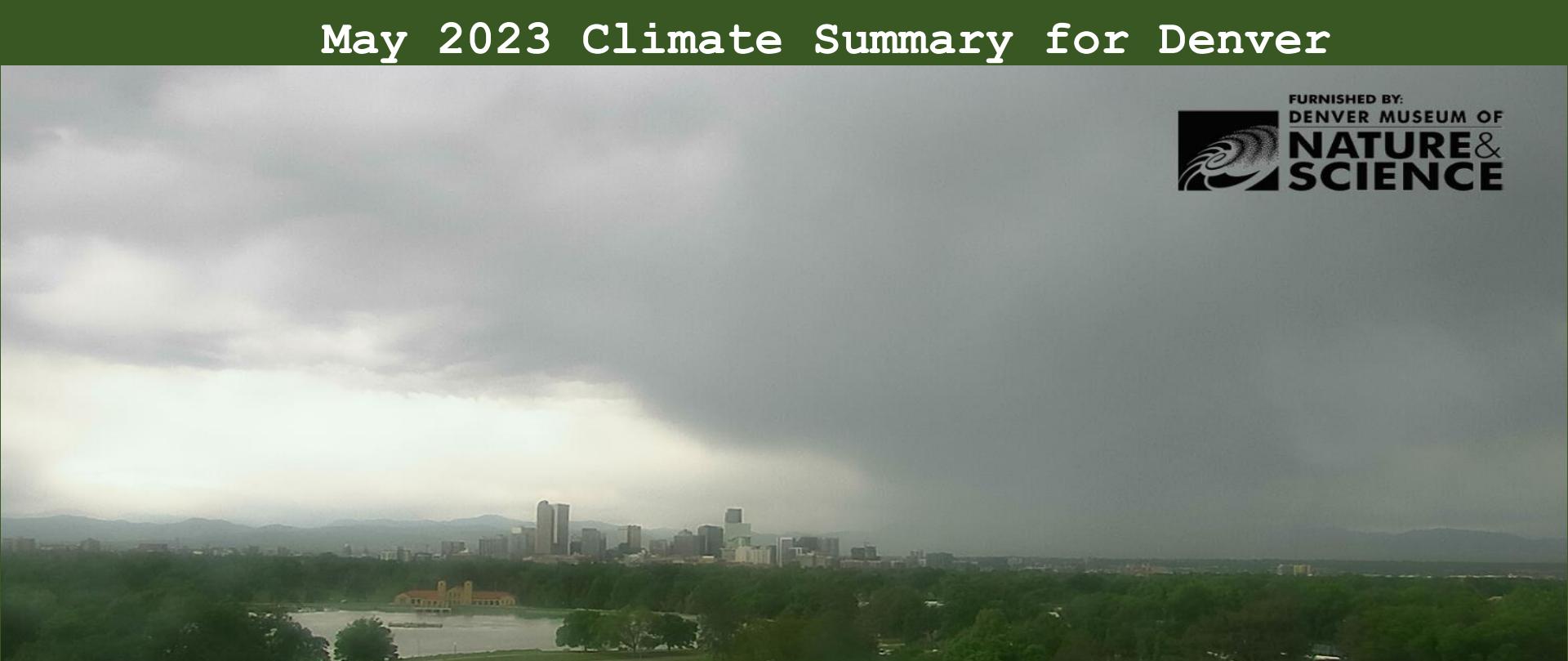


May 2023 Climate Summary for Denver

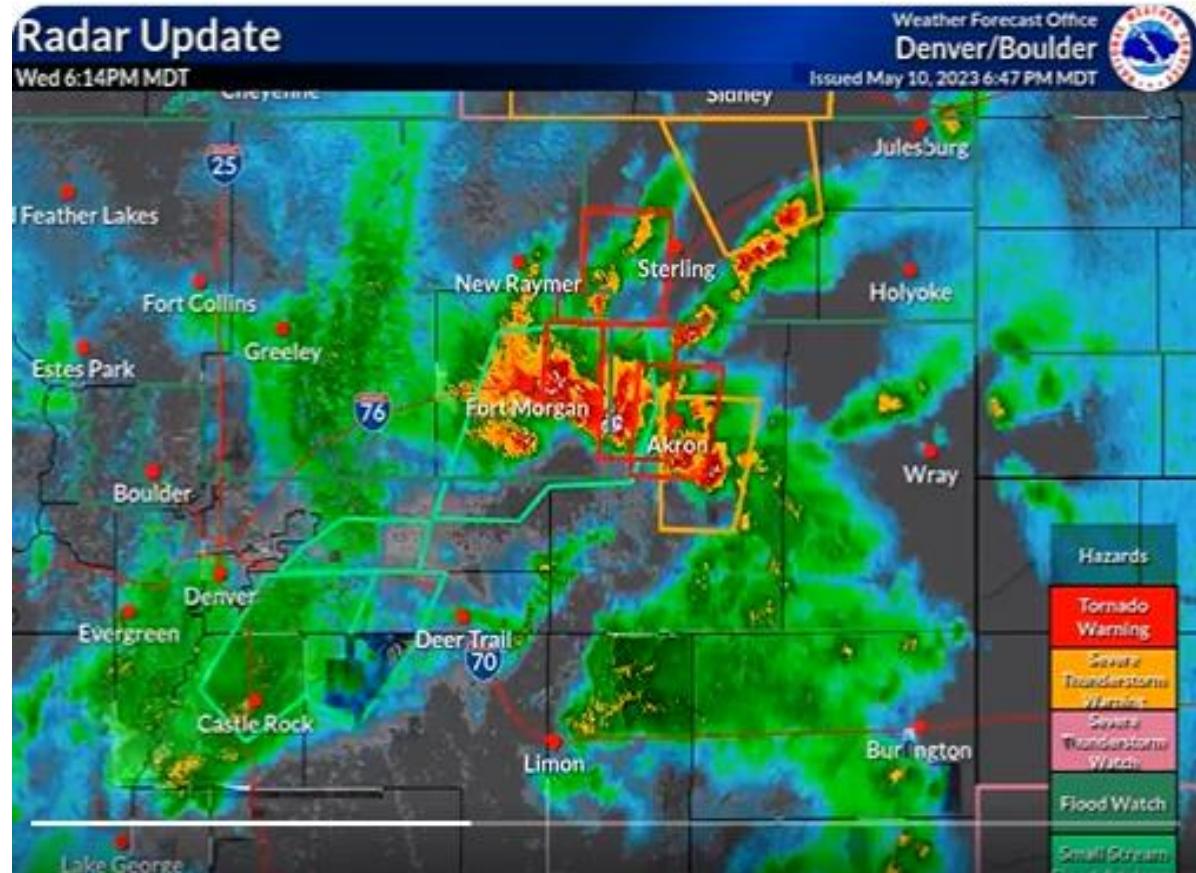


May 2023 was characterized by extremely wild and wet conditions through much of the month, or should we say moth? A drier than normal April resulted in windy and dusty conditions in the first week of May, especially on the 4-6th. Centennial Airport recorded a gust to 60 mph on the 5th. The high based thunderstorms that did develop in that time produced blowing dust, poor visibilities, and dangerous driving conditions along I-76 near Wiggins and I-70 near Bennett. Extreme fire danger was also in place south and southeast of Denver. Severe thunderstorms produced damaging hail on the evening of May 9th. The hail ranged from golfball to tennis ball size across parts of eastern Boulder, Morgan and Weld counties. Extensive property damage was reported in Erie, Firestone, Frederick, Hoyt, Johnstown and Longmont. Another round of severe thunderstorms hammered parts of Denver on the 10th and areas south and east of Denver. In eastern Arapahoe, Morgan and Washington counties, the hail ranged from baseball to softball size! A tornado struck a home near Brush and caused extensive damage. Part of the roof was blown off and several trees on the property were downed. Heavy rain and flooding occurred around Mother's Day on the 12th, where record rainfall occurred over much of northeast Colorado. A 24-hr daily record of 2.92 inches of rain occurred on the 11th, a 2-day total of 3.75 inches on the 11-12th, and 3-day total of 4.40 inches from the 10-12th in Denver. The prolonged period of moderate to heavy rainfall resulted in flooding, flash flooding and washed out roads in Denver and surrounding areas, including Cherry Creek State Park and the National Wildlife Refuge at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. The slow moving storm system produced 3-day storm total rainfall from 4 to 7 inches across the urban corridor and northeast plains, with 1 to 2 feet of heavy wet snowfall in the Front Range Mountains above 10 thousand feet. Three men in the foothills of Douglas County had to be rescued when their vehicle got stuck in snow along Rampart Range Road in Pike National Forest. The heavy snow toppled trees which blocked the road; rescuers had to use chainsaws to cut the trees to reach the stranded men. The rescue took nearly 21 hours. Smoke and haze from wildfires in Canada significantly impacted air quality and visibility from the 18-26th. By the end of the month, 5.53 inches of rainfall was observed at Denver International Airport, making it the 4th wettest May on record.

