

The Weather Wire

October 2015

Volume 22 Number 10

Contents:

- **Local Frost/Freeze Information**
- **Drought Monitor**
- **September Summary/Statistics**
- **October Preview**
- **Rainfall Totals**

Local Frost Freeze Information

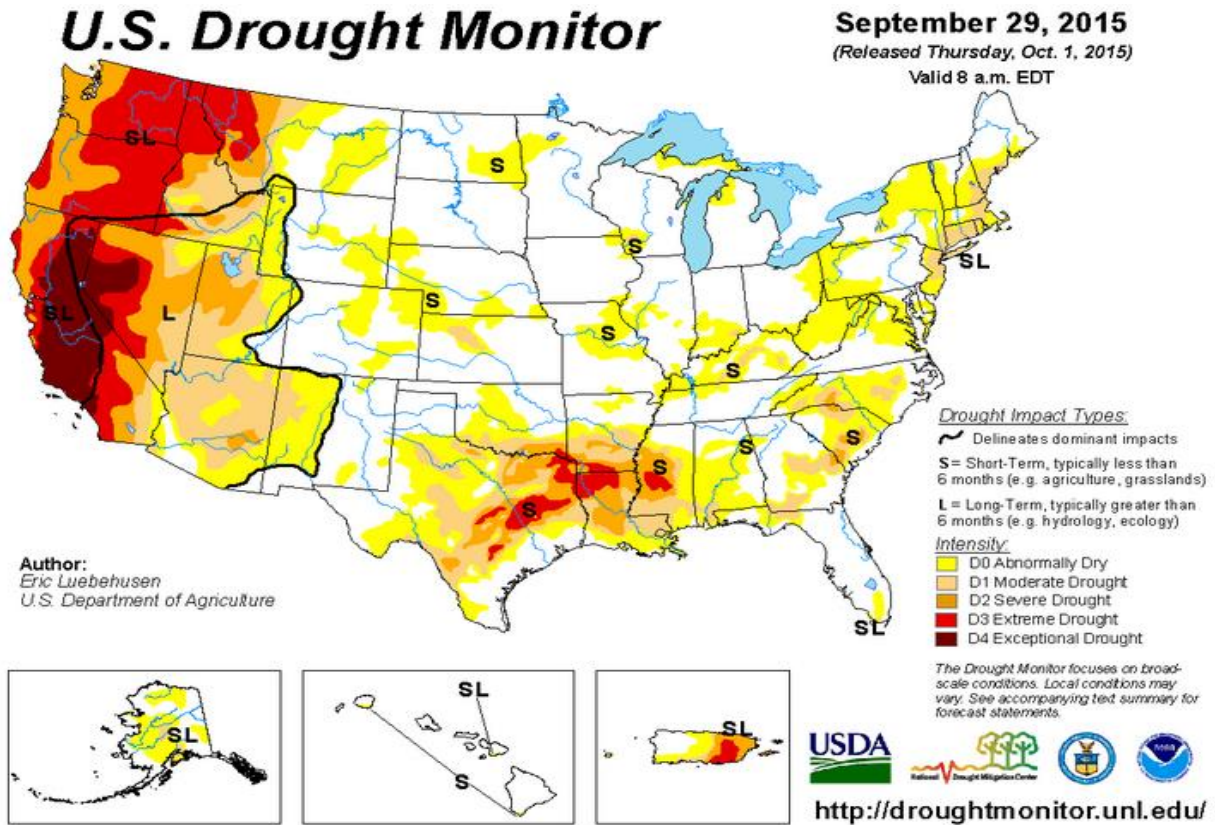
Many times the first freezing temperature recorded in the fall can occur during the month of September. Not this year as we have just experienced the warmest September in Denver history! There is no doubt that the first freeze will be later than “normal” but how late is late? Let’s take a look at the “average” as well as earliest and latest Fall freeze data for selected Front Range communities:

City	Earliest	Average	Latest
Boulder	9-Sep	6-Oct	2-Nov
Castle Rock	3-Sep	23-Sep	19-Oct
Colorado Springs	1-Sep	1-Oct	31-Oct
Denver/Stapleton	8-Sep	6-Oct	30-Oct
Evergreen	1-Aug	12-Sep	7-Oct
Fort Collins	25-Aug	29-Sep	23-Oct
Loveland	13-Sep	29-Sep	19-Oct
Pueblo	9-Sep	8-Oct	1-Nov

