

The Weather Wire

June 2015

Volume 22 Number 6

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Record May Rainfall for Colorado Springs and other areas!

May of 2015 was not only the wettest May on record in Colorado Springs but the wettest month in Colorado Springs history! 8.13" of rainfall was observed at the airport breaking the old record of 8.10" set back in 1935. Many areas of the City reported even more rain than the official total at the airport making for a historic month. Multiple areas in and around Colorado Springs reported more than 10" for the month! There was only 1 day during the month of May with no precipitation reported, 7 days reported a trace of rain and the remaining 23 days all had measureable rainfall with 12 days reporting over 0.20" and 2 days with over 1" reported. The record rain was not caused by just one "big" storm but day after day of rain. The highest daily total for rainfall was 1.66" on the 19th. Below are some additional Colorado Springs area rainfall totals for May 2015:

Colorado Springs W: 10.20"

Colorado Springs WNW: 12.46"

Colorado Springs ENE: 10.11"

Colorado Springs NE: 11.04"

Colorado Springs NNE: 11.53"

Colorado Springs SSW: 10.68"

Colorado Springs 3 NE: 10.26"

Colorado Springs 4 NNE: 11.74"

Colorado Springs NW: 10.53"

Below is the NWS monthly climate summary for Colorado Springs breaking the precipitation day by day.

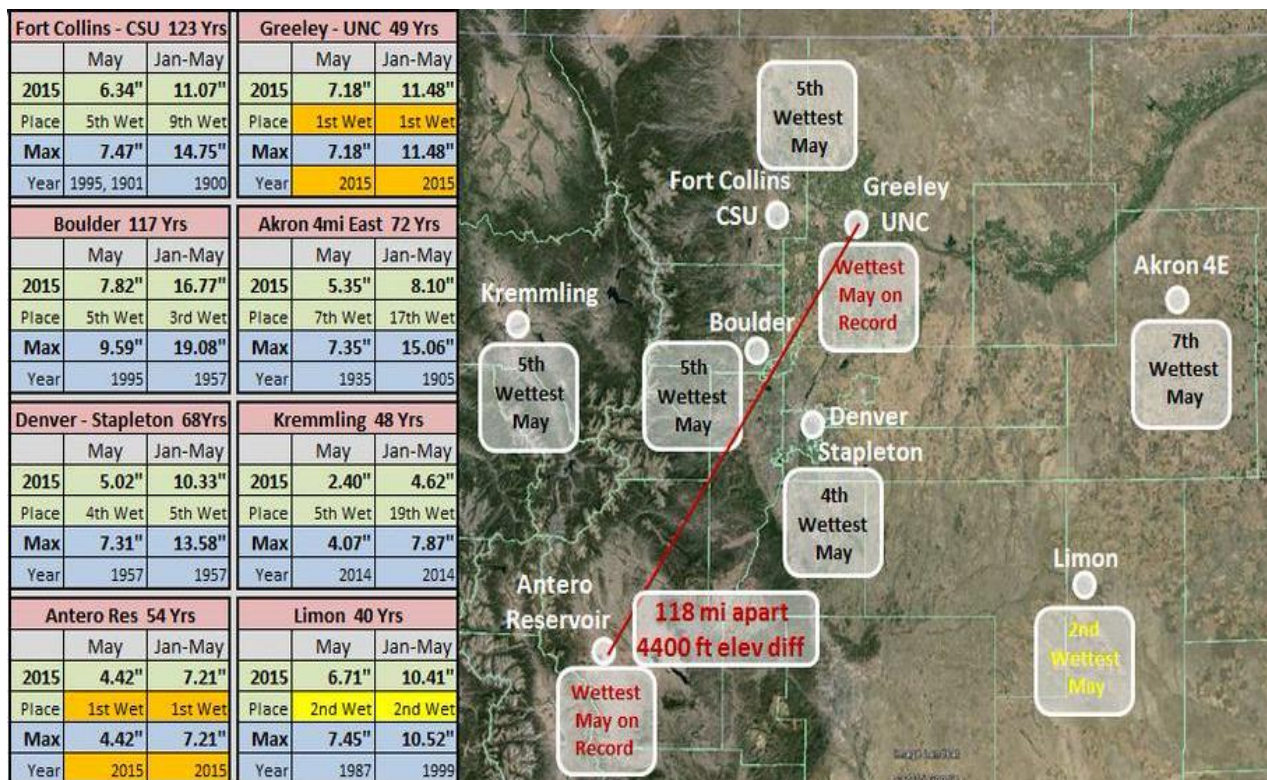
PRELIMINARY LOCAL CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA (WS FORM: F-6)

