



The Weather Wire

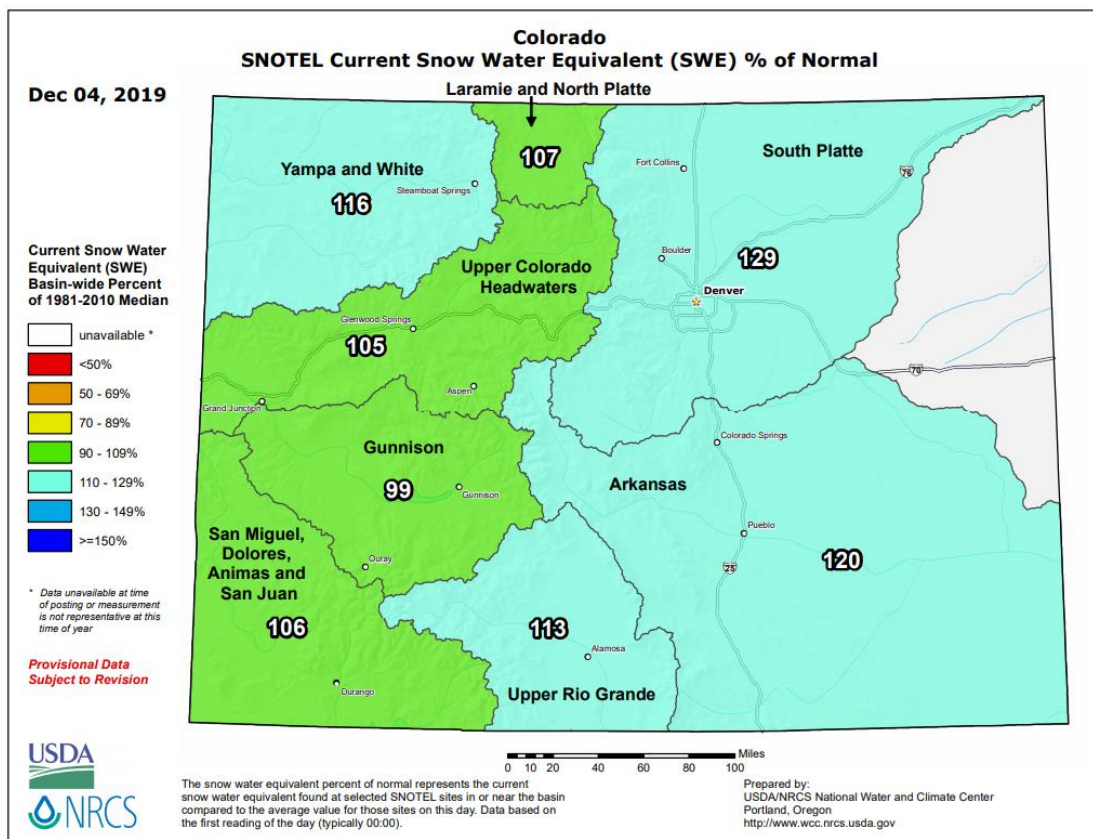
December 2019

Volume 26 Number 12

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Current Colorado (SWE) Snow Pack Map



Due to 2 significant storms to end the month of November snow pack in the form of snow water equivalent (SWE) over Colorado is now at or above normal statewide.

Snowfall through end of November ABOVE NORMAL!

