

## May 2021 Denver Climate Summary



It was a wet month as rainfall was 150% to 300% of normal across much of the area. The only exception was west of the divide where precipitation remained below normal. Temperatures ended up slightly below normal. Severe weather wise, the most active days occurred on the 22nd and 23<sup>rd</sup> as several tornadoes were reported across portions of northeast Colorado. Damage was very limited with only a few power poles knocked down across Logan county on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

# TEMPERATURES :

The average temperature at Denver International Airport for the month of May was 56.1 degrees F which is 1.3 degrees below the normal of 57.4 degrees. There were no days in which the temperature reached or exceed 90 degrees. The Warmest temperature of 86 degrees occurred on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and the coldest temperature of 32 degrees occurred on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Ten Warmest May Average Temperatures in Denver Weather History

SINCE 1872: DEGREES F

64.7 - 1934  
63.2 - 1994  
62.0 - 1886  
61.7 - 1958  
61.6 - 1974, 1879  
61.5 - 1939  
61.4 - 2018  
61.3 - 1936  
61.1 - 1875

## Ten Coldest May Average Temperatures in Denver Weather History

SINCE 1872: DEGREES F

48.7 - 1917  
50.0 - 1995  
50.1 - 1935  
50.3 - 1907  
51.4 - 1983  
51.5 - 1892  
51.6 - 2019  
52.0 - 1946  
52.6 - 1967  
52.7 - 1924

# PRECIPITATION:

Denver received 3.65 inches of precipitation during May of 2021. This was 1.49 inches above the monthly average of 2.16 inches. There were 13 days with measurable precipitation during the month. 0.99 inches of precipitation fell on the 22nd, which was the greatest daily amount for the month.

## TEN WETTEST MAY TOTALS IN DENVER WEATHER HISTORY SINCE 1872:

### INCHES

8.57 - 1876  
7.31 - 1857  
6.12 - 1969  
5.06 - 1973  
4.95 - 1935  
4.88 - 1938, 1898  
4.79 - 2011  
4.77 - 1967  
4.67 - 1995

## TEN DRIEST MAY TOTALS IN DENVER WEATHER HISTORY SINCE 1872:

### INCHES

0.06 - 1974  
0.09 - 1886  
0.15 - 1899  
0.22 - 1919  
0.34 - 1977, 1966  
0.43 - 1925  
0.49 - 1972  
0.52 - 1911  
0.53 - 1900

## Snowfall, Fog, Thunder and Wind:

May is Denver's second least snowiest month of the snow season with a monthly average of 1.3 inches (NCEI 1991-2020). Only a trace of snow was measured during May of 2021 which is 1.3 inches below normal.