STATION: COLORADO SPRINGS CO
 MONTH: MAY
 YEAR: 2015
 LATITUDE: 38 49 N
 LONGITUDE: 104 43 W

TEMPERATURE IN F:		:PCPN:		SNOW:		WIND		:SUNSHINE:		SKY		:PK WND						
1	2	3	4	5	6A	6B	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
										12Z		AVG MX		2MIN				
DY	MAX	MIN	AVG	DEP	HDD	CDD	WTR	SNW	DPTH	SPD	SPD	DIR	MIN	PSBL	S-S	WX	SPD	DR
1	65	48	57	6	8	0	0.02	0.0	0	8.6	21	100	M	M	7	3	25	340
2	76	42	59	7	6	0	0.03	T	0	8.6	24	220	M	M	7	35	33	220
3	75	45	60	8	5	0	T	0.0	0	11.1	29	10	M	M	7		35	10
4	64	47	56	4	9	0	1.26	0.0	0	10.1	25	30	M	M	9	13	29	30
5	50	47	49	-4	16	0	0.59	0.0	0	9.2	23	110	M	M	10	1	30	100
6	64	46	55	2	10	0	0.09	0.0	0	6.3	18	50	M	M	9	123	21	50
7	63	42	53	0	12	0	0.36	T	0	8.1	25	150	M	M	7	135	31	160
8	53	43	48	-6	17	0	0.77	T	0	12.8	26	230	M	M	10	1235	32	220
9	62	31	47	-7	18	0	0.63	T	0	18.7	38	340	M	M	9	1235	48	350
10	49	29	39	-15	26	0	0.18	T	0	13.0	30	340	M	M	8	12	38	330
11	52	32	42	-12	23	0	T	T	0	8.1	17	150	M	M	8	12	20	150
12	69	37	53	-2	12	0	0.01	0.0	0	9.3	21	160	M	M	6	3	25	150
13	59	44	52	-3	13	0	0.11	0.0	0	8.0	17	150	M	M	8	13	20	150
14	70	39	55	0	10	0	0.00	0.0	0	7.9	20	150	M	M	6	3	24	160
15	70	43	57	1	8	0	T	0.0	0	11.9	32	230	M	M	7		39	220
16	63	44	54	-2	11	0	T	0.0	0	11.7	26	360	M	M	6	3	32	10
17	69	41	55	-1	10	0	0.02	0.0	0	9.6	21	50	M	M	6		26	70
18	53	43	48	-8	17	0	0.27	0.0	0	9.9	23	120	M	M	9	1	30	120
19	47	39	43	-14	22	0	1.66	0.0	0	13.2	23	130	M	M	10	1	28	130
20	48	30	39	-18	26	0	0.07	0.0	0	9.2	17	140	M	M	10	128	20	150
21	48	38	43	-14	22	0	0.46	0.0	0	10.8	18	160	M	M	10	12	22	150
22	67	43	55	-3	10	0	0.42	0.0	0	9.6	28	170	M	M	7	13	33	170
23	59	45	52	-6	13	0	0.39	T	0	7.2	30	270	M	M	7	135	35	270
24	59	42	51	-7	14	0	0.02	0.0	0	6.1	24	270	M	M	7	3	31	270
25	65	44	55	-3	10	0	0.04	0.0	0	7.8	21	160	M	M	7	3	25	160
26	67	41	54	-5	11	0	0.26	T	0	5.7	29	190	M	M	6	35	34	190
27	75	44	60	1	5	0	T	0.0	0	8.1	22	250	M	M	6	3	27	170
28	75	47	61	2	4	0	0.23	0.0	0	8.0	21	360	M	M	7	35	31	360
29	67	46	57	-3	8	0	0.24	T	0	8.4	21	10	M	M	7	35	25	20
30	66	46	56	-4	9	0	T	0.0	0	8.1	18	160	M	M	7		22	170
31	77	46	62	2	3	0	T	0.0	0	7.6	25	220	M	M	6	3	30	210
SM	1946	1294			388	0	8.13	T		292.7			M		236			
AV	62.8	41.7								9.4	FASTST		M	M	8	MAX(MPH)		48 350
								MISC	---->	38	340							