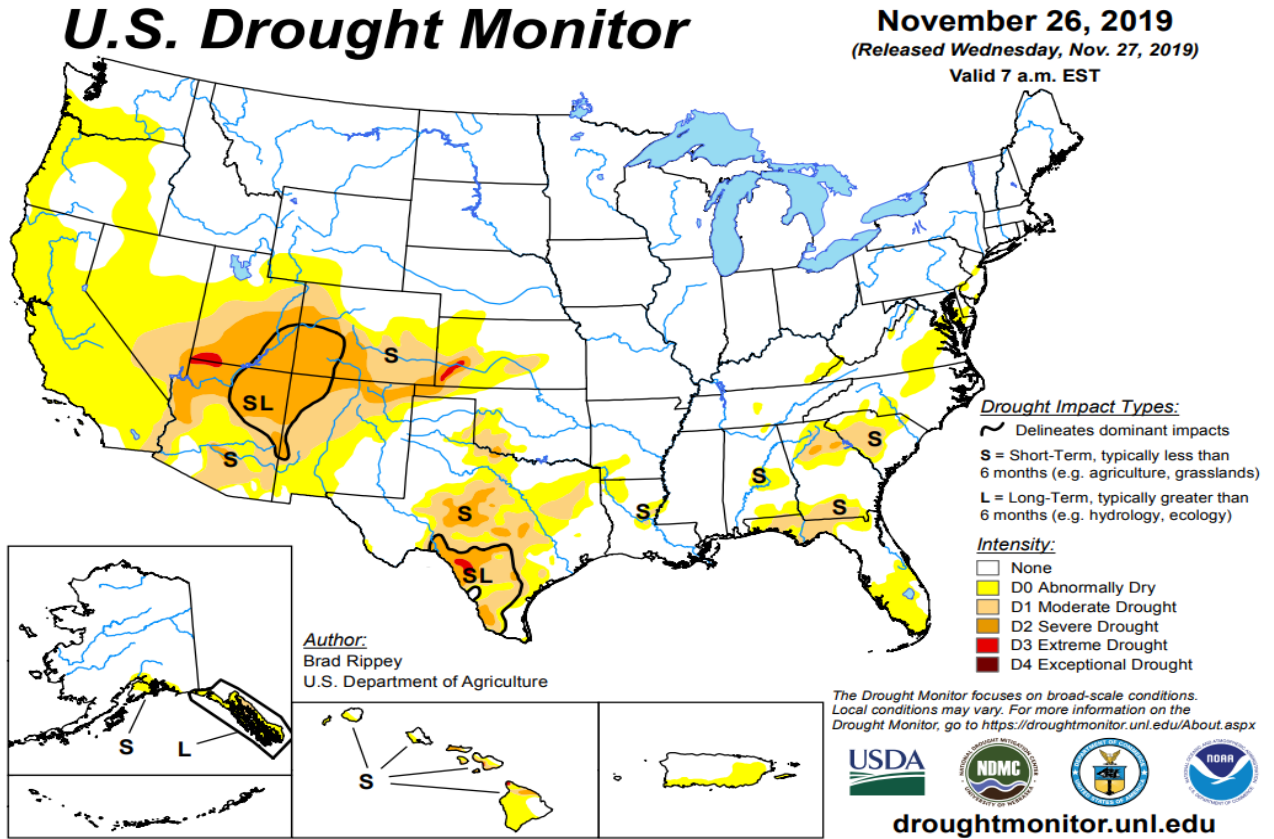
October and November came in with well above normal snowfall for many areas of Colorado. As of the start of December many areas are at or near 50% or more of total snowfall for an entire season! Areas adjacent to the foothills have done the best with some foothill locations near normal to slightly below normal for this time of year. Below are snow totals to date from the NWS and regional weather spotters. Some snow totals below may contain estimates or may have missing data. Reminder, these totals are not official for many areas that are not NWS reporting locations.

Location NE CO Snow	Oct Total	Nov Total	Total
Allenspark	30.4	29.8	60.2
Boulder 1.6 S	26.7	28.9	55.6
Castle Rock - 3 NE	22.4	16.9	39.3
Centennial 5.5 E	13.5	20.3	33.8
Denver - Capitol Hill	22.4	16.1	38.5
Denver - DIA	12.5	13.7	26.2
Denver - Downtown*	21.2	16.4	37.6
Fort Collins CSU	10.1	22.0	32.1
Lakewood Cntrl	19.2	19.4	38.6
Lone Tree - Park Meadows	18.8	17.7	36.5
Westminster	19.8	17.9	37.7
Wheat Ridge	20.8	22.8	43.6

