

UPPER COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PLANT CENTER

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR 2004

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PRECIPITATION

Precipitation in 2004 measured only 13.23 inches (Table 1). For the year we were 18.3% below our longtime average of 16.19 inches. The plant center has experienced 4 very dry years (2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004) in succession. We have not exceeded our longtime average since 1999. Seven months (January, February, March, May, August, October, and December) in 2004 were dry. During these seven months only 5.09 inches of precipitation were recorded which is only 38.5% of the total for 2004. In addition, three months (April, September, and November) were wet. During only these three months 5.80 inches of precipitation were measured, which accounts for 43.8% of the total for the year (Table 2).

SNOW

Snowfall in 2004 measured only 38.5 inches. Snow represents only 3.61 inches of precipitation for the year or 27.3% of the total for the year, when considering the times that snow was recorded alone and not when rain and snow occurred together.

GROWING SEASON

The frost-free growing season in 2004 measured 93 days, which is about average (approximately 90 days) for Meeker. This represents the period from the recording dates of June 11 to September 15. During this important period for plant growth, precipitation measured only 3.88 inches or only 29.3% of the total for the year. These dry conditions do affect plant growth, seed production, vigor etc.

TEMPERATURES

Temperatures in 2004 seemed to be mild without extremes of heat or cold. Lows below 0 degrees F (Fahrenheit) were recorded on only 18 recording dates and highs failed to reach 32 degrees F on 14 recording dates (Table 2). A maximum temperature of 85 degrees F or above was recorded on only 25 recording dates. The highest average monthly maximum temperature (84.9 F) was recorded in July and the lowest average monthly minimum (5.4 F) was recorded in February.

Table 1. Monthly and Total Yearly Precipitation in Inches

Longtime Avg. Over 50 Yrs.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
		1.15	1.00	1.50	1.56	1.45	1.06	1.51	1.82	1.43	1.49	1.10	1.12
1976 *	0.47	0.74	1.37	1.25	1.44	1.43	2.03	1.18	1.14	0.37	0.11	0.17	11.70
1977 *	0.37	0.49	0.74	0.70	1.11	0.25	1.76	3.04	0.66	0.82	0.74	0.63	11.31
1978 +	1.58	0.82	1.69	1.77	1.32	0.30	0.44	0.72	1.25	0.14	1.31	1.47	12.81
1979 +	0.82	0.89	0.97	1.19	3.25	0.49	0.54	1.05	0.34	1.20	1.15	0.24	12.13
1980 +	1.63	1.75	1.74	0.67	2.36	0.01	2.22	1.53	0.38	1.58	0.63	0.13	14.63
1981 +	0.24	0.46	1.56	0.27	3.15	1.58	3.50	0.99	0.61	4.47	0.79	1.40	19.02
1982 +	0.78	0.32	0.56	0.59	1.79	0.04	1.64	2.81	2.91	1.81	0.97	0.62	14.84
1983 +	0.50	1.32	0.84	0.98	2.29	2.52	1.83	1.05	0.75	1.83	1.90	3.00	18.81
1984 +	0.70	0.24	1.62	2.00	0.93	4.22	2.20	3.24	1.65	2.78	0.34	0.71	20.63
1985 +	1.13	0.45	1.49	2.80	1.70	1.65	1.77	0.48	1.39	3.10	2.27	0.83	19.06
1986 +	0.65	1.76	1.48	1.44	0.73	1.16	3.45	1.99	2.36	1.70	1.65	0.57	18.94
1987 +	0.67	1.10	1.51	0.76	2.63	0.90	1.72	3.22	0.50	1.15	1.31	1.20	16.67
1988 +	1.31	0.82	1.26	1.23	1.45	0.50	0.79	3.39	2.52	0.17	1.69	0.99	16.12
1989 +	1.24	1.75	0.96	1.10	0.54	0.91	1.16	1.49	1.50	0.66	0.62	0.39	12.32
1990 +	0.28	1.27	0.46	1.28	1.29	0.93	1.29	0.41	2.18	2.12	0.82	0.55	12.88
1991 +	1.28	0.35	1.98	1.48	0.75	1.16	3.54	2.13	1.30	2.25	1.65	0.70	18.57
1992 +	0.52	1.09	1.45	1.37	3.03	1.10	3.28	1.21	1.20	0.57	2.85	0.73	18.40
1993 +	1.27	1.07	1.91	2.32	2.11	1.08	0.31	1.14	0.52	1.63	1.31	0.50	15.17
1994 +	0.32	0.62	0.66	1.50	0.82	0.89	0.41	1.08	1.64	1.65	1.55	0.75	11.89
1995 +	0.83	0.84	0.99	2.87	5.72	2.40	1.68	1.29	2.11	2.17	0.95	0.94	22.79
1996 +	1.98	2.01	0.57	1.36	1.46	1.12	0.86	0.86	2.13	2.21	2.34	1.38	18.28
1997 +	2.04	0.72	0.34	3.04	1.82	1.05	1.02	2.93	5.42	2.37	0.76	0.61	22.12
1998 +	0.79	1.20	1.87	1.65	0.45	3.58	1.79	0.64	0.87	1.63	1.03	0.92	16.42

* From the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrations Climatic Summary of the United States.

+ From the weather instruments located at the UCEPC.

Note: Some precipitation was not recorded in Oct. 2003.

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	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Longtime Avg. Over 50 Yrs.	1.15	1.00	1.50	1.56	1.45	1.06	1.51	1.82	1.43	1.49	1.10	1.12	16.19
1999 +	0.99	0.73	0.59	3.57	2.24	1.09	2.60	1.49	0.89	0.70	0.50	1.08	16.47
2000 +	0.84	0.99	1.98	0.69	1.32	0.78	0.54	2.98	2.38	0.90	1.30	0.74	15.44
2001 +	0.49	1.03	0.45	0.53	1.53	0.79	0.78	1.56	0.92	1.57	0.91	0.70	11.26
2002 +	0.92	0.18	0.96	0.41	0.09	0.81	1.31	1.19	1.93	1.77	0.81	0.63	11.01
2003 +	0.72	1.41	0.98	1.30	1.71	1.77	0.52	0.65	1.31	0.04	0.77	1.37	12.55
2004 +	0.21	0.50	0.53	2.23	0.97	1.05	1.29	1.17	1.99	1.09	1.58	0.62	13.23

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