It was not just Colorado Springs that received record breaking rainfall for the month of May as the Greeley area also reported record May rainfall. Your community may not have received record breaking rains but many locations ended up in the top 5 wettest May's on record. Those of you that live along the South Platte River can attest to the significant rains as there have been numerous NWS flood warnings spanning multiple

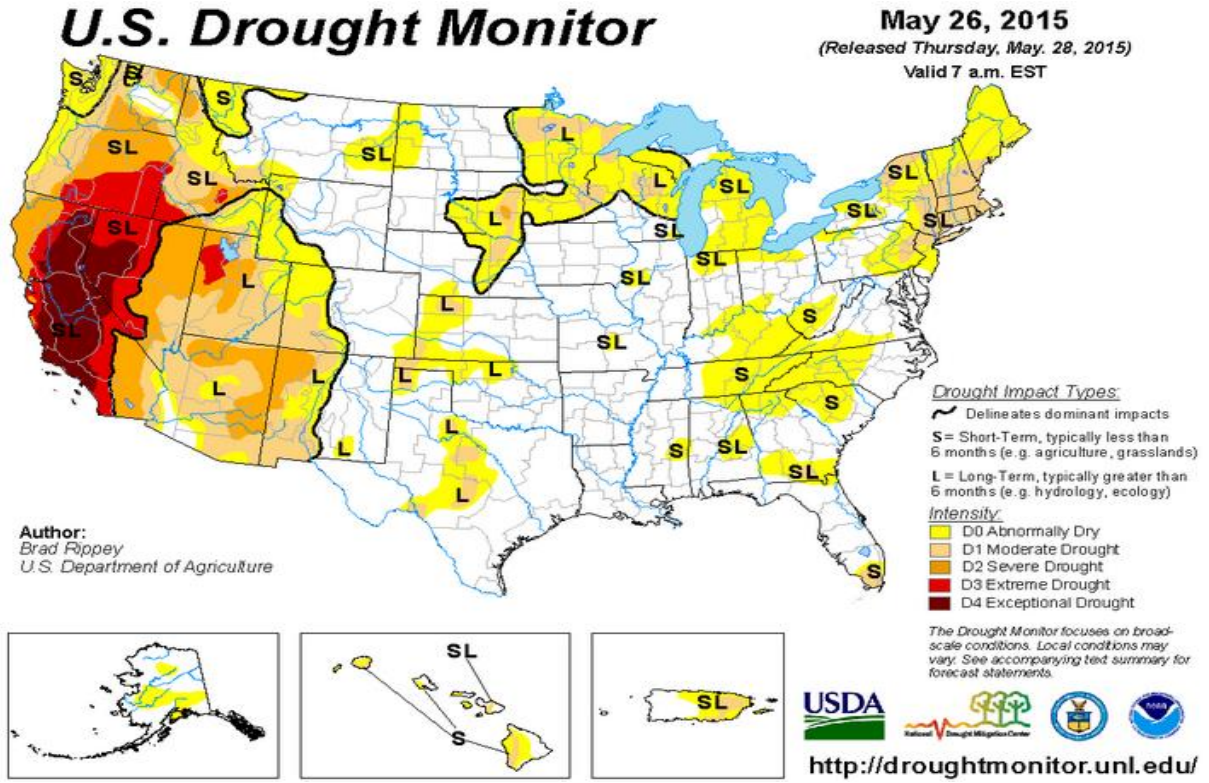
days during the month with creeks and streams running high from Fort Collins through Trinidad. The rainfall over SE Colorado has actually ended the prolonged drought in many areas. Below is an image from the NWS in Boulder that shows how much rain has fallen during the month of May:



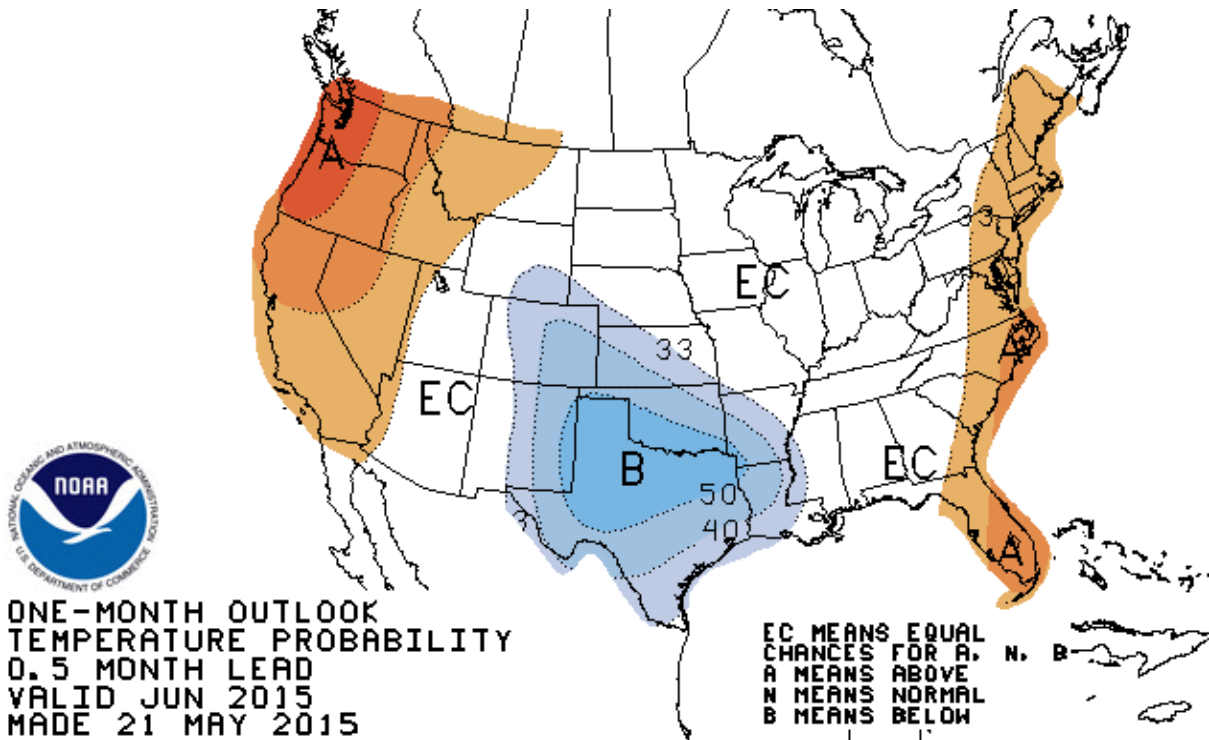
The moisture on the plains fell as snow over the higher peaks of the state, mainly above 10,000' which has resulted in a much higher than normal snow pack for this late in the season. As temperatures warm the snow will melt and add more water to already swollen rivers, creeks and streams over eastern Colorado. An active weather pattern is expected to continue through June with what could also be a wet "monsoon" season in July and August. The stage is set for flooding this year so be prepared and be careful around fast moving currents which can be deadly if not taken seriously.