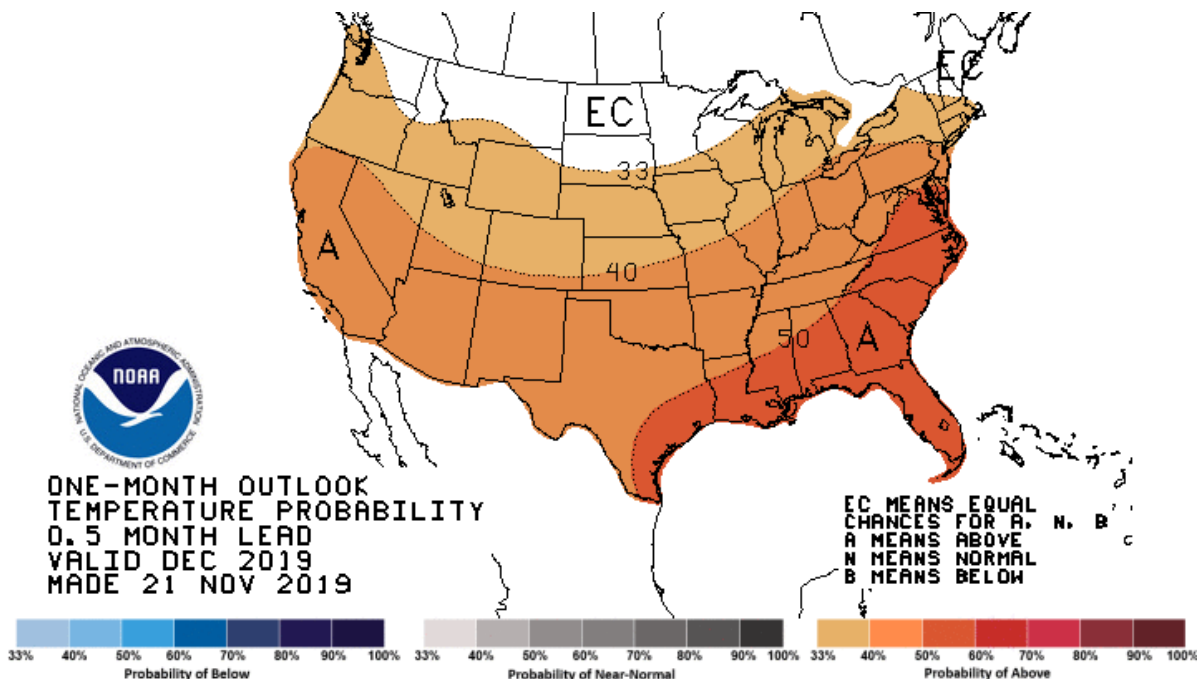
Location SE CO Snow	Oct Total	Nov Total	Total
Black Forest WSW	19.4	19.9	39.3
Canon City	14.5	5.0	19.5
Colorado Springs Airport	12.6	8.3	20.9
Gleneagle	18.2	19.2	37.4
Manitou Springs East	19.3	13.1	32.4
Monument Hill - 2.9 N	19.4	23.0	42.4
Pueblo NWS	12.0	5.0	17.0
Woodland Park	15.9	13.1	29.0