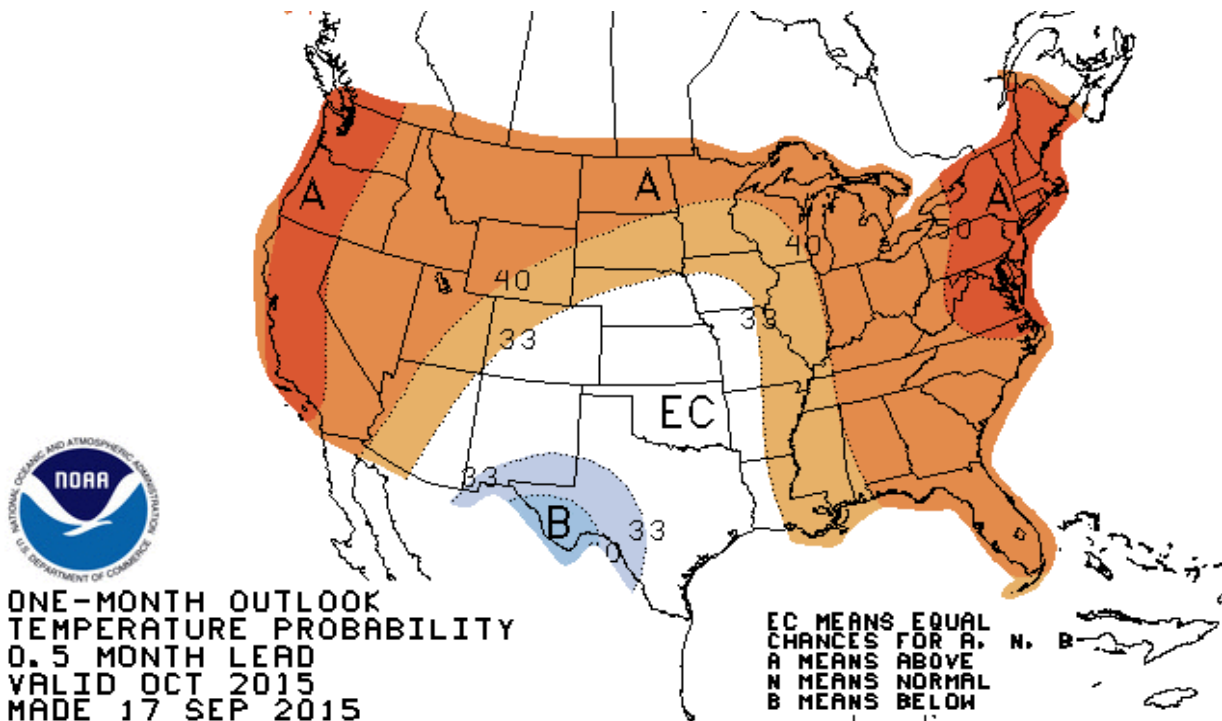
Since we are now a week into the month of October we can see that our first freeze this year will be much later than normal and may even be one of the latest freezes on record for some locations! The weather pattern is forecast to be unseasonably warm and dry through the weekend of Oct 17-18th and possibly beyond. With the nice weather you may forget to take the necessary precautions for freezing temperatures to set in later this month. Now is the time to be blowing out the sprinkler systems, covering outdoor pipes, sealing windows, door jams and whatever else you can to help reduce heating costs this winter and avoid repairs. Even with a warm start to the snow season we can catch up on lost snow in a hurry here in Colorado, don’t let the first freeze and snow of the year catch you unprepared!