Drought Update

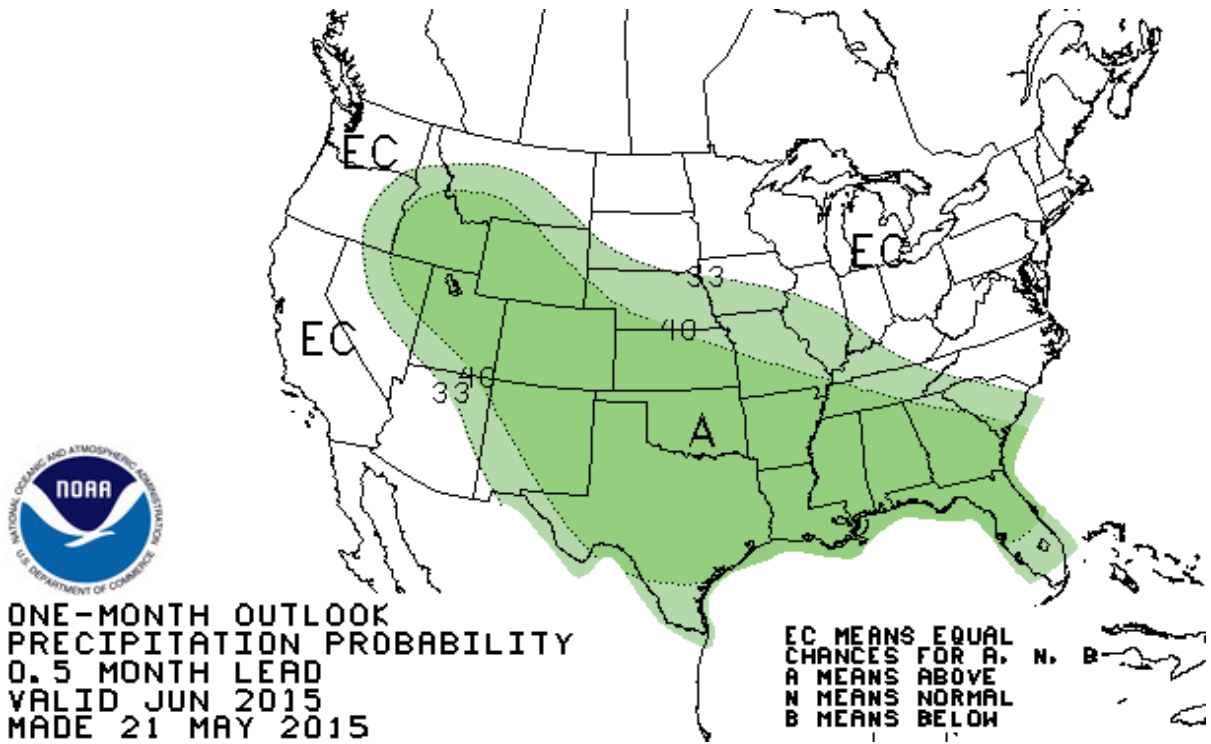
Drought has been removed from SE CO and much of TX due to the wet May with exceptional drought continuing over portions of CA, NV and OR.



The map below shows forecasted temperature deviances for June 2015. There is a strong bias towards below normal temperatures for the month of May over eastern Colorado.



