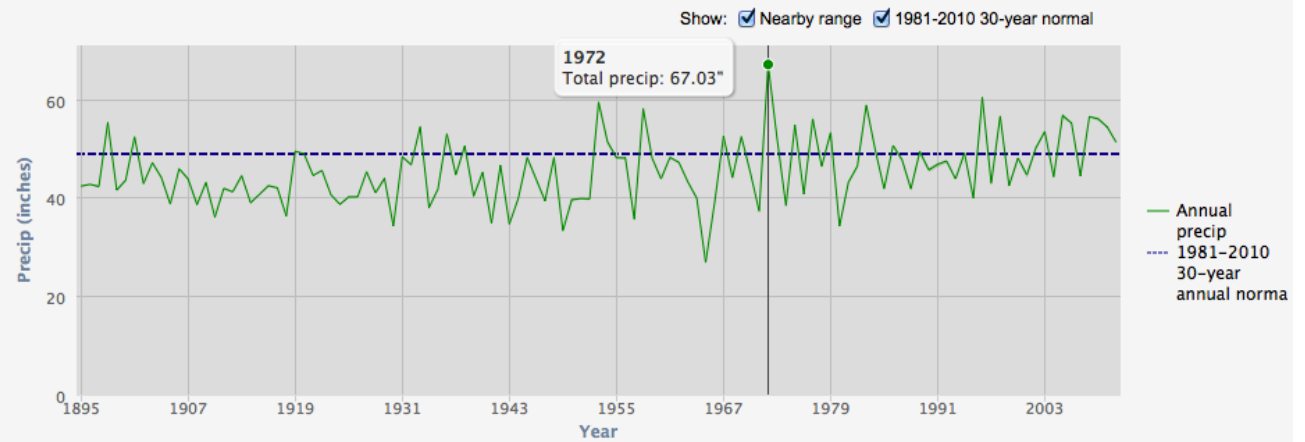


PRISM PORTAL



A GUIDE FOR COCORAHS PARTICIPANTS USING “THE PRISM-COCORAHS CLIMATE PORTAL”



1. Introduction
2. Accessing the PRISM Portal
3. Applications
4. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

OUTLINE





INTRODUCTION



EXCLUSIVE



CoCoRaHS has teamed up with PRISM to create an exclusive feature for CoCoRaHS participants

One of the benefits of being a CoCoRaHS participant is that you have exclusive access to products such as the PRISM-CoCoRaHS Climate Portal.



EXCLUSIVE

The CoCoRaHS – PRISM Portal Reference webpage



The PRISM portal is a new CoCoRaHS data analysis tool developed by the PRISM Climate Group at Oregon State University.

This is an exclusive feature available only to CoCoRaHS participants. It helps connect our daily precipitation measurements (weather) to seasonal patterns, long term averages and year to year variations (climate).

This portal provides access to estimates of "normal" precipitation for any location in the contiguous United States. PRISM also provides estimates of total precipitation for each month and year since 1895.

A screenshot of the CoCoRaHS - PRISM Portal website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the CoCoRaHS logo on the left and the text "COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE RAIN, HAIL & SNOW NETWORK" and "Because every drop counts" on the right. Below the navigation bar, the page title "CoCoRaHS - PRISM Portal" is displayed. A large banner for the PRISM CoCoRaHS Climate Portal is centered on the page. Below the banner is a green box with the text "THE PRISM-COCORAHS CLIMATE REFERENCE PAGE". To the left of the main content is a sidebar with a "Main Menu" and "Resources" section. The "Main Menu" includes links for Home, About Us, Join CoCoRaHS, Contact Us, and Donate. The "Resources" section includes links for FAQ/Help, Education, Training Slide-Shows, Videos, Drought Impacts, Evapotranspiration, Volunteer Coordinators, Mail List, Distribution/Sign-off, Help Needed, and Printable Forms. Below the "Resources" section are links for The Catch, Message of the Day, Data Analysis, CoCoRaHS Blog, Web Groups, State Newsletters, Master Gardener Guide, State Climate Series, and WXTalk Webinars. At the bottom of the sidebar are links for Sponsors, Links, and CoCoRaHS Store. Below the main content area, there is a section titled "View the YouTube narrated version of the PRISM Portal Guide by clicking on the arrow below:". Below this text is a video player showing a YouTube video titled "CoCoRaHS - PRISM Climate Portal Training". The video player shows a thumbnail for the video, which features the PRISM CoCoRaHS Climate Portal logo and the text "PRISM PORTAL A GUIDE FOR COCORAHS PARTICIPANTS USING 'THE PRISM-COCORAHS CLIMATE PORTAL'".

PRISM

What's the story on PRISM?



The PRISM computer model was originally written in the early 1990s by Chris Daly at Oregon State University. Before PRISM, precipitation maps were hand-drawn, done differently in each state, and were very expensive to produce. PRISM maps were found to be as least as accurate, but a lot faster and cheaper to produce. Chris formed the PRISM Climate Group to handle the many requests for climate maps, and is still hard at work today, improving the model and making better maps.

<http://prism.oregonstate.edu>

A screenshot of the PRISM Climate Group website. The header features the PRISM logo and the text "PRISM CLIMATE GROUP". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "HOME", "PRODUCTS", "PROJECTS", "DOCUMENTATION", and "HELP". The main content area is titled "Latest PRISM Data - Aug 2012" and includes a map of the United States with a color-coded precipitation scale. To the left of the map are "Quick Links" for "Data Access", "Monthly Data", "800m Normals (1981-2010)", and "Internet Mail Server". Below the map is a "Data Access" section with a "Click to see full size map" link. The bottom of the page features the OSU logo and a footer with copyright information for 2012.