Drought Update

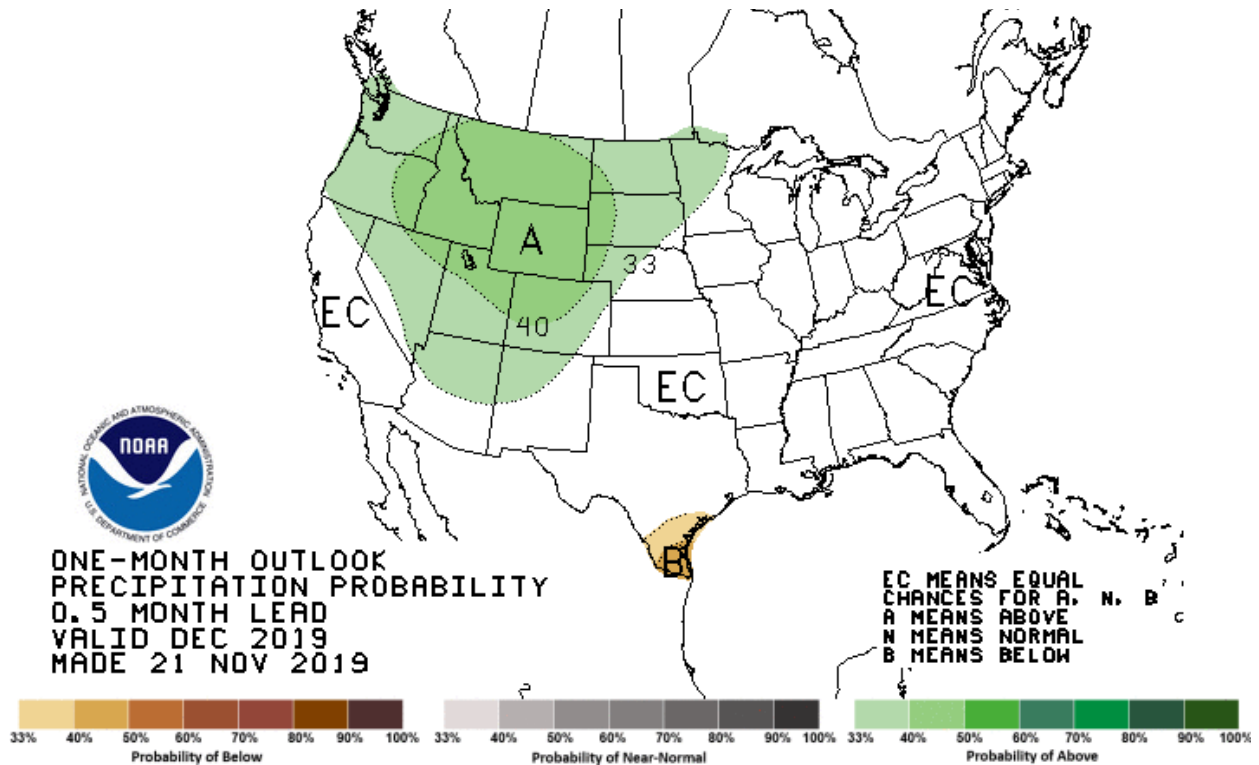
Colorado is starting to show increasing drought conditions over portions of W, SW and SE Colorado due to the lack of moisture this summer. NE Colorado remains generally drought free. Elsewhere, much of TX, the desert SW are experiencing severe drought.