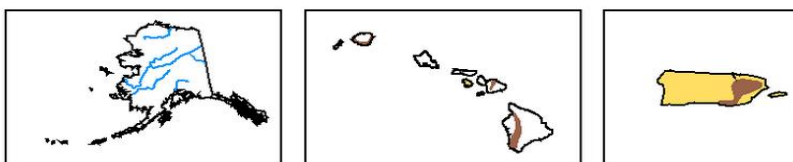
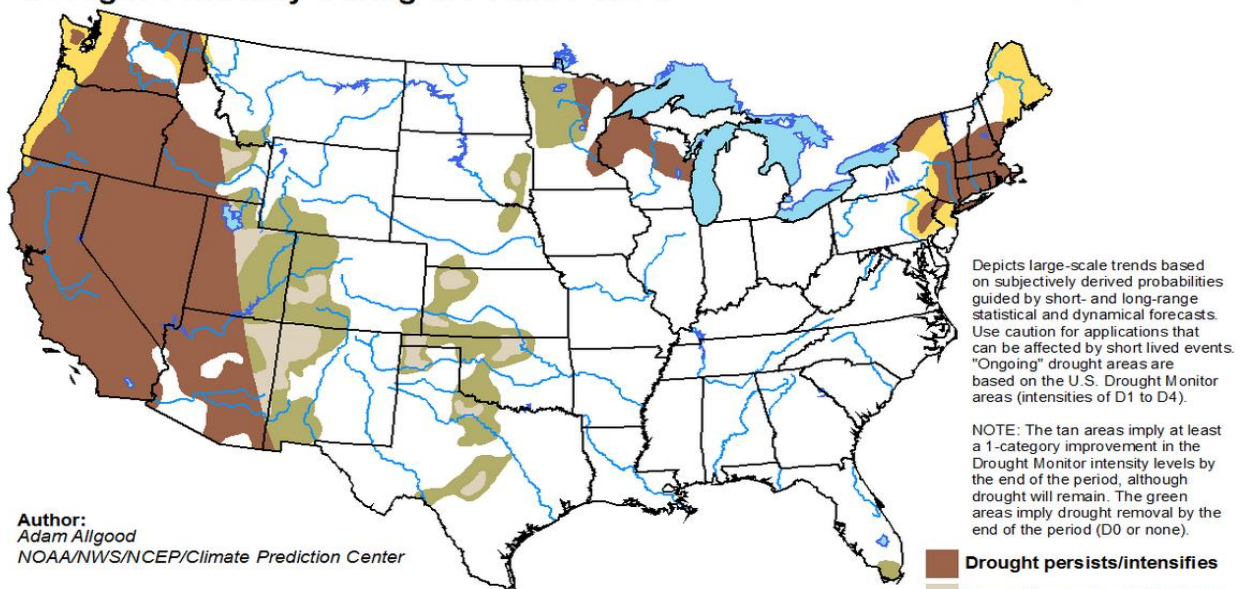
The map below shows forecasted precipitation deviances for June 2015. There is a significant bias towards above normal to well above normal precipitation over the entire state of Colorado.



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

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

Valid for May 21 - August 31, 2015
Released May 21, 2015



May Summary

May of 2015 was extremely wet with well below normal temperatures. Average highs for the month were 63.3 degrees which was 8.2 degrees below the normal of 71.5 degrees. Average lows were exactly "normal" at 42.7 degrees. The average highs and lows combined for a monthly mean temperature of 53.0 degrees. There was not a single 80 degree day until the last day of the month where the high reached 85 degrees at DIA. The coldest temperature for the month was 27 degrees reported on the 10th. Precipitation at DIA for May was 3.76" but many areas to the south and west of Denver reported anywhere from 5.0-7.5" of moisture. 8.83" of moisture has been measured so far this year which results in 3.30" above the normal year to date. Some of the moisture fell as snow with 4.0" of snow reported at DIA which was 2.9" above the normal of 1.1". There was a great deal of cloud cover even for may standards with no sunny days reported. Average humidity for the month was an incredibly high 70% which indicated that a moist air mass was over the state for an extended period of time. More about the rainfall in May can be found in the newsletter article.

May Stats

TEMPERATURE (IN DEGREES F)

AVERAGE MAX	63.3	NORMAL 71.5	DEPARTURE -8.2
AVERAGE MIN	42.7	NORMAL 42.7	DEPARTURE 0.0
MONTHLY MEAN	53.0	NORMAL 57.1	DEPARTURE -4.1
HIGHEST	85	on 5/31	
LOWEST	27	on 5/10	

DAYS WITH MAX 90 OR ABOVE	0	NORMAL	1
DAYS WITH MAX 32 OR BELOW	0	NORMAL	0
DAYS WITH MIN 32 OR BELOW	3	NORMAL	2
DAYS WITH MIN ZERO OR BELOW	0	NORMAL	0

TEMPERATURE RECORDS

No temperature records tied or broken

HEATING DEGREE DAYS

MONTHLY TOTAL	367	NORMAL 265	DEPARTURE 102
SEASONAL TOTAL	5572	NORMAL 5966	DEPARTURE -424

COOLING DEGREE DAYS

MONTHLY TOTAL	4	NORMAL 21	DEPARTURE -17
YEARLY TOTAL	4	NORMAL 22	DEPARTURE -18

PRECIPITATION (IN INCHES)