PRISM (Parameter-elevation Regressions on Independent Slopes Model)

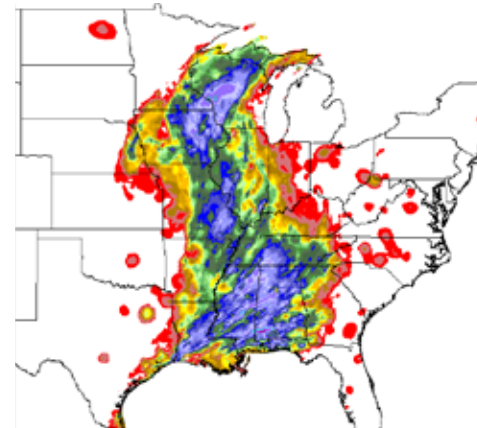
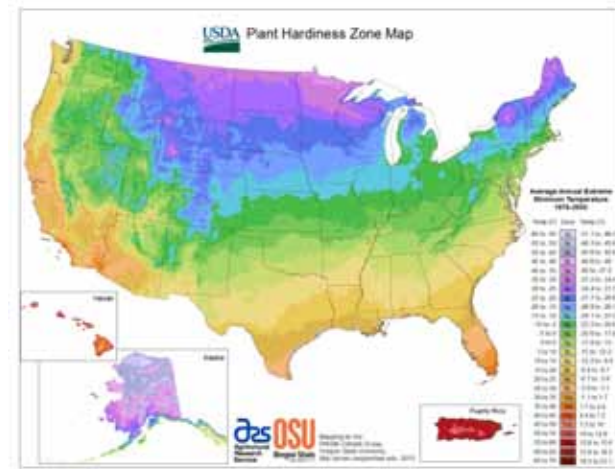
PRISM

PRISM Products



Here are some other projects the PRISM Climate Group has worked on recently:

- USDA 2012 Plant Hardiness Zone Map – winter temperature map used by millions of gardeners and plant breeders
- NOAA extreme rainfall atlas - used by states, counties, and municipalities to determine building codes and regulations for urban and rural drainage systems
- Daily weather maps for the US crop insurance program - estimates of what happened on every field every day



PRISM

PRISM ESTIMATES

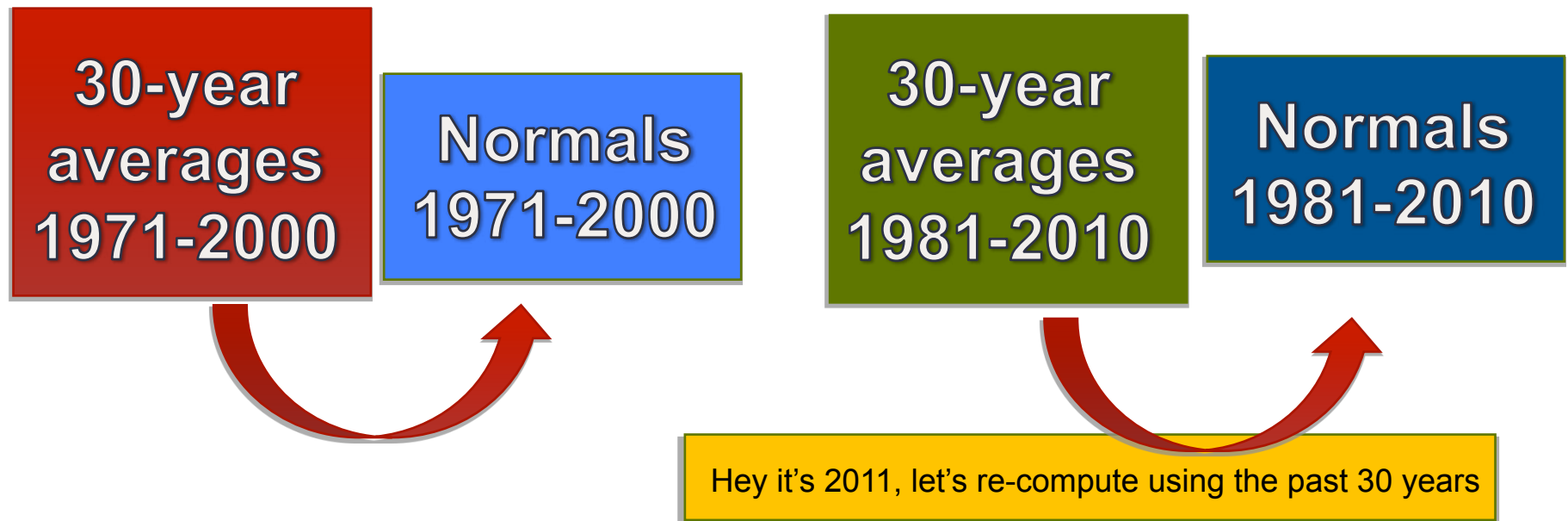


There are many locations in the US for which no precipitation observations exist. To create a continuous map of precipitation across the country, available station observations are fed into a computer model called PRISM (Parameter-elevation Regressions on Independent Slopes Model). PRISM estimates precipitation for a grid of square cells, measuring 0.5 mile across, covering the entire country. For grid cells where no observations exist, PRISM mimics the process an expert climatologist would follow: the model simulates how precipitation varies with elevation, accounts for oceanic moisture sources, and factors in terrain barriers that can cause rain shadows.