The map below shows forecasted temperature deviances for December 2019. There is a bias toward above normal temperatures across Colorado favoring S Colorado.



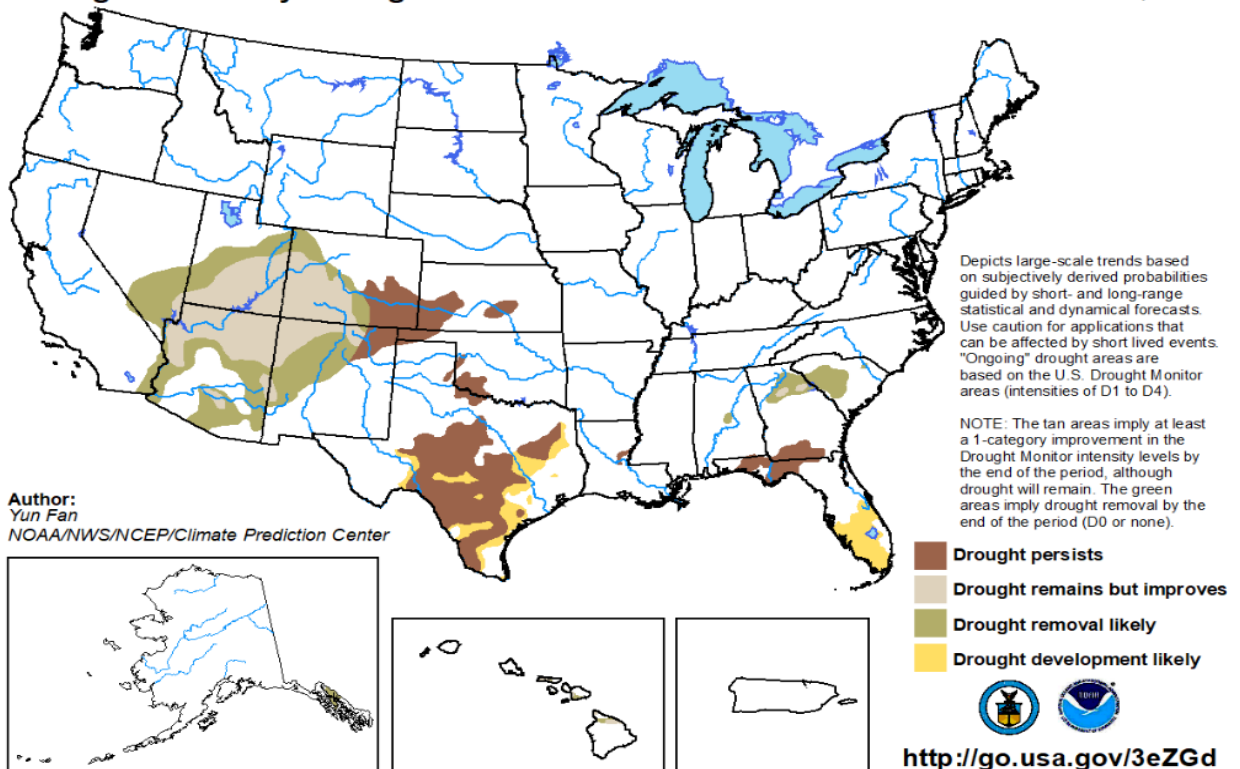
The map below shows forecasted precipitation deviances for December 2019. There is a fairly strong bias for above normal precipitation over much of Colorado.