MONTHLY TOTAL	3.76	NORMAL	2.12	DEPARTURE	1.64
YEARLY TOTAL	8.83	NORMAL	5.53	DEPARTURE	3.30
GREATEST IN 24 HOURS	1.18" On 5/8 to 5/9				
DAYS WITH MEASURABLE PRECIP.	19				

SNOWFALL (IN INCHES)

MONTHLY TOTAL	4.0	NORMAL	1.1	DEPARTURE	2.9
SEASONAL TOTAL	58.7	NORMAL	53.8	DEPARTURE	4.9
GREATEST IN 24 HOURS	4.0" on 5/9 to 5/10				
GREATEST DEPTH	NA				

WIND (IN MILES PER HOUR)

AVERAGE SPEED	9.3mph
PEAK WIND GUST	54mph from the W

MISCELLANEOUS WEATHER

NUMBER OF DAYS WITH THUNDERSTORM	16	NORMAL	6
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH HEAVY FOG	7	NORMAL	1
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH HAIL	0		
NUMBER OF SUNNY DAYS	0		
NUMBER OF PARTLY CLOUDY DAYS	15		
NUMBER OF CLOUDY DAYS	16		
AVERAGE RELATIVE HUMIDITY	70%		

June Preview

June is typically the month when we experience the most severe weather in the state of Colorado with large hail being common from stronger storms. There is also a higher risk of tornadoes in June than any other month of the year. Best chances for strong tornado activity are well east of I-25 but there can be tornadoes along and west of the I-25 corridor as well but these tornadoes are typically weak and short lived. Although measureable snow can happen in Denver in June it has only occurred 3 times with the most recent being in 1953 where 0.5" was tallied. June is more known for warming temperatures as daytime highs average in the lower 80s with overnight lows averaging in the lower 50s. Your garden can really begin to take off in June as the soil temperatures warm but one has to avoid the hail storms as many a garden has been destroyed by large hail in June. Precipitation in June is typically a little lower than May with 1.98" on average and 8 days with measureable rain. June of 2015 is expected to produce well above normal precipitation and below normal temperatures.

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

TEMPERATURE

AVERAGE HIGH	82.4
AVERAGE LOW	52.3
MONTHLY MEAN	67.4
DAYS WITH HIGH 90 OR ABOVE	8
DAYS WITH HIGH 32 OR BELOW	0
DAYS WITH LOW 32 OR BELOW	0
DAYS WITH LOWS ZERO OR BELOW	0

PRECIPITATION

MONTHLY MEAN	1.98"
DAYS WITH MEASURABLE PRECIPITATION	8
AVERAGE SNOWFALL IN INCHES	0.0"
DAYS WITH 1.0 INCH OF SNOW OR MORE	0

MISCELLANEOUS AVERAGES

HEATING DEGREE DAYS	133
COOLING DEGREE DAYS	62
WIND SPEED (MPH)	8.9mph
WIND DIRECTION	South
DAYS WITH THUNDERSTORMS	10
DAYS WITH DENSE FOG	<1
PERCENT OF SUNSHINE POSSIBLE	70%

EXTREMES

RECORD HIGH	104 on 6/26/1994
RECORD LOW	30 on 6/2/1951
WARMEST	73.5 in 1994
COLDEST	60.6 in 1967

WETTEST
DRIEST
SNOWIEST
LEAST SNOWIEST

4.96" in 1882
TR in 1890
0.5" in 1953
0.0" in numerous years

Rainfall

May 2015 to October 2015

City	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total
Aurora (Central)	6.85						6.85
Brighton	5.20						5.20
Broomfield	6.54						6.54
Castle Rock	4.72						4.72
Colo Sprgs Airport	8.13						8.13
Denver DIA	3.76						3.76
Denver Downtown	5.87						5.87
Golden	6.93						6.93
Fort Collins	6.09						6.09
Highlands Ranch	5.31						5.31
Lakewood	5.59						5.59
Littleton	6.18						6.18
Parker	4.17						4.17
Sedalia - Hwy 67	5.51						5.51
Thornton	4.96						4.96
Westminster	6.34						6.34
Wheat Ridge	5.89						5.89

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