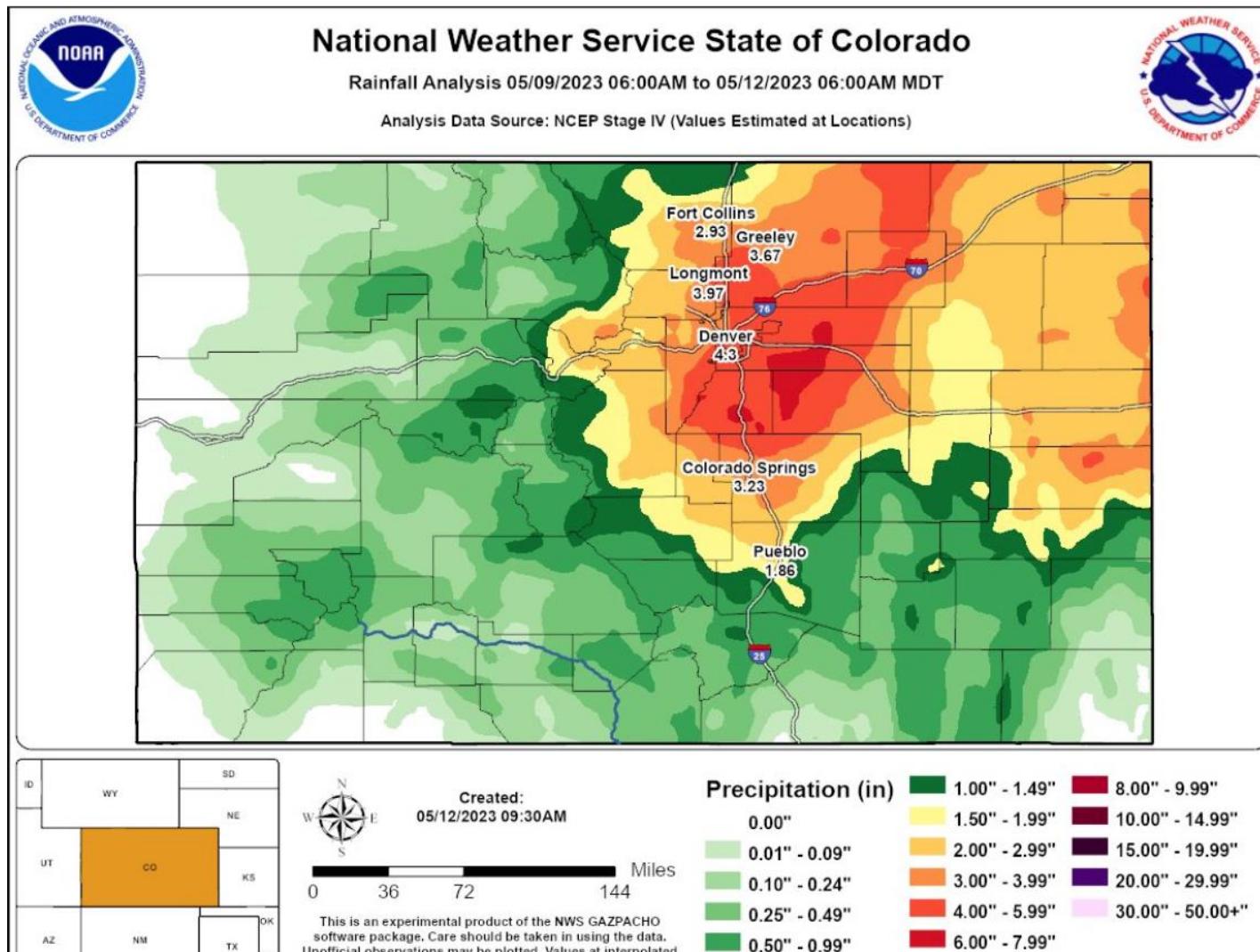
A tornado touched down on May 10th, southwest to Akron near Woodrow.



Photo courtesy of Russell Danielson,
National Weather Service



A maximum daily record rainfall of 2.92" was set in Denver for May 11th, which smashed the previous record of 1.55" set back in 2011!