Colorado is not expected to see any worsening of the drought conditions this month with drought conditions looking to improve over the W and SW portions of Colorado.

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

Valid for December 2019
Released November 30, 2019

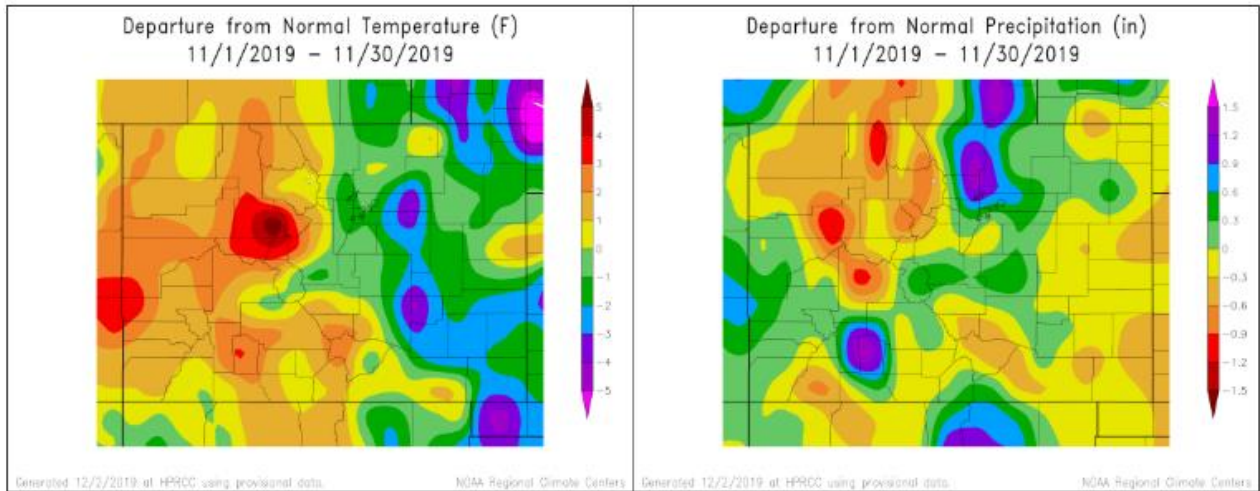


November Summary

November of 2019 came in with below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation and snowfall. Average highs for the month were 49.7 degrees which was 2.4 degrees colder than the normal of 52.1 degrees. The highest temperature for the month was 77 set on the 9th. The 77 on the 9th set a new daily record high for the date. The average low temperatures for November were 22.7 degrees which was 1.8 degrees colder than the average of 24.5 degrees. The coldest day during the month was -2 set on the 27th. The monthly mean temperature was 36.2 degrees which was 2.1 degrees below the normal of 38.3 degrees. Moisture at DIA for November was 1.31" which was more than double the average of 0.61". Year to date DIA has now reported 15.21" which is 1.26" above the normal of 13.95" and ensures that precipitation will be above average for 2019. Snowfall at DIA was quite low compared to other Denver Metro area locations but still came in well above the normal of 8.7" with 13.7" reported. DIA has now reported 26.2" of snow for the season which is 12.2" above normal! Many Denver Metro area locations reported between 15-25" of snow during the month of November with isolated higher amounts! The accumulating snow storms during November took place on the 11th, 20-21st, 21-22nd, 25-26th and the 29th. The heaviest snow was observed on the 25-26th as a major winter storm impacted the state with many areas reporting between 10-20" from this event alone! There were not any thunderstorm days reported during the month but the snow that occurred on the 29th did have a few lightning strikes associated with it! There was an abnormally high number of fog events with visibilities of ¼ mile or less with DIA reporting 7 different days during the month with heavy fog.

Southeast Colorado also experienced below normal temperatures and above normal snowfall and precipitation. The average temperature in Colorado Springs was 50.5 degrees and average lows of 24.5 degrees. Combining the average highs and lows resulted in a monthly mean temperature of 37.5 degrees which is 0.6 degrees below normal. The highest temperature for the month was 71 on the 9th and the lowest temperature was 10 degrees on the 27th. Precipitation at the airport came in at 0.90" which is 0.50" above normal and ranks as the 15th wettest November on record. The airport reported 8.3" of snow which is 3.6" above normal. The 8.3" at the airport was one of the lower snow totals from Colorado Springs northward to Monument with 9-23" reported in El Paso County favoring N and W portions of the County. Further south into Pueblo temperatures were slightly below normal with slightly above normal precipitation and snowfall. The average daily highs at the airport in Pueblo were 54.2 degrees with average lows of 22.7 degrees. The combination of average highs and average lows resulted in a monthly mean temperature of 38.4 degrees which is 0.9 degrees below normal. The 5.0" reported at the airport in Pueblo was in line with many other surrounding areas as 3.3-6.0" was reported from Canon City to Pueblo. There were a couple days during the month that experienced areas of low clouds and fog that produced some freezing fog/mist/drizzle resulting in isolated areas of icing, mainly on the 7th and 28th of the month.

Below are maps for departure from normal temperature and precipitation statewide:



November Stats

TEMPERATURE (IN DEGREES F)

AVERAGE MAX	49.7	NORMAL 52.1	DEPARTURE -2.4
AVERAGE MIN	22.7	NORMAL 24.5	DEPARTURE -1.8
MONTHLY MEAN	36.2	NORMAL 38.3	DEPARTURE -2.1
HIGHEST	77 on the 9 th		
LOWEST	-2 on the 27 th		

DAYS WITH MAX 90 OR ABOVE	0	NORMAL	0.0
DAYS WITH MAX 32 OR BELOW	7	NORMAL	2.3
DAYS WITH MIN 32 OR BELOW	25	NORMAL	23.4
DAYS WITH MIN ZERO OR BELOW	1	NORMAL	0.6

TEMPERATURE RECORDS

Record high of 77 set on the 9th

HEATING DEGREE DAYS

MONTHLY TOTAL	860	NORMAL	801	DEPARTURE	59
SEASONAL TOTAL	1535	NORMAL	1382	DEPARTURE	153

COOLING DEGREE DAYS

MONTHLY TOTAL	0	NORMAL	0	DEPARTURE	0
YEARLY TOTAL	916	NORMAL	769	DEPARTURE	147

PRECIPITATION (IN INCHES)

MONTHLY TOTAL	1.31	NORMAL	0.61	DEPARTURE	0.70
YEARLY TOTAL	15.21	NORMAL	13.95	DEPARTURE	1.26
GREATEST IN 24 HOURS	0.80" on 11/26				
DAYS WITH MEASURABLE PRECIP.	8				

SNOWFALL (IN INCHES)