PRISM



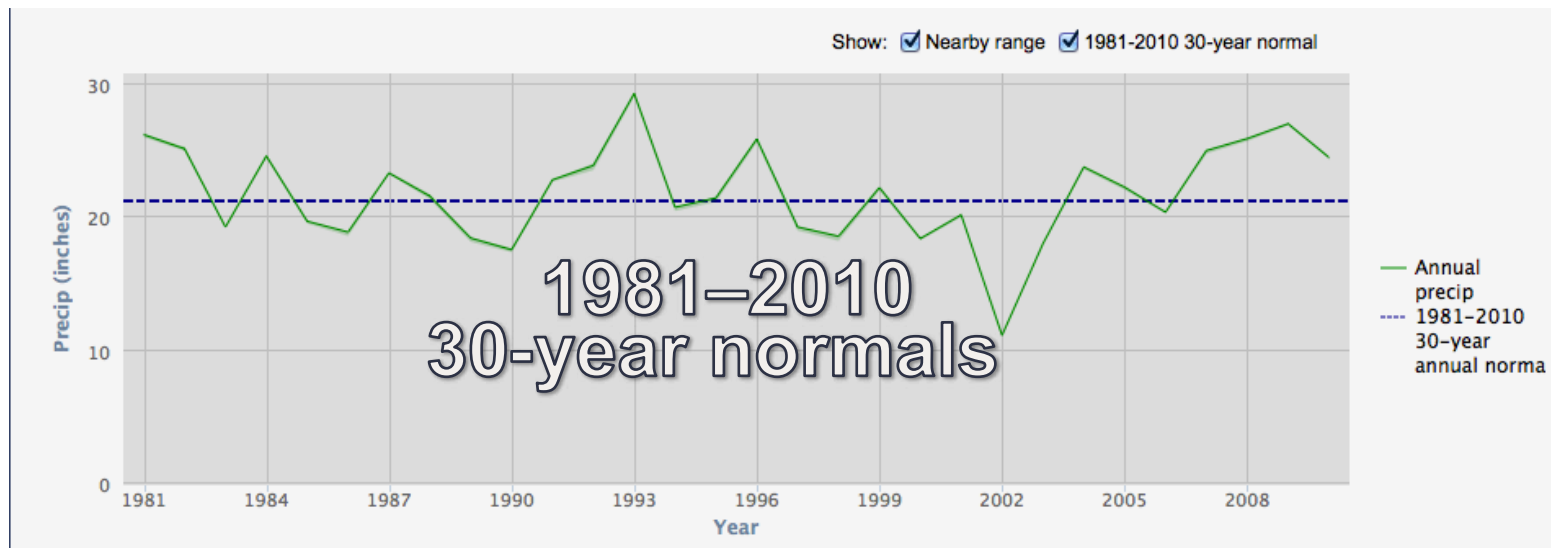
“HISTORICAL NORMALS” FROM THE PRISM CLIMATE MAPPING SYSTEM



Climatologists use normals as a baseline for determining the amount of precipitation expected at a given location. Normals are sets of 30-year averages, and are recomputed at the end of each decade. The current PRISM normals cover the period 1981-2010, and include some CoCoRaHS data.

PRISM

HOW PRISM NORMALS ARE MADE

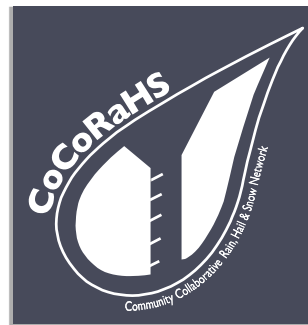


30-Year Normals: At the end of each decade, the average values of temperature and precipitation variables are computed over the preceding 30 years. The current set of 30-year normals covers the period 1981-2010.

PRISM



WERE COCORAHS DATA INCLUDED IN THE PRISM PRECIPITATION NORMALS?



Yes and no. Many years of data are needed to generate a stable normal value. East of the Rockies (102 W longitude), only stations with at least 10 years of data during the period ending in 2010 were used. No CoCoRaHS stations quite made that cutoff. However, west of 102 W, where mountainous terrain makes mapping precipitation more challenging, we lowered the bar a bit; any station with at least 5 years of complete data (> 85% of the days present) for at least one month qualified for inclusion. 723 CoCoRaHS stations had at least one month that qualified, and 236 qualified for all 12 months. When the 1991-2020 precipitation normals are mapped in a few years, it is likely that CoCoRaHS will be the largest contributing network!

PRISM PORTAL

Continental United States



The PRISM Portal is only able to map the contiguous United States at this time. Our sincere apologies to our Alaska, Hawaii and Canadian participants, but PRISM modeled data are not yet available for those areas.



ACCESSING AND USING THE PRISM PORTAL



PRISM PORTAL

ACCESSING THE PORTAL



To access the portal, make sure you are logged into your CoCoRaHS account and then click on my account from the CoCoRaHS homepage

The screenshot shows the CoCoRaHS website homepage. At the top left is the CoCoRaHS logo. To its right is the text "COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE RAIN, HAIL & SNOW NETWORK" and the tagline "Because every drop counts". Below this is a navigation bar with links: Home | States | View Data | Maps | My Data | My Account. A red arrow points to the "My Account" link, with the word "CLICK" written in white on a red background next to it. Below the navigation bar is a welcome message: "Welcome to CoCoRaHS! 'Volunteers working together to measure precipitation across the nation.'" On the left side, there is a "Main Menu" section with links: Home, About Us, Join CoCoRaHS, Contact Us, and Donate. Below that is a "Resources" section with links: FAQ / Help, Education, Training Slide-Shows, Videos, Drought Impacts, and Evapotranspiration. In the center, there is a box for "Measuring Reference Evapotranspiration ET₀" with the tagline "The 'up' side of the water cycle". Below this is a map of the United States showing precipitation reports. To the right of the map is a legend for "Daily Precipitation (inches x.xx) USA 10/31/2012" with a color scale from 0.0 to 0.20. On the right side of the page, there are several buttons: "JOIN COCORAHHS", "TRAINING SLIDE-SHOWS", and "Things to know about...".

PRISM PORTAL

ACCESSING THE PORTAL – National PRISM data



CoCoRaHS COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE RAIN, HAIL & SNOW NETWORK
"Because every drop counts"

Home | States | View Data | Maps My Data | My Account | Logout

My Account

Notification:

- View your CoCoRaHS Station Water Year Summary

Station Number	2010 Water Year	2011 Water Year	2012 Water Year
CO-LR-284	HTML Excel Charts	HTML Excel Charts	HTML Excel Charts

My Information [Edit](#)

Name: CSU Foothills Campus	Postal Address
Email: info@cocorahs.org	Address W Laporte Ave
Username: Foothills	City Fort Collins
Status: Active	State CO
Creation Date: 10/7/2004	County Larimer
	Zip 80521

PRISM Portal

View over a 100 years of modeled climate data for the Continental United States at the [PRISM Portal](#). Find out more [about the PRISM Portal](#). The PRISM Portal is exclusively available to participants of the CoCoRaHS network and can only be accessed from this page.

My Stations

Station Number	Station Name	Type	State	County	Details	PRISM Portal
CO-LR-284	FCL 3.0 W	CoCoRaHS	CO	Larimer	View	PRISM Data

One option is to click on the "blue" words PRISM PORTAL to get access to the Continental United States



PRISM PORTAL

ACCESSING THE PORTAL – your station’s PRISM data



CoCoRaHS COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE RAIN, HAIL & SNOW NETWORK
"Because every drop counts"

Home | States | View Data | Maps My Data | My Account | Logout

My Account

My Account

- Change Username
- Change Password
- View My Account
- Edit My Account

Enter My New Reports

- Daily Precipitation
- Multi-Day Accumulation
- Hail
- Significant Weather
- Monthly Zeros
- Drought Impact Report
- Evapotranspiration

List/Edit My Reports

- Daily Precipitation
- Multi-Day Accumulation
- Hail
- Significant Weather
- Drought Impact Report
- Evapotranspiration

Notification:

- View your CoCoRaHS Station Water Year Summary

Station Number	2010 Water Year	2011 Water Year	2012 Water Year
CO-LR-284	HTML Excel Charts	HTML Excel Charts	HTML Excel Charts

My Information [Edit](#)

Name: CSU Foothills Campus **Postal Address**
Email: info@cocorahs.org Address W Laporte Ave
City Fort Collins
State CO
County Larimer
Zip 80521

Username: Foothills
Status: Active
Creation Date: 10/7/2004

PRISM Portal

View over a 100 years of modeled climate data for the Continental United States at the [PRISM Portal](#). Find out more [about the PRISM Portal](#). The PRISM Portal is exclusively available to participants of the CoCoRaHS network and can only be accessed from this page.