Drought Update

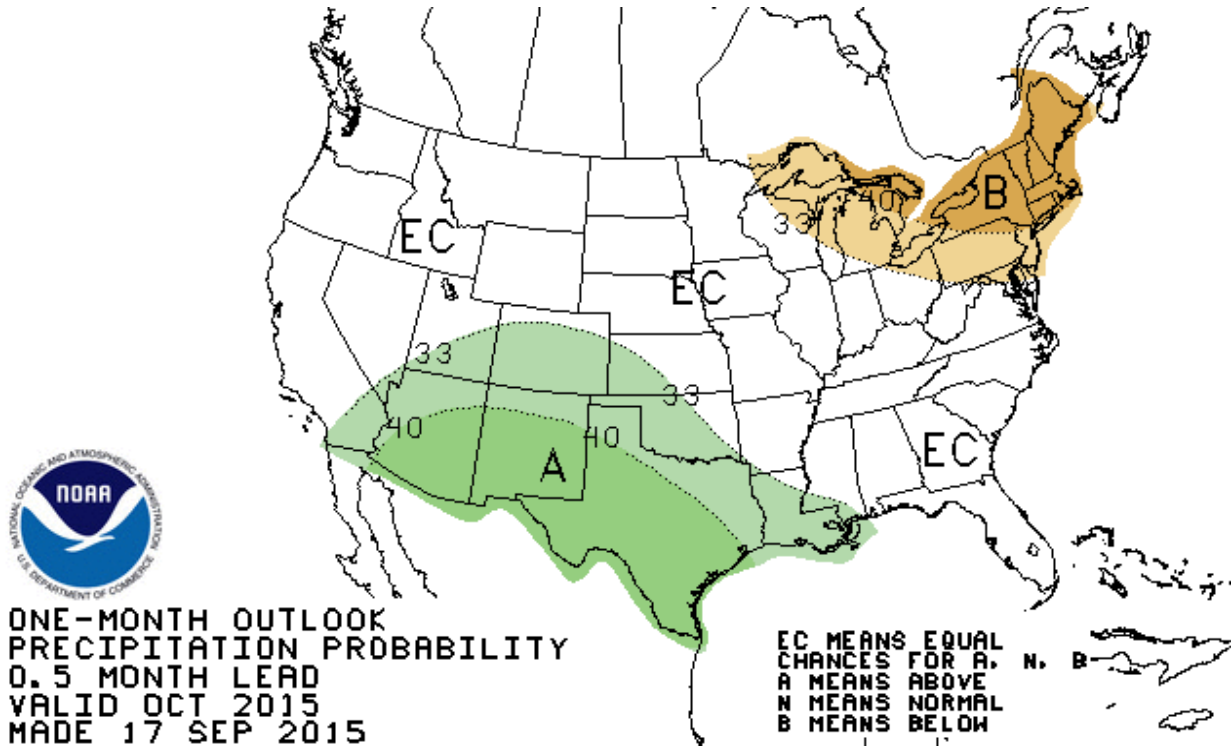
The state of Colorado remains drought free but there are abnormally dry areas starting to develop over parts of the state due to the lack of moisture in August and September.



The map below shows forecasted temperature deviances for October 2015. Most of eastern Colorado has equal chances for slightly above or below normal temperatures.

