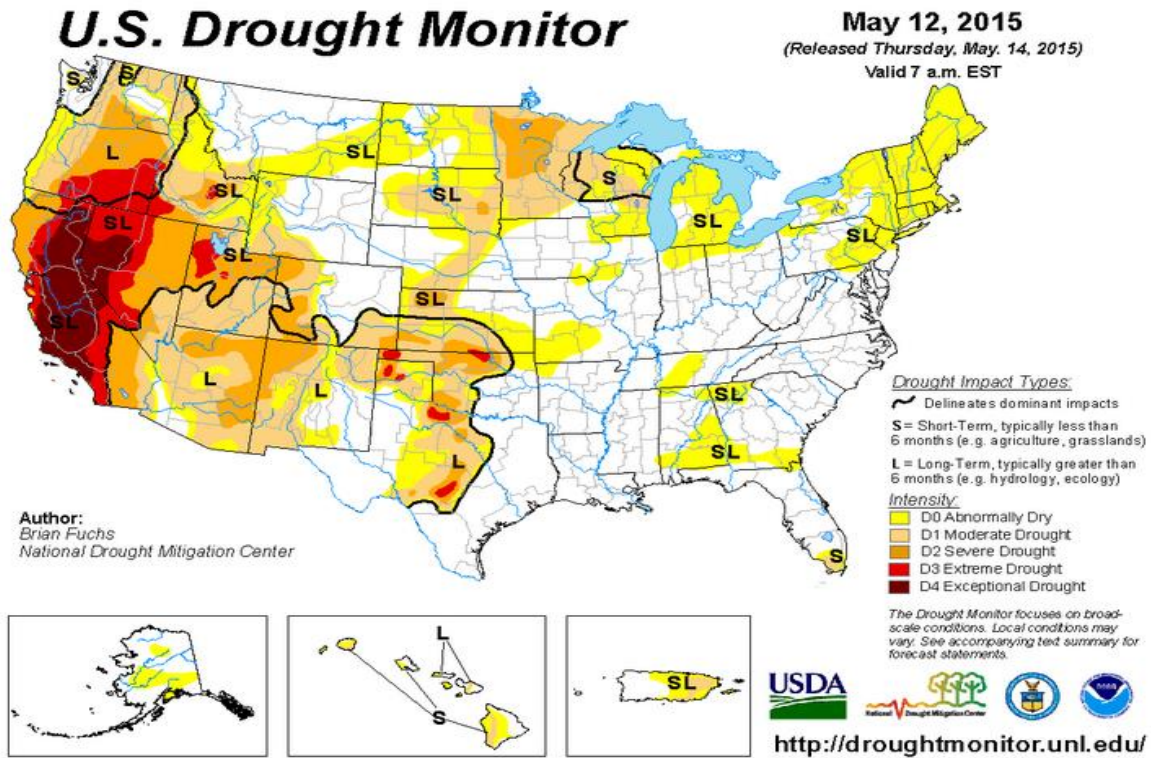
The weather pattern over the past 30 days has been wet to say the least with many areas in and around the Denver Metro area experiencing 1/4 to 1/3 of a years worth of precipitation in just one month! The excessive moisture in the form of rain and snow has resulted in many creeks and streams running high with some flooding issues as well. Below are maps that show rainfall for the past 30 days starting on May 13th.