My Stations

Station Number	Station Name	Type	State	County	Details	PRISM Portal
CO-LR-284	FCL 3.0 W	CoCoRaHS	CO	Larimer	View	PRISM Data

The other option is to click on the “blue” words [PRISM data](#) to get access to your specific station’s PRISM data.



PRISM PORTAL

ACCESS – Getting started



Access PRISM Estimates

Access Precipitation Estimates from the PRISM Climate Mapping System

Learn what the long-term average precipitation conditions are in your area, and how precipitation has varied over the past century

Use any method to identify your location

- State & County
- Station
- Coordinates
- Click on map to choose location

Latitude: 44.5374 Longitude: -123.3038

[View Precipitation Data](#)

A map of the United States showing numerous red dots representing precipitation data points. The map includes state names and a search bar. A red dot is highlighted on the map, corresponding to the coordinates 44.5374, -123.3038. The map is titled "Click to select. Click & drag to pan. Use mouse wheel to zoom." and includes a "View Precipitation Data" button.

You are now in the PRISM PORTAL.

You have four button options to find your desired geographic location:

1. State and County
2. Station number
3. Coordinates
4. Clicking on the map

Access Precipitation Estimates from the PRISM Climate Mapping System

Learn what the long-term average precipitation conditions are in your area, and how precipitation has varied over the past century

Use any method to identify your location

State & County Massachusetts Plymouth

Station Massachusetts -- Stations -- -- Station Names --

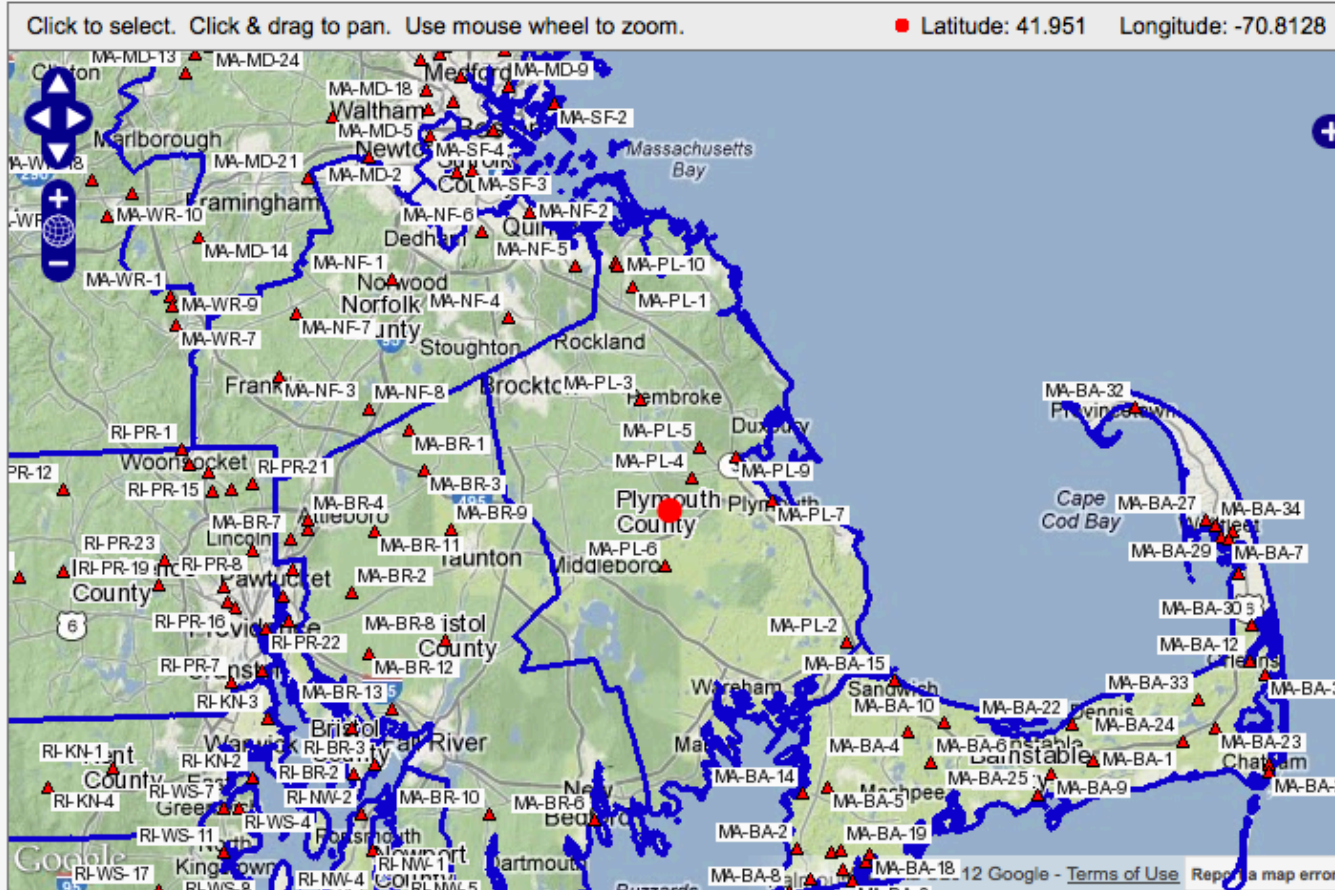
Coordinates Latitude: 41.951 Longitude: -70.8128

Click on map to choose location

← Go to the center of a county

View Precipitation Data

← CLICK



Access Precipitation Estimates from the PRISM Climate Mapping System

Learn what the long-term average precipitation conditions are in your area, and how precipitation has varied over the past century