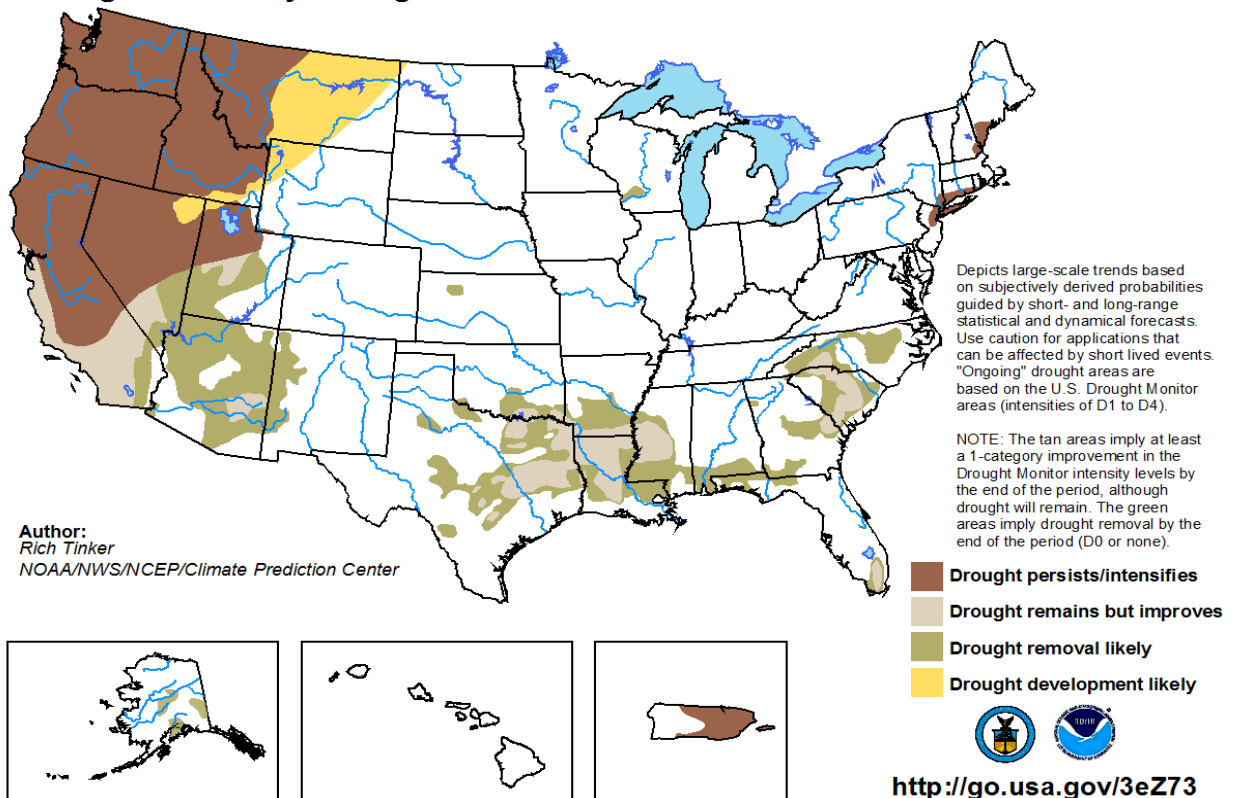


The map below shows forecasted precipitation deviances for October 2015. There is a slight bias towards above normal precipitation favoring southern Colorado.



No drought is forecast for Colorado in the near term. Drought looks to persist or intensify over the parts of the West Coast and Pacific NW with some improvement or removal of drought for parts of southern UT, far southern CA and AZ.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook valid for September 17 - December 31, 2015
 Drought Tendency During the Valid Period
 Released September 17, 2015



September Summary

September of 2015 was by far the warmest September in Denver History and the 7th driest. High temperatures for the month averaged 85.5 degrees which was 6.7 degrees above the normal of 78.5 degrees. There were 7 days during the month with temperatures above 90 but none of those days produced any temperature records. The lone high temperature record for the month was 89 degrees set on the 21st breaking a long standing record set all the way back in 1885. Average low temperatures for the month were 5.2 degrees above normal at 53.5 degrees. The average highs and lows combined for a monthly mean temperature of 69.4 degrees which was 6 degrees above the normal and 1.1 degrees above the old record of 68.3 degrees set back in 1948. Not only was there record warmth in September but there was near record low precipitation as well with only 0.11" reported at DIA. This ranked as the 7th driest September on record. There were only 3 days with measureable precipitation and a max of only 0.07" on the 29th. Areas north and west of Denver received more moisture than the Denver Metro area such as Boulder and Fort Collins. A dominating ridge of high pressure was responsible for the warm and dry conditions that persisted through the month. With the warm and dry weather there was not even the slightest chance for snow and even the high country above tree line received little or no new snow for the month. Average September snowfall is 1.3" so we will be starting out the snow season below average but there is plenty of time to make up for such a small deficit in the coming months.

September Stats

TEMPERATURE (IN DEGREES F)

AVERAGE MAX	85.2	NORMAL 78.5	DEPARTURE 6.7
AVERAGE MIN	53.5	NORMAL 48.3	DEPARTURE 5.2
MONTHLY MEAN	69.4	NORMAL 63.4	DEPARTURE 6.0
HIGHEST	92	on 9/2	
LOWEST	44	on 9/19	

DAYS WITH MAX 90 OR ABOVE	7	NORMAL	3
DAYS WITH MAX 32 OR BELOW	0	NORMAL	0
DAYS WITH MIN 32 OR BELOW	0	NORMAL	1
DAYS WITH MIN ZERO OR BELOW	0	NORMAL	0

TEMPERATURE RECORDS

New record high of 89 on the 21st

HEATING DEGREE DAYS

MONTHLY TOTAL	9	NORMAL 125	DEPARTURE -116
SEASONAL TOTAL	27	NORMAL 141	DEPARTURE -114

COOLING DEGREE DAYS

MONTHLY TOTAL	148	NORMAL 76	DEPARTURE 72
YEARLY TOTAL	861	NORMAL 764	DEPARTURE 97

PRECIPITATION (IN INCHES)

MONTHLY TOTAL	0.11	NORMAL 0.96	DEPARTURE -0.85
YEARLY TOTAL	13.71	NORMAL 12.41	DEPARTURE 1.30
GREATEST IN 24 HOURS	0.07" on the 29th		
DAYS WITH MEASURABLE PRECIP.	3		

SNOWFALL (IN INCHES)

MONTHLY TOTAL	0.0	NORMAL 1.3	DEPARTURE -1.3
SEASONAL TOTAL	0.0	NORMAL 1.3	DEPARTURE -1.3
GREATEST IN 24 HOURS	NA		
GREATEST DEPTH	NA		

WIND (IN MILES PER HOUR)