MONTHLY TOTAL	13.7	NORMAL	8.7	DEPARTURE	5.0
SEASONAL TOTAL	26.2	NORMAL	14.0	DEPARTURE	12.2
GREATEST IN 24 HOURS	8.5"				
GREATEST DEPTH	8"				

WIND (IN MILES PER HOUR)

AVERAGE SPEED	9.3	mph
PEAK WIND GUST	48 mph from the N on 11/16	

MISCELLANEOUS WEATHER

NUMBER OF DAYS WITH THUNDERSTORM	0	NORMAL	0
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH HEAVY FOG	7	NORMAL	1
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH HAIL	0		
NUMBER OF SUNNY DAYS	7		
NUMBER OF PARTLY CLOUDY DAYS	18		
NUMBER OF CLOUDY DAYS	5		
AVERAGE RELATIVE HUMIDITY	65%		

December Preview

December is the first month of meteorological winter and is the coldest month of the year on average in Denver, slightly colder on average than January. December is also the 3rd snowiest month of the year behind March and November at 8.5". Average highs for the month are 42.8 degrees with average lows of 17.1 degrees. The monthly mean temperature is 30.0 degrees. As we know living here in Colorado average only occurs on paper as temperatures are generally higher or lower on any given day. On average there are 6 days during the month with a high temperature at or below freezing. Typically there are 2 days during the month with lows below 0. The all time record low was set in December at -25 degrees which last occurred on 12/22/1990. The warmest average mean temperature for the month was 43.8 degrees back in 1933. The coldest average mean temperature was a chilly 17.5 degrees set back in 1983. The wettest December on record was 5.21" in 1913 which was also the snowiest December on record with an astounding 57.4" of snow reported for the month. The driest December on record was in 1881 when no precipitation at all was measured beyond a trace. The least snowiest year

was 1995 when no snow at all was measured. For December 2019 near normal temperatures are most likely with the trend of above normal snowfall expected to continue.

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

TEMPERATURE

AVERAGE HIGH	42.8
AVERAGE LOW	17.1
MONTHLY MEAN	30.0
DAYS WITH HIGH 90 OR ABOVE	0
DAYS WITH HIGH 32 OR BELOW	6
DAYS WITH LOW 32 OR BELOW	29
DAYS WITH LOWS ZERO OR BELOW	2

PRECIPITATION

MONTHLY MEAN	0.35"
DAYS WITH MEASURABLE PRECIPITATION	4
AVERAGE SNOWFALL IN INCHES	8.5"
DAYS WITH 1.0 INCH OF SNOW OR MORE	3

MISCELLANEOUS AVERAGES

HEATING DEGREE DAYS	1086
COOLING DEGREE DAYS	0
WIND SPEED (MPH)	8.4mph
WIND DIRECTION	South
DAYS WITH THUNDERSTORMS	0
DAYS WITH DENSE FOG	1
PERCENT OF SUNSHINE POSSIBLE	67%

EXTREMES

RECORD HIGH	79 on 12/5/1939
RECORD LOW	-25 on 12/24/1876, 12/22/1990
WARMEST	43.8 in 1933
COLDEST	17.5 in 1983
WETTEST	5.21" in 1913
DRIEST	0.00" in 1881
SNOWIEST	57.4" in 1913
LEAST SNOWIEST	0.0" in 1995

Snowfall

October 2019 to May 2020

City	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Aurora (Central)	17.2	15.9							33.1
Boulder	26.7	28.9							55.6
Brighton	12.1	14.8							26.9
Broomfield	24.0	20.5							44.5
Castle Rock	22.4	16.9							39.3
COS Airport	12.6	8.3							20.9
Denver DIA	12.5	13.7							26.2
Denver Dwntwn	21.2	16.4							37.6
Golden	22.5	28.4							50.9
Fort Collins	10.1	22.0							32.1
Highlands Ranch	19.5	20.6							40.1
Lakewood	19.2	19.4							38.6
Littleton	18.0	19.9							37.9
Monument	19.4	23.0							42.4
Parker	15.9	16.0							31.9
Sedalia - Hwy 67	22.0	20.6							42.6
Thornton	16.6	17.9							34.5
Westminster	19.8	17.9							37.7
Wheat Ridge	20.8	22.8							43.6

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