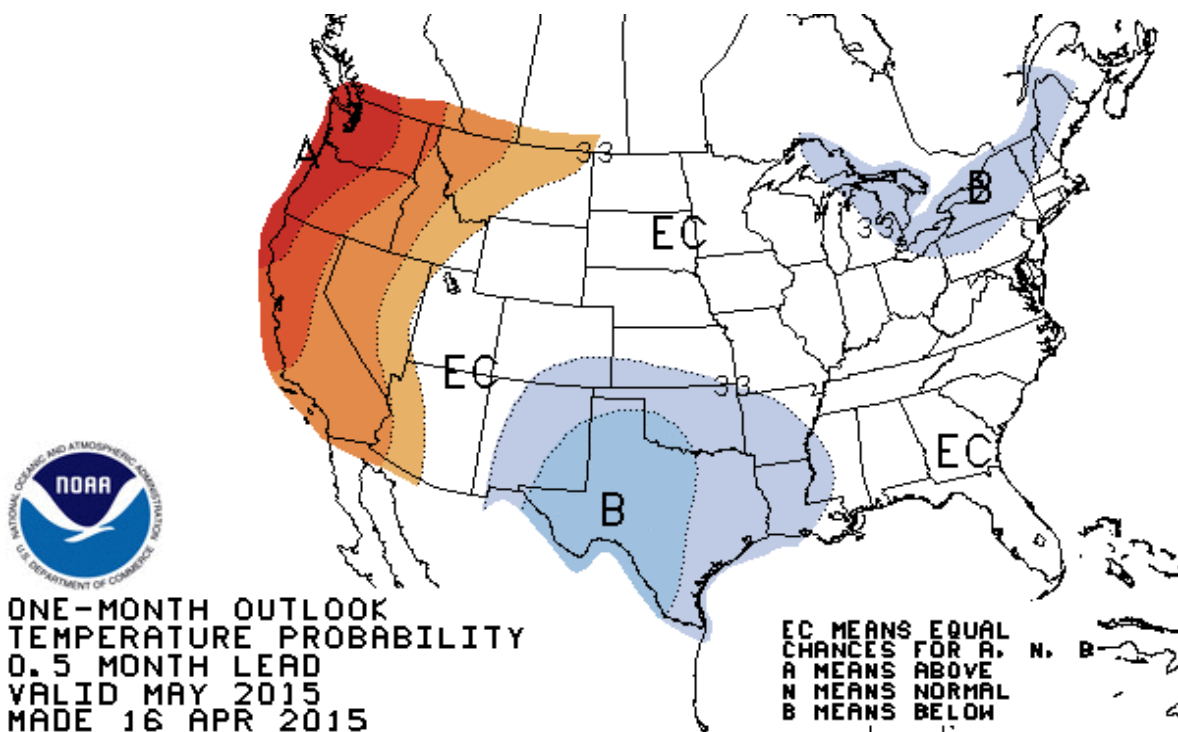


Drought Update

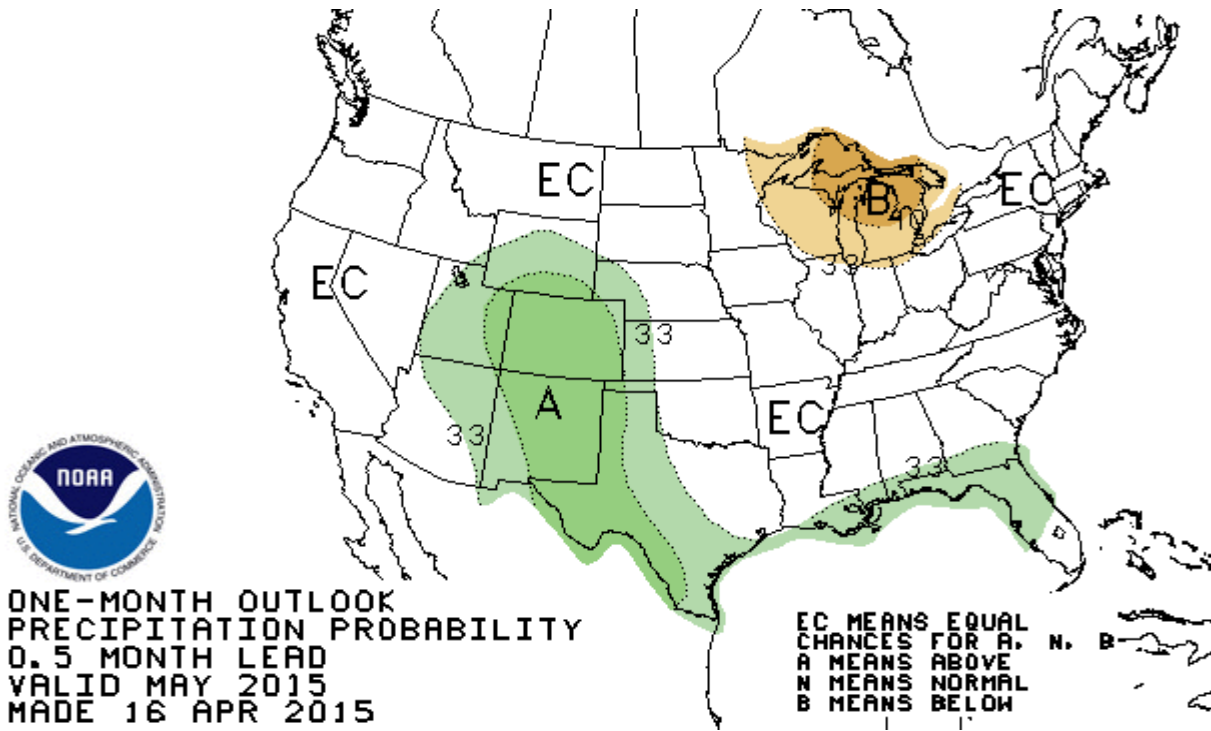
Drought severity has eased over portions of AZ, NM and TX with exceptional drought over a large area of CA/NV persisting. Drought free conditions over NE Colorado with drought persisting over the W portions of the state as well as over SE Colorado.