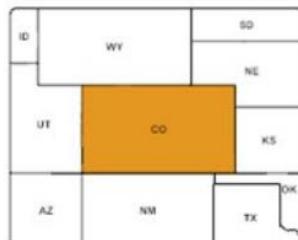
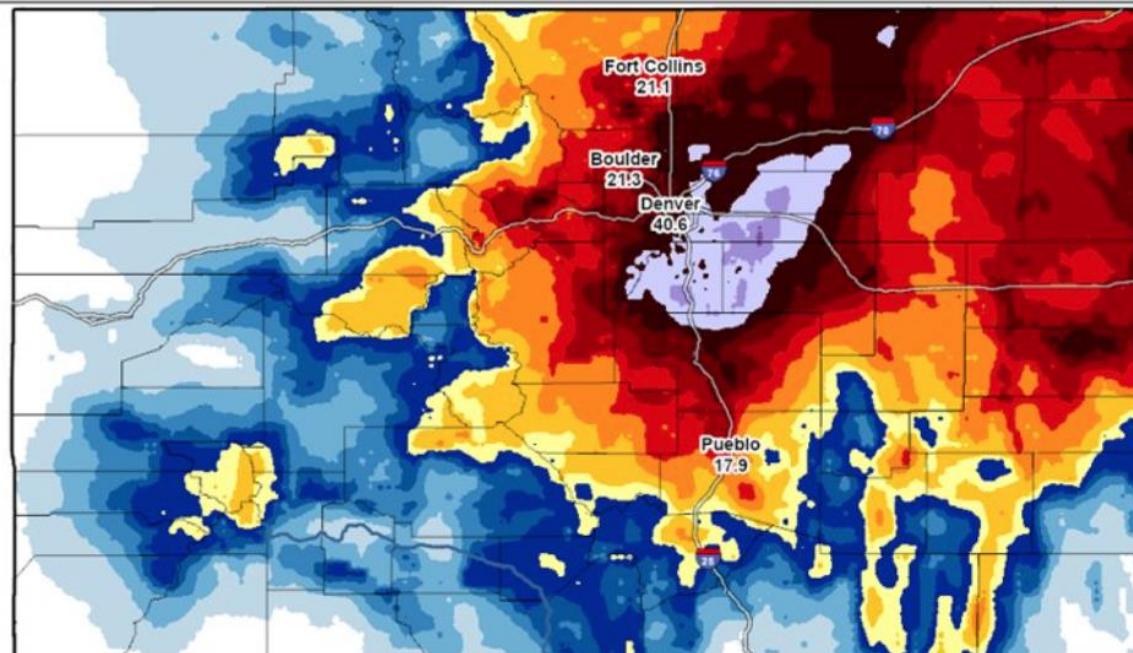
What IF it had been all snow vs rain? Let's just say, we're glad it wasn't!



National Weather Service Denver/Boulder

Estimated Snowfall if Rain had been all Snow from 5/9 to 5/12

Snowfall Ratio 10:1



Created:
05/12/2023 10:15AM

0 36 72 144 Miles

This is an experimental product of the NWS GAZPACHO software package. Care should be taken in using the data. Unofficial observations may be plotted. Values at interpolated locations may not represent actual reports at that location.



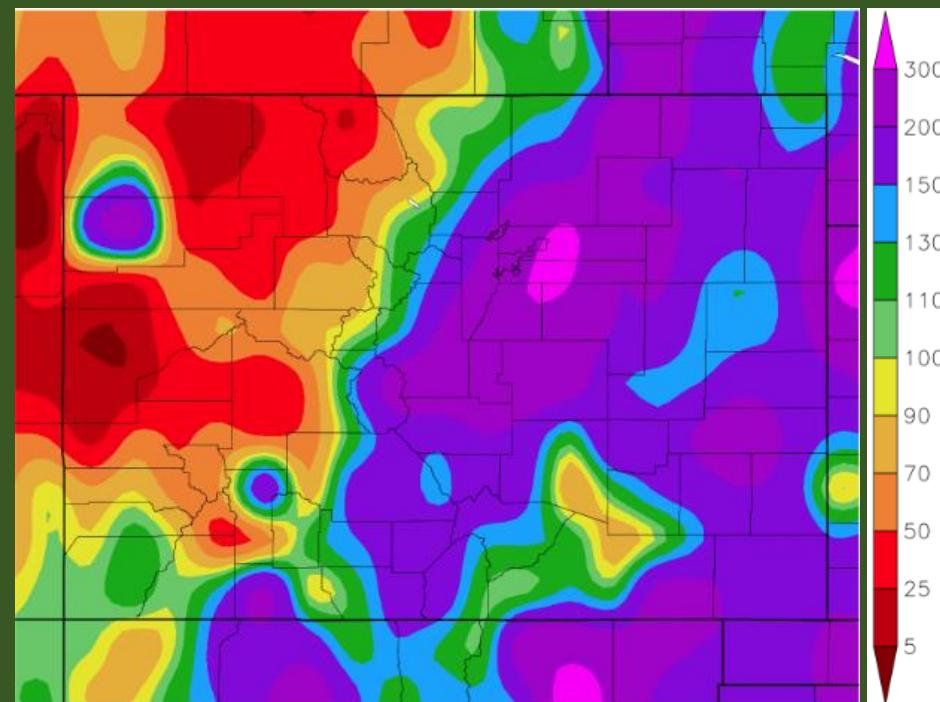
Heavy rainfall produced extensive flooding in some areas May 10-12th , which included The Wildlife Drive at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.