### Top 10 Snowiest May's (1882-Present)

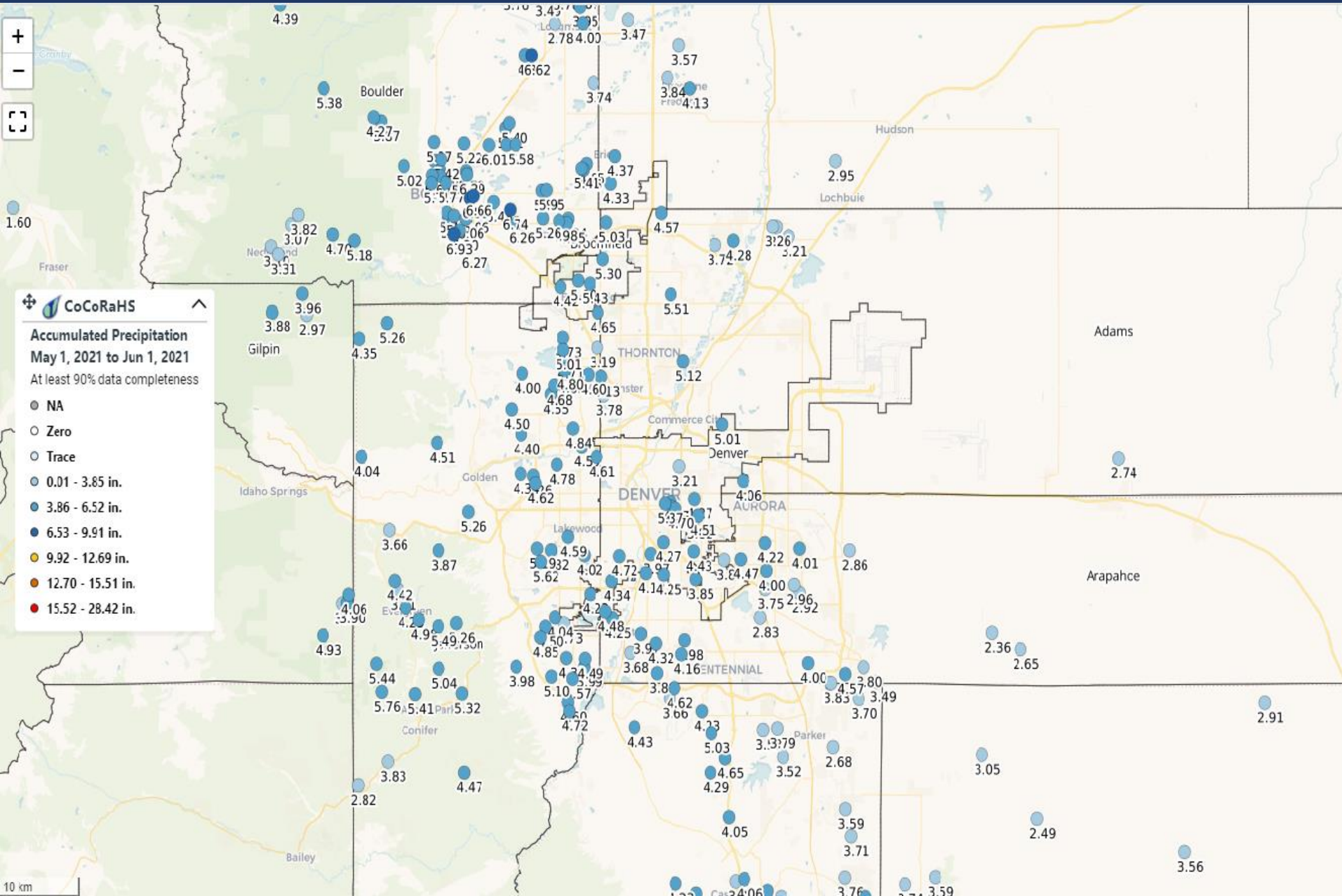
Rank	Total	Year
1	15.5	1898
2	13.7	1950
3	13.5	1978
4	13.2	1912
5	12.0	1917
6	10.0	1908
7	9.0	1907
8	8.9	1893
9	8.8	1957
10	8.3	1944

### Least Snowiest May's

There have been numerous years, in Denver weather history, in which no snow fell in May.

There were 9 days in which thunder was observed at Denver International Airport and 5 days with fog, with a visibility at or below 1/4 mile, during the month. The peak wind gust of 62 mph, from the northwest, occurred on the 2nd.

Data from COCORaHS shows 4" to 5" of rain fell, across the Denver Metro area, with locally over 6" across the northwest suburbs, during the month of May.



# Radar Mosaic May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1:00 AM



A storm system produced widespread precipitation across the mountains, foothills & adjacent plains May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Many locations across the Front Range Urban Corridor received over one inch of precipitation with some locations measuring over two inches. Snow fell over the higher elevations with a few inches of accumulation.

