



Colorado MASTER GARDENER

Climate Summary: Southwest Colorado no. 7.863

Source: Colorado Climate Center, <http://ccc.atmos.colostate.edu>
by D. Whiting¹

Table 1. Monthly temperatures.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Yellow Jacket	average extreme high	51	56	64	72	81	92	95	92	87	77	64	53	
	normal high	38	43	50	59	69	82	87	84	76	63	48	40	62
	normal low	15	19	26	31	40	48	54	54	47	37	25	18	35
	average extreme low	-2	1	10	18	27	35	47	47	34	21	8	1	
Cortez	average extreme high	52	59	67	75	82	94	96	93	88	78	65	56	
	normal daily high	40	45	53	61	71	83	88	86	78	66	51	41	64
	normal daily low	13	18	25	30	38	46	54	53	44	33	23	15	33
	average extreme low	-5	1	11	18	25	33	44	46	32	20	9	0	
Mancos	average extreme high	51	56	68	74	80	88	91	88	85	78	66	55	
	normal high	40	45	53	59	69	79	83	82	76	65	51	40	61
	normal low	15	19	25	29	38	44	51	52	44	32	23	14	32
	average extreme low	-1	5	9	18	25	34	41	46	32	17	48	-4	
Durango	average extreme high	51	60	65	76	84	93	95	93	88	78	70	55	
	normal high	39	46	53	62	71	82	87	84	77	66	51	42	63
	normal low	11	16	23	29	36	43	51	49	41	31	21	13	31
	average extreme low	-6	-1	10	19	25	33	43	41	29	19	6	-2	
Ignacio	average extreme high	49	57	66	74	84	94	96	93	88	77	65	53	
	normal daily high	39	45	52	62	71	83	88	85	76	65	51	41	63
	normal daily low	7	13	21	26	34	42	50	48	40	30	20	10	28
	average extreme low	-9	-2	8	15	22	31	40	40	28	20	6	-4	
Pagosa Springs	average extreme high	51	57	64	72	79	88	90	88	84	75	63	53	
	normal high	38	44	50	58	68	78	83	80	73	63	49	40	60
	normal low	3	9	18	24	31	37	45	45	37	26	16	6	24
	average extreme low	-17	-10	0	11	20	28	36	36	25	14	-2	-13	



Putting Knowledge to Work

Table 2. Total monthly precipitation (inches).

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Yellow Jacket	normal	1.2	1.2	1.4	0.9	1.3	0.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.5	1.1	16.0
	maximum	4.3	5.0	3.8	3.0	5.4	2.5	4.0	4.5	4.1	8.1	3.9	4.4	22.6
Cortez	normal	1.0	0.9	1.4	0.9	1.0	0.5	1.2	15.0	1.4	1.6	1.2	1.0	13.1
	maximum	3.2	3.2	4.6	2.5	3.7	1.8	2.4	3.3	3.4	6.6	2.8	3.0	19.9
Mancos	normal	1.4	1.3	1.9	1.2	1.5	0.6	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.2	17.0
	maximum	4.0	3.5	4.0	2.8	5.0	1.7	3.7	3.8	3.6	7.0	3.3	3.1	22.2
Durango	normal	1.6	1.4	1.9	1.3	1.1	0.7	1.8	2.3	2.1	2.2	1.9	1.5	19.9
	maximum	6.9	4.8	3.7	3.0	3.0	2.0	5.4	4.3	5.1	11.8	4.6	4.2	27.3
Ignacio	normal	1.2	1.1	1.3	0.7	0.9	0.5	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.2	16.0
	maximum	4.7	3.4	3.8	2.3	2.3	1.7	14.7	3.5	4.5	7.0	3.5	4.4	35.2
Pagosa Springs	normal	1.9	1.4	1.8	1.3	1.4	0.9	1.8	2.3	2.2	2.3	1.7	1.5	21.0
	maximum	5.3	4.0	4.7	3.8	4.3	2.5	3.8	5.4	5.7	7.8	3.4	3.5	33.8

Total Monthly Snowfall (inches)