The map below shows forecasted temperature deviances for May 2015. There are equal chances for above and below normal temperatures over much of Colorado with a slight bias towards below normal temperatures over SE portions of the state.



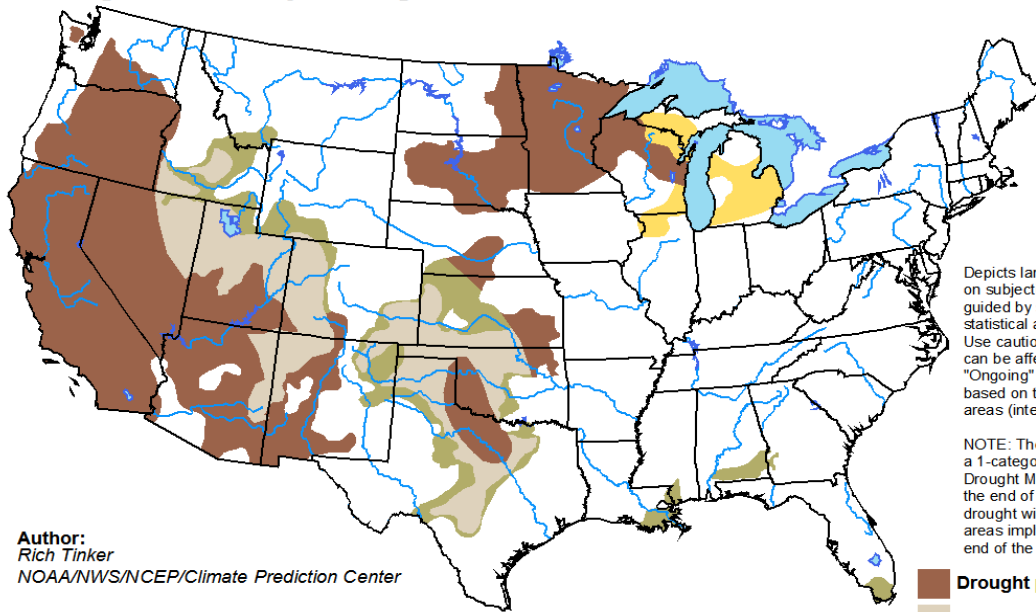
The map below shows forecasted precipitation deviances for May 2015. There is a significant bias towards above normal to well above normal precipitation over the entire state of Colorado.



Drought conditions are forecast to improve over SE and W Colorado. Drought looks to persist or intensify over the West Coast inland through the Great Basin.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for April 16 - July 31, 2015
Released April 16, 2015

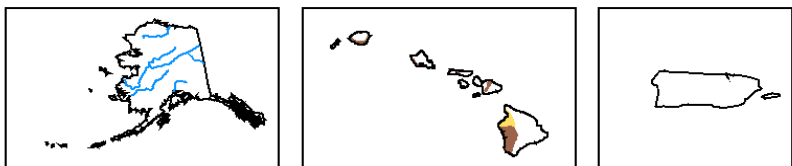


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists/intensifies
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely

Author:
Rich Tinker
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center



<http://go.usa.gov/hH7e>

April Summary

April of 2015 was slightly above normal in temperature and well above normal in precipitation but below normal in snowfall for DIA. The average highs for the month were 62.1 degrees which was 0.6 degrees above the normal. The average lows were 35.3 degrees which was 3 degrees above normal. The highs and lows combined for a monthly mean temperature of 48.7 degrees which was 1.3 degrees above normal. There were not any temperature records tied or broken during the month of April. The warmest temperature during the month occurred on the 30th at 79 degrees and the coldest was 27 on the 3rd. Precipitation came in at 2.65" which was 0.94" above the normal of 1.71". Yearly precipitation through the end of April stands at 5.07" which is 1.66" above the normal of 3.41". Snowfall came in low for DIA and many other low elevation locations below 5,500-6,000' but above 6,000' in the foothills and over the Palmer Divide snow totals were impressive. April snow came in at 5.3" which is 1.5" below the normal of 6.8". Snowfall for the season now stands at 54.7" which is still 2" above normal for the year at the end of April. There were 9 days with measureable precipitation during the month with average humidity of 58%.

April Stats

TEMPERATURE (IN DEGREES F)

AVERAGE MAX	62.1	NORMAL 61.5	DEPARTURE 0.6
AVERAGE MIN	35.3	NORMAL 33.3	DEPARTURE 2.0
MONTHLY MEAN	48.7	NORMAL 47.4	DEPARTURE 1.3
HIGHEST	79 on 4/30		
LOWEST	27 on 4/3		

DAYS WITH MAX 90 OR ABOVE	0	NORMAL	0
DAYS WITH MAX 32 OR BELOW	0	NORMAL	0
DAYS WITH MIN 32 OR BELOW	7	NORMAL	13
DAYS WITH MIN ZERO OR BELOW	0	NORMAL	0

TEMPERATURE RECORDS

No temperature records tied or broken

HEATING DEGREE DAYS

MONTHLY TOTAL	481	NORMAL 529	DEPARTURE -48
SEASONAL TOTAL	5205	NORMAL 5731	DEPARTURE -526

COOLING DEGREE DAYS

MONTHLY TOTAL	0	NORMAL 1	DEPARTURE -1
YEARLY TOTAL	0	NORMAL 1	DEPARTURE -1

PRECIPITATION (IN INCHES)

MONTHLY TOTAL	2.65	NORMAL	1.71	DEPARTURE	0.94
YEARLY TOTAL	5.07	NORMAL	3.41	DEPARTURE	1.66
GREATEST IN 24 HOURS	1.41" on 4/16-4/17				
DAYS WITH MEASURABLE PRECIP.					9

SNOWFALL (IN INCHES)

MONTHLY TOTAL	5.3	NORMAL	6.8	DEPARTURE	-1.5
SEASONAL TOTAL	54.7	NORMAL	52.7	DEPARTURE	2.0
GREATEST IN 24 HOURS	4.1" on the 16 th				
GREATEST DEPTH	NA				

WIND (IN MILES PER HOUR)

AVERAGE SPEED	10.7mph
PEAK WIND GUST	52mph from the W

MISCELLANEOUS WEATHER

NUMBER OF DAYS WITH THUNDERSTORM	6	NORMAL	2
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH HEAVY FOG	5	NORMAL	1
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH HAIL	1		
NUMBER OF SUNNY DAYS	7		
NUMBER OF PARTLY CLOUDY DAYS	16		
NUMBER OF CLOUDY DAYS	7		
AVERAGE RELATIVE HUMIDITY	58%		

May Preview

May is typically a wet month with precipitation on average 1 out of every 3 days. The season's final snow for the plains is typically late April or within the first two weeks of May and we sure got a nice dump of snow this year! The average snowfall for Denver in May is 1.1" and DIA reported 4" from the last storm with a season total of 57.8" both of which are above normal. Many other Denver Metro area locations experienced higher snowfall totals for the season with 60-70" or more being common. Precipitation in May averages 2.12" and as of the 14th DIA has reported 2.39" of moisture so it is safe to say that May of 2015 will be well above normal in precipitation as the weather pattern is expected to remain active over the next couple of weeks. Average high temperatures for may are 71.5 degrees and there are typically a number of days with readings of 80 or more and usually a day or two where we can reach or exceed 90 degrees. The all time record high for May is 95 degrees. Average low temperatures for the month are 42.7 degrees with 2 days on average where the temperature reaches or exceeds the freezing mark. Three days so far this month the temperature has fallen below freezing with a low of 27 on both the 9th and 10th and on the 11th the low was 30. The record low temperature for May is 19 degrees. Usually by the second week of May the threat for a freeze/frost has passed and it is safe to plant the garden. For May of 2015 well above normal precipitation will occur and slightly below normal temperatures are expected.