Use any method to identify your location

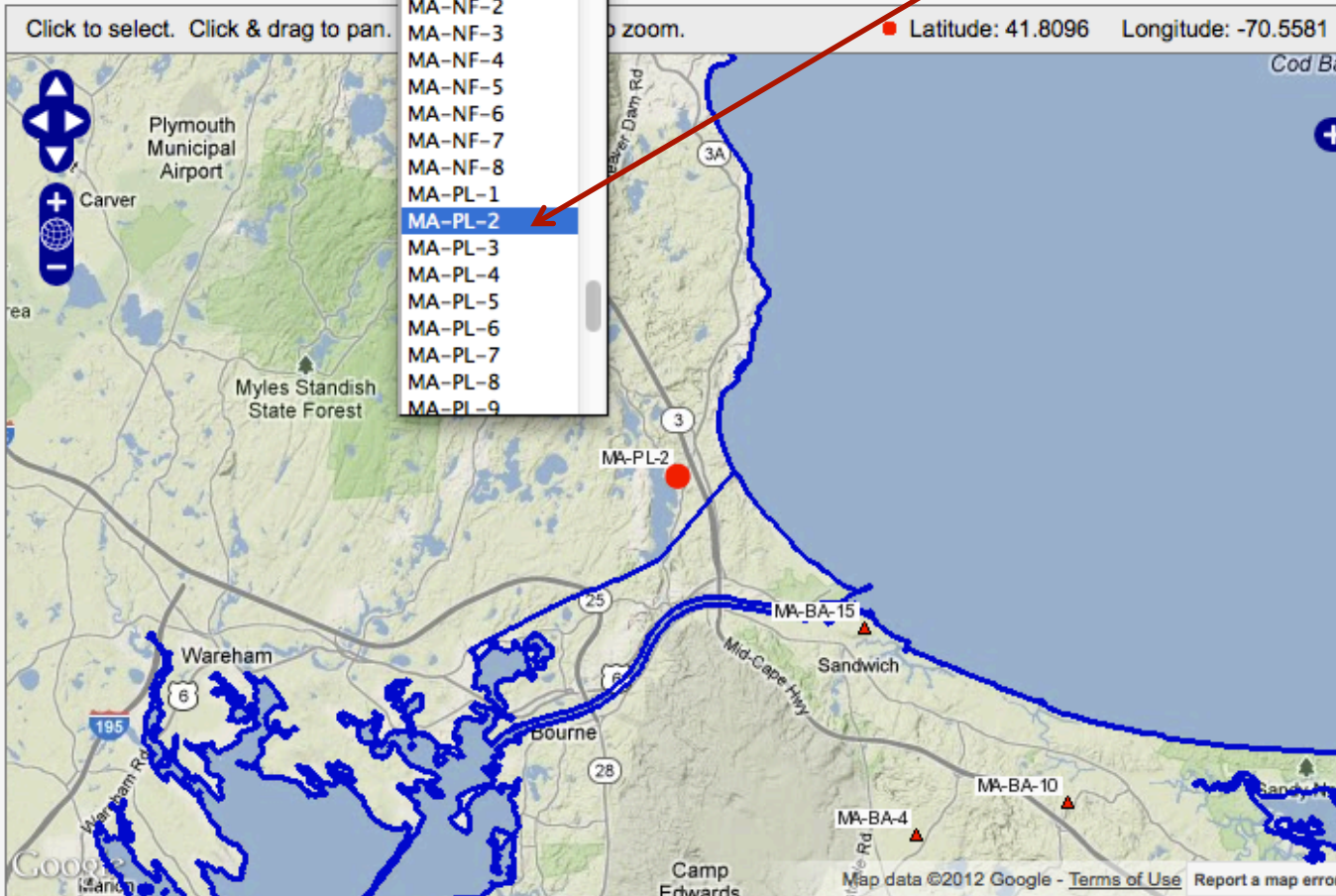
State & County Massachusetts Plymouth

Station Massachusetts -- Stations -- -- Station Names --

Coordinates Latitude: 41.8096 -70.5581

Click on map to choose location

Go to a CoCoRaHS station location



Access Precipitation Estimates from the PRISM Climate Mapping System

Learn what the long-term average precipitation conditions are in your area, and how precipitation has varied over the past century

Use any method to identify your location

State & County Massachusetts Plymouth

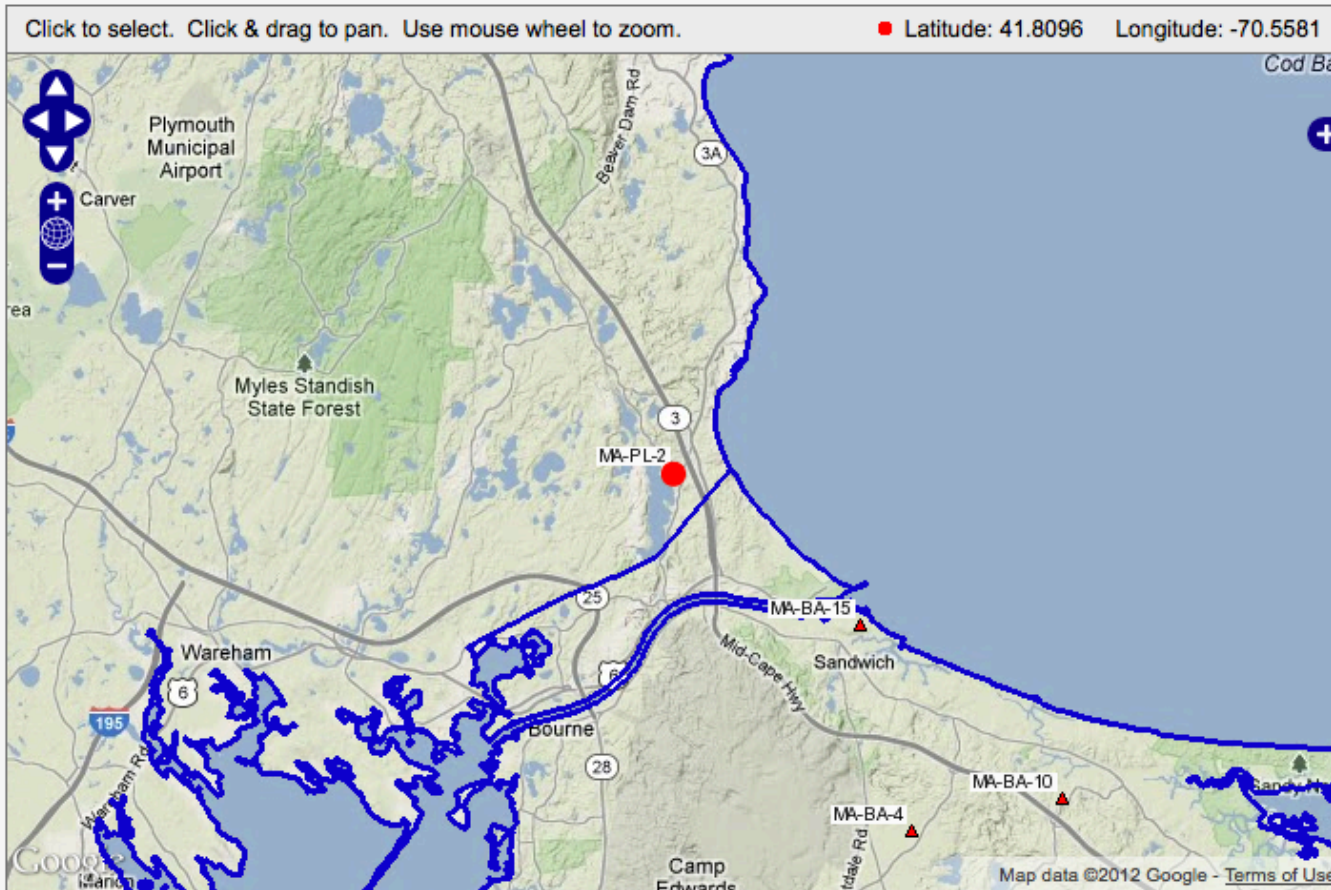
Station Massachusetts -- Stations -- -- Station Names --