Yellow Jacket	normal	17.1	13.5	10.7	3.2	1.2	0	0	0	0	1.4	7.9	13.3	63.7
	maximum	61.0	45.4	59.0	24.0	19.0	0	0	0	0	11.0	28.0	38.0	137.4
Cortez	normal	5.9	3.1	1.8	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.3	1.4	3.7	11.1
	maximum	27.5	15.5	16.0	6.2	0.3	0	0	0	0	6.2	10.5	20.5	38.0
Mancos	normal	9.7	7.9	4.8	1.8	0.6	0	0	0	0	0.4	5.2	6.6	37.2
	maximum	39.1	20.4	20.5	8.4	5.1	0	0	0	0	4.4	18.8	20.3	95.0
Durango	normal	17.0	12.7	10.7	3.3	0.7	0	0	0	0	1.2	5.4	13.9	65.5
	maximum	58.5	34.5	29.5	16.0	11.0	0	0	0	0	17.0	22.5	33.5	130.6
Ignacio	normal	6.8	2.9	2.2	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	0.5		15.8
	maximum	34.0	17.0	26.0	50.0	0	0	0	0	0.1	6.5	5.0		70.1
Pagosa Springs	normal	27.2	18.7	18.0	6.3	1.0	0	0	0	0	3.1	13.2	20.1	105.7
	maximum	76.0	51.0	47.0	23.0	14.0	0	0	0	0	16.0	39.4	46.0	212.0

Note: Climate averages/norms are based on a 30-year period. In this fact sheet, 1970 to 1999 was used for calculations; except for Mancos (1990-1999), Pagosa Springs (1970 to 1998), and Durango (1970 to 1991) due to limited data. Where data is limited, figures should be considered as an estimate.

Site Information	Station	Number	Elevation	Latitude	Longitude
	Yellow Jacket	59275	6860	37° 33'	108° 44'
	Cortez	51886	6180	37° 21'	108° 34'
	Mancos	55327	7040	37° 21'	108° 17'
	Durango	52432	6550	37° 17'	107° 53'
	Ignacio	54250	6420	37° 08'	107° 38'
	Pagosa Springs	56258	7110	37° 16'	107° 01'

Table 3. Frost probability and growing season length summary.

		Probability last SPRING frost will be before			Probability first FALL frost will be before			Probability growing season will be less than _____ days		
		90%	50%	10%	10%	50%	90%	10%	50%	90%
		Yellow Jacket	32° threshold	May 8	May 25	June 10	Sept 22	Oct 8	Oct 23	112
	28° threshold	Apr 21	May 5	May 19	Sept 29	Oct 17	Nov 4	140	165	191
	24° threshold	Apr 1	Apr 20	May 10	Oct 9	Oct 26	Nov 13	163	189	215
Cortez	32° threshold	May 10	May 26	June 11	Sept 12	Sept 27	Oct 12	107	124	141
	28° threshold	Apr 26	May 7	May 18	Sept 25	Oct 12	Oct 29	136	158	181
	24° threshold	Apr 12	Apr 26	May 10	Oct 4	Oct 20	Nov 5	157	177	198
Mancos	32° threshold	May 21	June 4	June 18	Sept 15	Sept 29	Oct 13	93	117	141
	28° threshold	Apr 25	May 13	May 31	Sept 17	Oct 2	Oct 17	115	142	169
	24° threshold	Apr 16	Apr 25	May 4	Oct 6	Oct 17	Oct 29	164	175	187
Durango	32° threshold	May 9	May 25	June 11	Sept 8	Sept 22	Oct 7	98	120	142
	28° threshold	May 3	May 11	May 19	Sept 16	Oct 5	Oct 25	126	147	169
	24° threshold	Apr 5	Apr 22	May 9	Sept 23	Oct 13	Nov 2	143	174	205
Ignacio	32° threshold	May 23	June 9	June 26	Sept 7	Sept 21	Oct 6	78	104	131
	28° threshold	May 7	May 21	June 4	Sept 11	Oct 1	Oct 20	103	133	164
	24° threshold	Apr 21	May 9	May 27	Sept 18	Oct 13	Nov 7	119	157	195
Pagosa Springs	32° threshold	June 9	June 22	July 4	Aug 15	Sept 7	Sept 30	48	77	107
	28° threshold	May 18	June 5	June 23	Sept 9	Sept 23	Oct 6	89	110	130
	24° threshold	May 1	May 17	June 2	Sept 23	Oct 5	Oct 16	121	141	160

Yellow Jacket

Early May	Mid-May	Late May	Early June	Mid-June	Late June	Early July	Mid-July	Late July	Early Aug.	Mid-Aug.	Late Aug.	Early Sept.	Mid-Sept.	Late Sept.	Early Oct.	
40 day, cool-season (spinach)															FROST	
45-55 day, cool-season (lettuce, kohlrabi)																
60-65 day, cool-season (beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, peas)																
70-75 day cool-season crops																
		50-55 day, semi-tender, warm-season (summer squash)														
		60-75 day, semi-tender, warm-season (cucumbers, beans, corn)														
		80-85 day, semi-tender, warm-season														
		FROST	70-75 day, tender, warm-season (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant)													
			80-85 day, tender, warm-season (cantaloupe, watermelon)													
			90-95 day, tender, warm-season (winter squash)													
							70-75 day cool-season									
								55-65 day, cool-season (beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, peas)								
									45-50 day, cool-season (lettuce, kohlrabi)							
									40 day, cool-season (spinach)							