DENVER'S MAY CLIMATOLOGICALLY NORMAL (NORMAL PERIOD 1981-2010 DIA Data)

TEMPERATURE

AVERAGE HIGH	71.5
AVERAGE LOW	42.7
MONTHLY MEAN	57.1
DAYS WITH HIGH 90 OR ABOVE	1
DAYS WITH HIGH 32 OR BELOW	0
DAYS WITH LOW 32 OR BELOW	2
DAYS WITH LOWS ZERO OR BELOW	0

PRECIPITATION

MONTHLY MEAN	2.12"
DAYS WITH MEASURABLE PRECIPITATION	9
AVERAGE SNOWFALL IN INCHES	1.1"
DAYS WITH 1.0 INCH OF SNOW OR MORE	<1

MISCELLANEOUS AVERAGES

HEATING DEGREE DAYS	265
COOLING DEGREE DAYS	21
WIND SPEED (MPH)	9.3 mph
WIND DIRECTION	South
DAYS WITH THUNDERSTORMS	6
DAYS WITH DENSE FOG	1
PERCENT OF SUNSHINE POSSIBLE	64%

EXTREMES

RECORD HIGH	95 on 5/26/1942
RECORD LOW	19 on 5/3/1907
WARMEST	64.6 in 1934
COLDEST	48.7 in 1917
WETTEST	8.57" in 1876
DRIEST	0.06" In 1974
SNOWIEST	15.5" in 1898
LEAST SNOWIEST	0.0" in numerous years

Snowfall

September 2014 to May 2015

City	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Aurora (Central)	0.0	0.0	5.5	8.4	15.4	22.6	5.5	5.3	8.5	71.2
Brighton	0.0	0.0	2.7	8.2	3.5	17.2	3.0	2.3	3.5	40.4
Broomfield	0.2	0.0	5.6	11.8	11.6	29.9	2.5	6.3	5.9	73.8
Castle Rock	0.1	0.2	7.0	12.4	17.0	28.3	5.3	13.1	7.5	90.8
Colo Sprgs Airp	0.0	0.0	6.8	4.2	14.4	16.6	3.7	1.7	TR	47.4
Denver DIA	TR	0.0	4.0	12.0	8.1	21.5	2.9	5.3	4.0	57.8
Denver Downtow	0.0	0.0	5.0	9.7	15.8	27.0	4.2	5.2	4.0	70.9
Golden	0.1	0.0	9.5	13.5	11.1	33.4	3.0	6.8	4.3	81.7
Fort Collins	0.0	0.0	4.9	10.2	2.2	16.9	1.8	3.1	1.2	40.3
Highlands Ranch	0.1	0.0	7.8	15.6	18.4	33.6	4.3	10.1	6.5	96.4
Lakewood	0.0	0.0	5.3	10.7	12.2	25.0	3.0	5.2	3.5	64.9
Littleton	TR	0.0	6.3	13.2	10.2	31.4	5.6	5.0	3.8	75.5
Parker	TR	TR	6.5	12.4	17.0	22.5	3.7	9.0	7.0	78.1
Sedalia - Hwy 67	0.1	0.0	6.7	17.5	17.5	30.6	4.8	12.5	6.5	96.2
Thornton	0.0	0.0	4.1	9.4	8.9	26.5	4.2	5.8	5.3	64.2
Westminster	TR	0.0	6.3	12.8	13.4	31.0	3.6	5.5	7.0	79.6
Wheat Ridge	0.0	0.0	6.4	12.0	11.8	29.6	3.4	6.2	5.0	74.4

Note(Italics): The 0.3" (1/31) and 0.9" (2/1) from the storm on January 31st into the pre dawn hours on February 1st are combined for snow totals for DIA on our snow reports and will result in a surplus for January snow and a deficit for February snow if you are logging totals from our individual storm reports.

Skyview Weather®
2350 N Rocky View Rd
Castle Rock, CO 80108

Phone: (303) 688-9175
Fax: (303) 380-3338

E-mail: Tim@SkyviewWeather.com
On the web at www.SkyviewWeather.com

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