AVERAGE SPEED	9.0mph
PEAK WIND GUST	54mph from the West on 9/7

MISCELLANEOUS WEATHER

NUMBER OF DAYS WITH THUNDERSTORM	4	NORMAL	8
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH HEAVY FOG	0	NORMAL	1
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH HAIL	0		
NUMBER OF SUNNY DAYS	12		
NUMBER OF PARTLY CLOUDY DAYS	17		
NUMBER OF CLOUDY DAYS	1		
AVERAGE RELATIVE HUMIDITY	41%		

October Preview

The weather pattern in October typically features warm and sunny days with cool nights and progressively colder storm systems intruding from the north and northwest every 7-10 days or so. Although September officially kicks off the snow season it is typically in the first to third week of October when the first snow falls in the Denver Metro area. Below are the last first snow dates since 2004:

11/11/2014, 10/18/2013, 10/5/2012, 10/25/2011, 11/15/2010, 10/21/2009, 11/14/2008, 10/22/2007, 10/18/2006, 10/10/2005, 11/1/2004

Normal high temperatures start out the month at 72 degrees and finish at 59 degrees. Average low temperatures start out at 42 degrees and finish at 31 degrees. The record high for October is 90 degrees set all the way back in 1892, so it is almost certain that we have seen our last 90 degree day until May of next year. The record low for October is -2 degrees and was set back in 1917. The wettest and snowiest October on record occurred back in 1969 with 4.17" of moisture and 31.2" of snow. In recent history October of 1997 ranks 3rd at 22.1" and 2009 ranks 5th at 17.2". Average snowfall for the month of October is 4.0" with 1.02" of moisture. On average there are 5 storms during the month and a strong storm cannot be ruled out which can produce a month's worth of snow or more in less than 1 day. Skyview believes that temperatures will be at or above normal with near normal to precipitation and below normal snowfall.

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

TEMPERATURE

AVERAGE HIGH	65.3
AVERAGE LOW	36.6
MONTHLY MEAN	50.9
DAYS WITH HIGH 90 OR ABOVE	0
DAYS WITH HIGH 32 OR BELOW	0
DAYS WITH LOW 32 OR BELOW	9
DAYS WITH LOWS ZERO OR BELOW	0

PRECIPITATION

MONTHLY MEAN	1.02"
DAYS WITH MEASURABLE PRECIPITATION	5
AVERAGE SNOWFALL IN INCHES	4.0"
DAYS WITH 1.0 INCH OF SNOW OR MORE	NA

MISCELLANEOUS AVERAGES

HEATING DEGREE DAYS	440
COOLING DEGREE DAYS	5
WIND SPEED (MPH)	7.8mph
WIND DIRECTION	South
DAYS WITH THUNDERSTORMS	1
DAYS WITH DENSE FOG	1
PERCENT OF SUNSHINE POSSIBLE	72%

EXTREMES

RECORD HIGH	90 on 10/1/1892
RECORD LOW	-2 on 10/29/1917
WARMEST	59.9 in 1950
COLDEST	39.0 in 1969
WETTEST	4.17" in 1969
DRIEST	TR in 1934
SNOWIEST	31.2" in 1969
LEAST SNOWIEST	0.0" in numerous years

Rainfall

May 2015 to October 2015

City	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Total
Aurora (Central)	6.85	3.35	2.32	2.05	0.31	14.88
Brighton	5.20	1.14	1.06	0.63	0.20	8.23
Broomfield	6.54	3.39	2.09	0.51	0.18	12.71
Castle Rock	4.72	5.08	1.10	0.87	0.04	11.81
Colo Sprgs Airport	8.13	5.72	3.14	1.73	0.32	18.40
Denver DIA	3.76	2.53	1.06	1.18	0.11	8.64
Denver Downtown	5.87	4.92	1.54	0.24	0.24	12.81
Golden	6.93	2.60	2.28	0.59	0.12	12.52
Fort Collins	6.09	1.96	1.42	0.94	0.22	10.63
Highlands Ranch	5.31	3.46	2.17	2.76	0.71	14.41
Lakewood	5.59	4.33	1.06	0.47	0.71	12.16
Littleton	6.18	4.06	0.75	1.46	0.12	12.57
Parker	4.17	5.12	1.85	2.64	0.28	14.06
Sedalia - Hwy 67	5.51	3.58	2.24	0.79	0.03	12.15
Thornton	4.96	2.72	1.73	0.31	0.12	9.84
Westminster	6.34	4.09	1.89	0.35	0.20	12.87
Wheat Ridge	5.89	4.81	1.18	0.51	0.16	12.55

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

Copyright 2015 Skyview Weather®