Coordinates Latitude: 41.8096 Longitude: -70.5581 [Zoom to location](#)

Click on map to choose location

Go to latitude/longitude coordinates

[View Precipitation Data](#)



Access Precipitation Estimates from the PRISM Climate Mapping System

Learn what the long-term average precipitation conditions are in your area, and how precipitation has varied over the past century

Use any method to identify your location

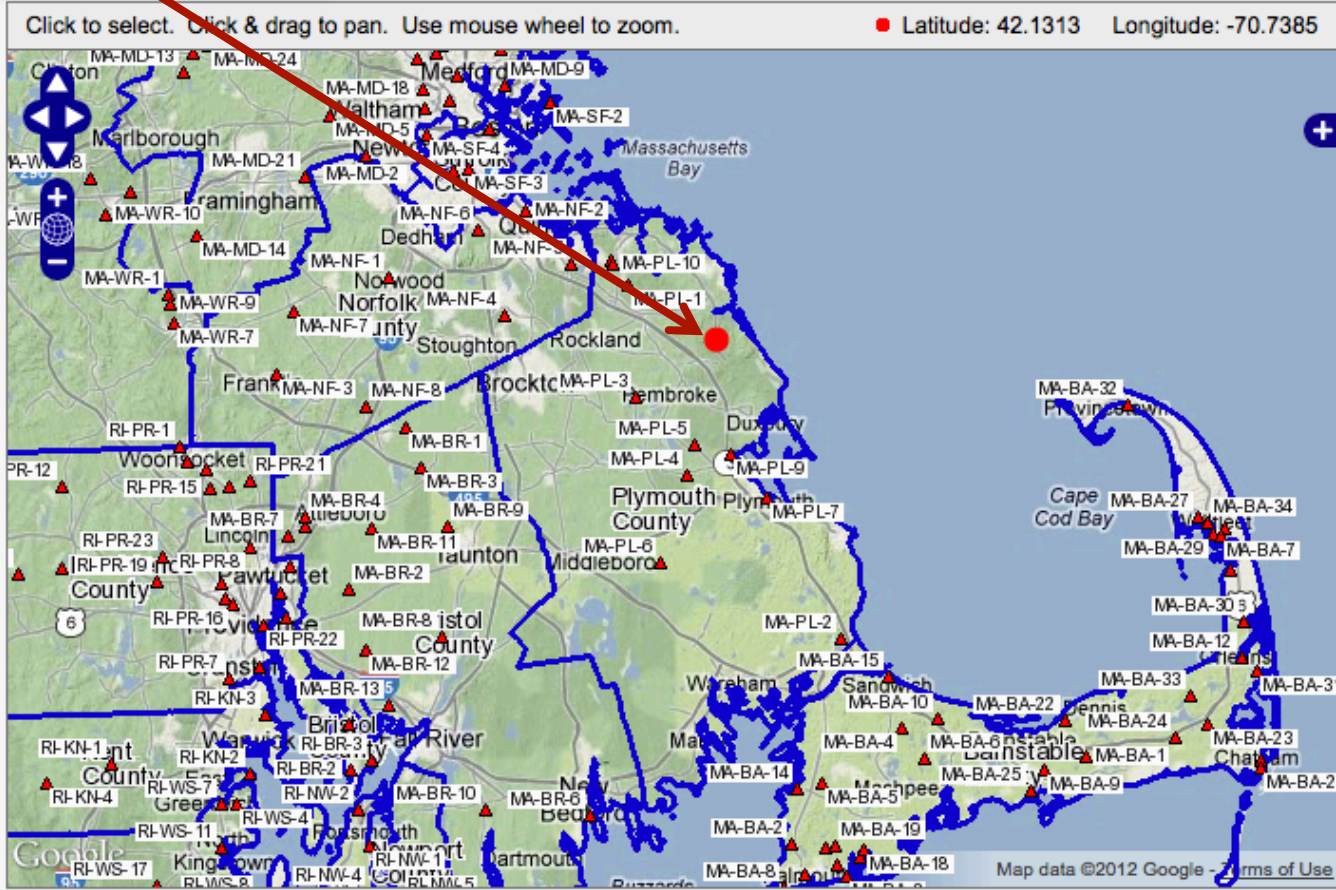
State & County Massachusetts Plymouth

Station Massachusetts -- Stations -- -- Station Names --

Coordinates Latitude: 42.1313 Longitude: -70.7385

Click on map to choose location

[View Precipitation Data](#)



The Portal plots a graph of historical "Normals" for the chosen location

[Access PRISM Estimates](#) > Historical Normals

Historical "Normals" from the PRISM Climate Mapping System

Climatologists use **normals** as a baseline for determining the amount of precipitation expected at a given location. Normals are sets of 30-year averages, and are recomputed at the end of each decade. The current PRISM normals cover the period 1981-2010. The normals shown here **do not include CoCoRaHS data**. Learn [how the PRISM normal estimates are made](#).