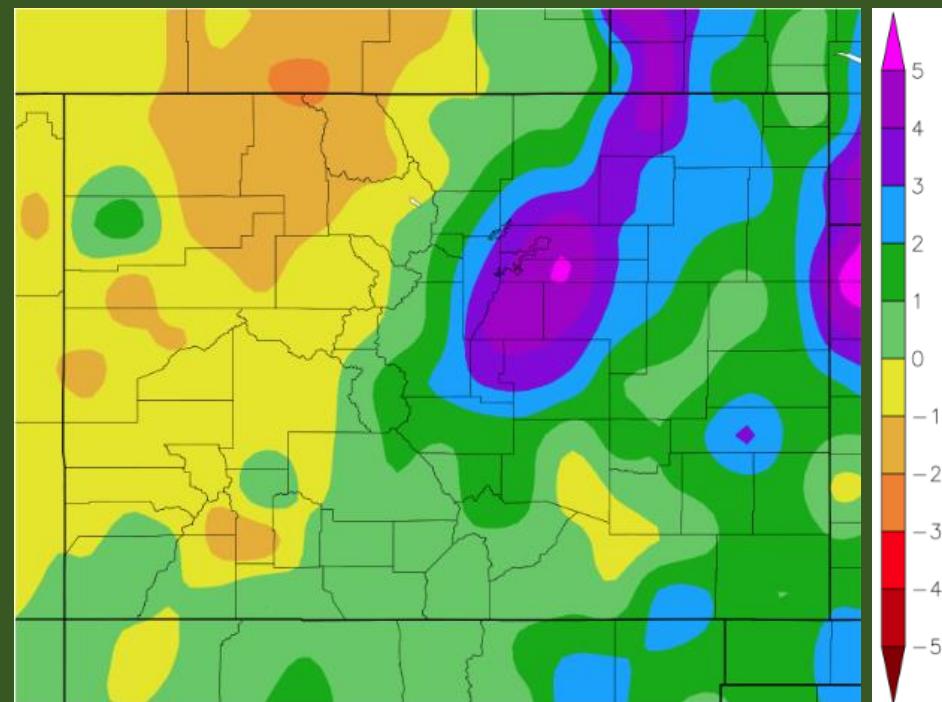
Photo courtesy of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

May 2023

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Departure from Normal Precipitation



Graphics generated by HPRCC using provisional data

TEMPERATURES:

The average temperature at Denver International Airport for the month of May was 59.4 degrees F which is 2.0 degrees above the normal of 57.4 degrees. There were 0 days in the month in which the temperature reached or exceeded the 90 degree mark. The warmest temperature of the month was 82 degrees on the 29th, while the coldest temperature 38 degrees occurred on the morning of the 1st. No new temperatures records were established in the month.

Ten Warmest May Average Temperature 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 Temperature 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 5.53 inches of precipitation during May of 2023. This is 3.37 inches above the monthly average of 2.16 inches. The highest daily precipitation amount of The highest daily precipitation amount of 2.92 on the 12th.

TEN WETTEST MAY TOTALS IN DENVER WEATHER HISTORY SINCE 1872:

INCHES

8.57 - 1876
7.31 - 1857
6.12 - 1969
5.53 - 2023
5.06 - 1973
4.95 - 1935
4.88 - 1938, 1898
4.79 - 2011
4.77 - 1967

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

May is Denver's least snowiest month of the snow season with a monthly average of 1.4 inches (NCEI 1991-2020). No snow fell during May of 2023 which is 1.4 inches below normal.

TEN HIGHEST SNOW TOTALS FOR MAY IN DENVER WEATHER HISTORY

INCHES

15.5 - 1898
13.7 - 1950
13.5 - 1978
13.2 - 1912
12.0 - 1917
10.0 - 1908
9.0 - 1907
8.9 - 1893
8.8 - 1957
8.3 - 1944

Least snowiest May's in Denver weather history

There have been numerous times in which Denver received no snowfall during the month of May.