Cortez

Early May	Mid-May	Late May	Early June	Mid-June	Late June	Early July	Mid-July	Late July	Early Aug.	Mid-Aug.	Late Aug.	Early Sept.	Mid-Sept.	Late Sept.	Early Oct.	
40 day, cool-season (spinach)														FROST		
45-65 day, cool-season (lettuce, kohlrabi, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, peas)																
70-75 day, cool-season																
		50-55 day, semi-tender, warm-season (summer squash)														
		60 day, semi-tender, warm-season (cucumbers)														
		65-70 day, semi-tender, warm-season (beans)														
		75-80 day, semi-tender, warm-season (corn)														
		85 day, semi-tender, warm-season														
		FROST	70 day, tender, warm-season (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant)													
			75 day, tender, warm-season crops													
			80 day, tender, warm-season crops													
						70-75 day, cool-season										
							55-65 day, cool-season (beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, peas)									
								45-50 day, cool-season (lettuce, kohlrabi)								
								40 day, cool-season (spinach)								

Mancos

Early May	Mid-May	Late May	Early June	Mid-June	Late June	Early July	Mid-July	Late July	Early Aug.	Mid-Aug.	Late Aug.	Early Sept.	Mid-Sept.	Late Sept.	Early Oct.	
	40-45 day, cool-season (spinach, lettuce)														FROST	
	50-55 day, cool-season (kohlrabi)															
	60-65 day, cool-season (beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, peas)															
	70-75 day cool-season															
			50-55 day, semi-tender, warm-season (summer squash)													
			60-65 day, semi-tender, warm-season (cucumbers)													
			70 day, semi-tender, warm-season (beans)													
			75 day, semi-tender, warm-season (corn)													
			FROST	70 day, tender, warm-season (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant)												
				75 day, cool-season												
				65-70 day, cool-season (peas)												
				50-60 day, cool-season (kohlrabi, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard)												
				40 day, cool-season (spinach)												

Durango

Early May	Mid-May	Late May	Early June	Mid-June	Late June	Early July	Mid-July	Late July	Early Aug.	Mid-Aug.	Late Aug.	Early Sept.	Mid-Sept.	Late Sept.	Early Oct.	
	40 day, cool-season (spinach)														FROST	
	45-50 day, cool-season (lettuce, kohlrabi)															
	55-60 day, cool-season (beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard)															
	65-75 day, cool-season (peas)															
			50-55 day, semi-tender, warm-season (summer squash)													
			60 day, semi-tender, warm-season (cucumbers)													
			65-70 day, semi-tender, warm-season (beans)													
			75 day, semi-tender, warm-season (corn)													
			80 day, semi-tender, warm-season													
			FROST	70 day, tender, warm-season (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant)												
				65-75 day, cool-season crops (peas)												
				55-60 day, cool-season (beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard)												
				45-50 day, cool-season (lettuce, kohlrabi)												
				40 day, cool-season (spinach)												

Ignacio

Early May	Mid-May	Late May	Early June	Mid-June	Late June	Early July	Mid-July	Late July	Early Aug.	Mid-Aug.	Late Aug.	Early Sept.	Mid-Sept.	Late Sept.	Early Oct.	
		40 day, cool-season (spinach)													FROST	
		45-50 day, cool-season (lettuce, kohlrabi)														
		55-65 day, cool-season (beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, peas)														
		70-75 day, cool-season														
		50-55 day, semi-tender, warm-season (summer squash)														
		60-65 day, semi-tender, warm-season (cucumbers)														
		70 day, semi-tender, warm-season (beans)														
		75 day, semi-tender, warm-season (corn)														
		FROST			65-75 day, cool-season (peas)											
						55-60 day, cool-season (beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard)										
						40-50 day, cool-season (spinach, lettuce, kohlrabi)										

Pagosa Springs

Early May	Mid-May	Late May	Early June	Mid-June	Late June	Early July	Mid-July	Late July	Early Aug.	Mid-Aug.	Late Aug.	Early Sept.	Mid-Sept.	Late Sept.	Early Oct.	
					FROST							FROST				
		40-45 day, cool-season (spinach)														
		50-55 day, cool-season (kohlrabi)														
		60-65 day, cool-season (beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, peas)														
		70-75 day, cool-season														

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¹D. Whiting, Colorado State University, Cooperative Extension consumer horticulture specialist and Colorado Master Gardener coordinator.

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