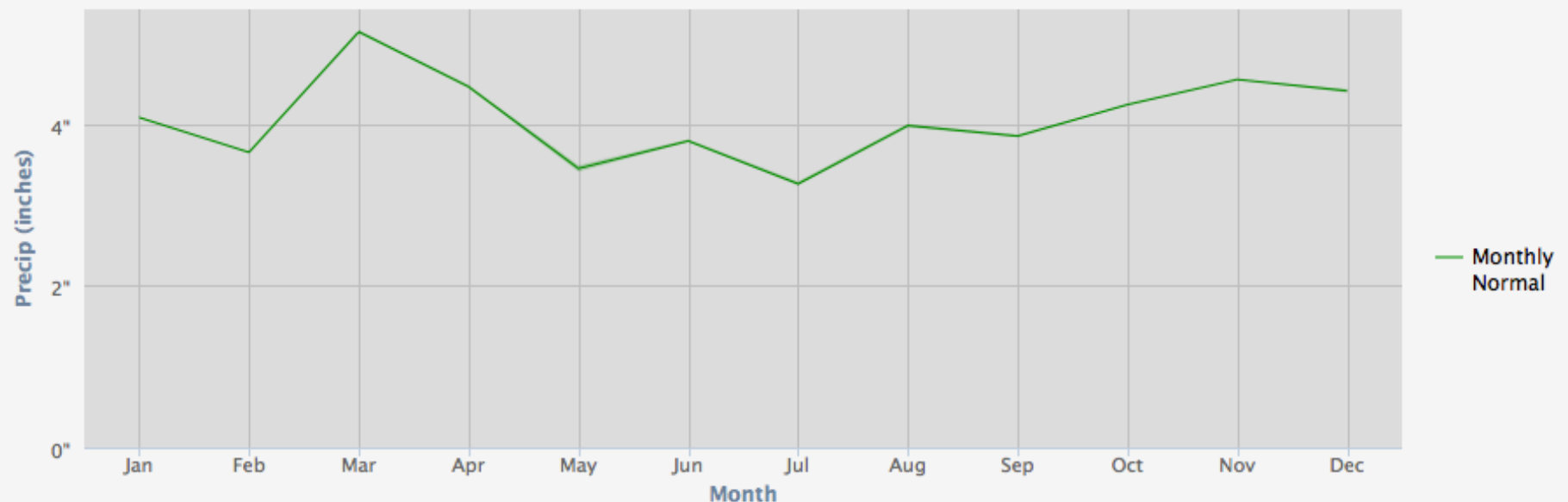
Average monthly precipitation (inches) for **MA-PL-2**, 41.8096/-70.5581
(Plymouth County, Massachusetts) and [nearby locations](#) over 30-year "normal" period

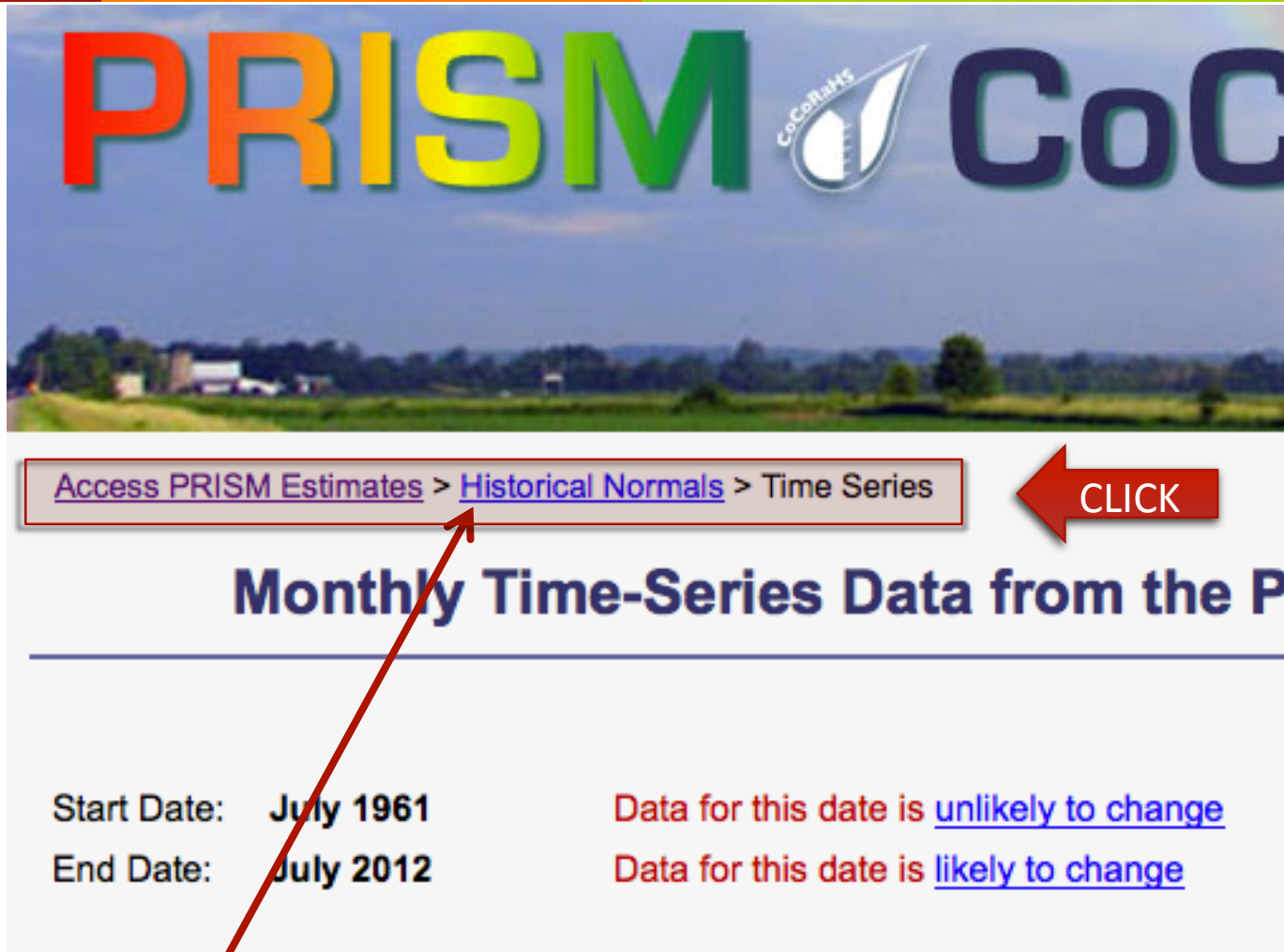
Average annual precip: 48.86"