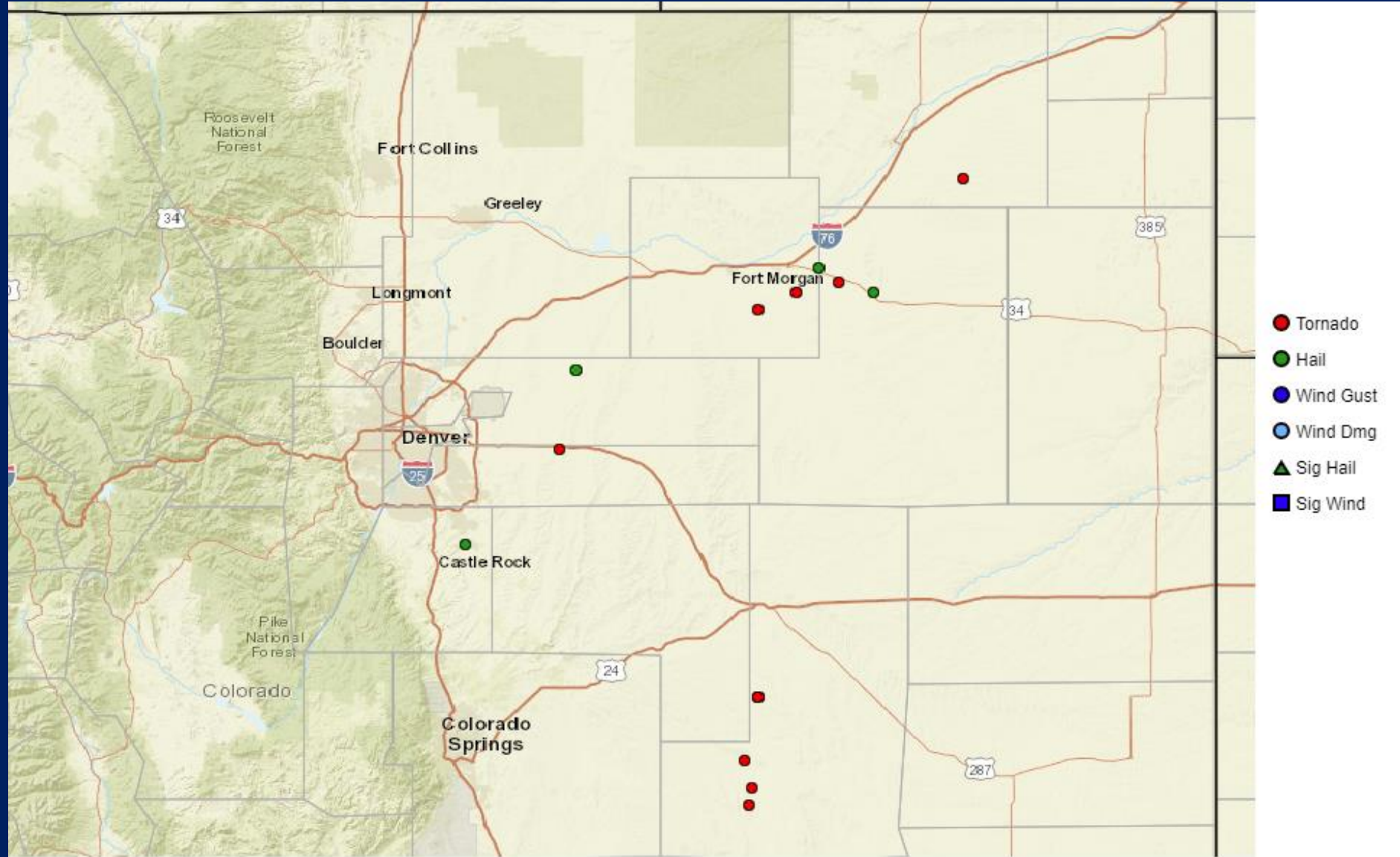


# Rainfall Reports (in)

2 Se Greeley	2.78	4 S Keenesburg	2.71
3 W Westminster	2.31	1 Wsw Wheat Ridge	2.24
1 Nne Lafayette	2.05	1 Nnw Louisville	2
1 Nnw Marshall	1.95	3 Nw Louisville	1.95
1 Wnw Louisville	1.88	2 Wnw Lafayette	1.85
2 Ssw Roxborough Park	1.84	2 E Greeley	1.83
1 Sse Roxborough Park	1.82	3 Ne Perry Park	1.8
1 Nw Louisville	1.79	3 Nw Louisville	1.77
3 Ese Shamballa	1.77	1 S Wheat Ridge	1.76
1 Nw Arvada	1.75	2 Nne Broomfield	1.75

data valid as of Mon 07:25 pm - NWS Denver/Boulder

Severe thunderstorms developed over the eastern plains in the afternoon of May 22<sup>nd</sup>. 9 tornadoes were reported with most of them weak. At least one of the tornadoes over Lincoln county was probably of EF-1 strength. No known damage was reported with any of the tornadoes. In addition a few reports of large hail up to 1.5" in diameter were reported.





Another round of severe thunderstorms developed over northeast Colorado on the afternoon of May 23rd. 7 tornadoes were confirmed with a couple over Logan county reaching EF-1 strength. The only damage reported were some downed power poles. In addition large hail and strong winds accompanied a few of the storms as well. Very large hail up to 3.0" in diameter was reported in Logan county.