[View or download](#) data values

Mouseover to view individual values
Click-and-drag to zoom
"Reset zoom" link restores full display

Show: Nearby range



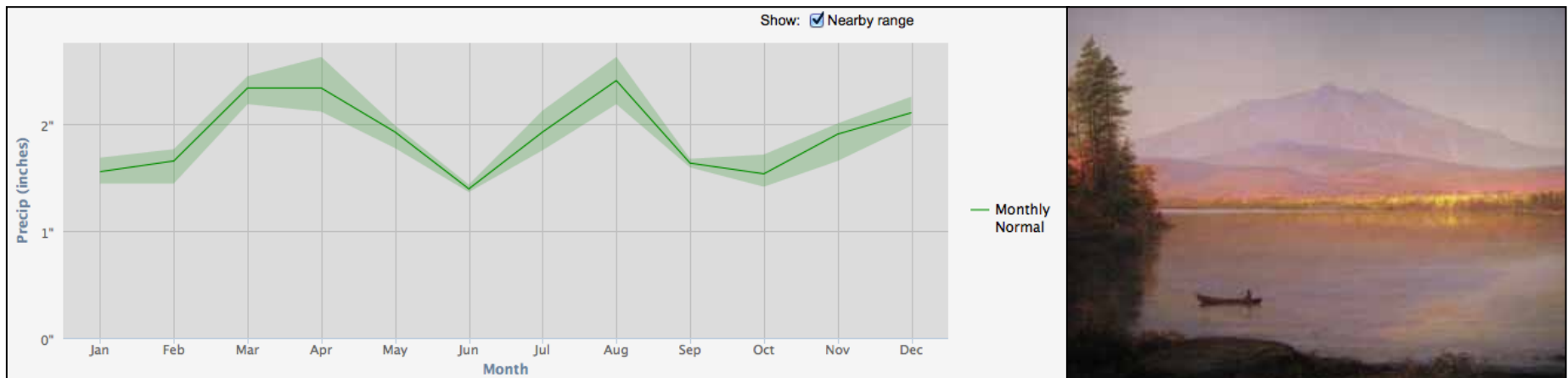


The image shows a screenshot of a web portal. At the top, there is a logo for "PRISM CoC" with a stylized water drop icon. Below the logo is a navigation menu with the following items: [Access PRISM Estimates](#), [Historical Normals](#), and [Time Series](#). A red arrow labeled "CLICK" points to the "Historical Normals" link. Below the navigation menu is a section titled "Monthly Time-Series Data from the P". Underneath this title, there are two rows of text: "Start Date: July 1961" and "End Date: July 2012". To the right of these dates, there are two lines of text: "Data for this date is [unlikely to change](#)" and "Data for this date is [likely to change](#)". A red arrow points from the text below to the "Historical Normals" link in the navigation menu.

To move backwards to a previous page on the Portal click one of underlined choices in the upper left-hand corner of the page.

PRISM PORTAL

HANDLING MOUNTAINOUS TERRIAN



The PRISM model calculates precipitation at a scale of approximately 0.5 mile. If you live in a mountainous area, this may explain why the values from your station don't seem to "match" those from PRISM. If your station is in a small valley, for example, the model may not distinguish it from nearby ridges, where precipitation may be higher.

The shaded areas on the plot show the range of PRISM precipitation values found if you were to move from your location by about 1 mile in all directions. In flat areas there will be little to no shading, but in mountains or canyons the differences can be significant.



APPLICATIONS



APPLICATIONS

Find out the average estimated precipitation for any location in the United States



Access PRISM Estimates

Access Precipitation Estimates from the PRISM Climate Mapping System

Learn what the long-term average precipitation conditions are in your area, and how precipitation has varied over the past century

Use any method to identify your location

- State & County Michigan
- Station Michigan
- Coordinates Latitude: Longitude:
- Click-to-choose

A map of Michigan showing county boundaries and precipitation estimates. A red dot is placed in Ontonagon County, with a red arrow pointing to it from the bottom. The map includes labels for "Pictured Islands State Park", "Ontonagon County", "Gogebic County", and "Ottawa National Forest". The coordinates at the top right are Latitude: 46.6644 and Longitude: -89.515.

Access PRISM Estimates

Access Precipitation Estimates from the PRISM Climate Mapping System

Learn what the long-term average precipitation conditions are in your area, and how precipitation has varied over the past century

Use any method to identify your location

- State & County Illinois
- Station Illinois
- Coordinates Latitude: Longitude:
- Click-to-choose

A map of Illinois showing county boundaries and precipitation estimates. A red dot is placed in Champaign County, with a red arrow pointing to it from the bottom. The map includes labels for "Champaign County", "St. Joes", "Danville", "Waverly", "Georgetown", and "Olivet". The coordinates at the top right are Latitude: 40.2027 and Longitude: -87.9793.

Simply choose a point on the map and find out its average estimated precipitation

EXAMPLE

We are heading to the Santa Cruz, California area this July. Should we pack an umbrella?

Access PRISM Estimates

Access Precipitation Estimates from the PRISM Climate Mapping System

Learn what the long-term average precipitation conditions are in your area, and how precipitation has varied over the past century

Use any method to identify your location

- State & County
- Station
- Coordinates Latitude: Longitude:
- Click-to-choose

[View Precipitation Data](#) **CLICK**

Click to select. Click & drag to pan. Use mouse wheel to zoom.

Latitude: 36.9076 Longitude: -121.838

Click on the location on the map

Map data ©2012 Google - Terms of Use Report a map error

The image shows a screenshot of the PRISM Climate Mapping System interface. It features a search form with four options: State & County, Station, Coordinates, and Click-to-choose. The 'Click-to-choose' option is selected. Below the form is a map of the Santa Cruz region in California, with numerous precipitation stations marked as red triangles and labeled with codes like CA-SZ-1 through CA-SZ-46. A red dot on the map indicates the selected location, with a red arrow pointing to it from a text box that says 'Click on the location on the map'. Another red arrow points from a 'View Precipitation Data' button to the word 'CLICK'.

Average monthly precipitation (inches) for 36.9076/-121.838
(Santa Cruz County, California) and [nearby locations](#) over 30-year "normal" period

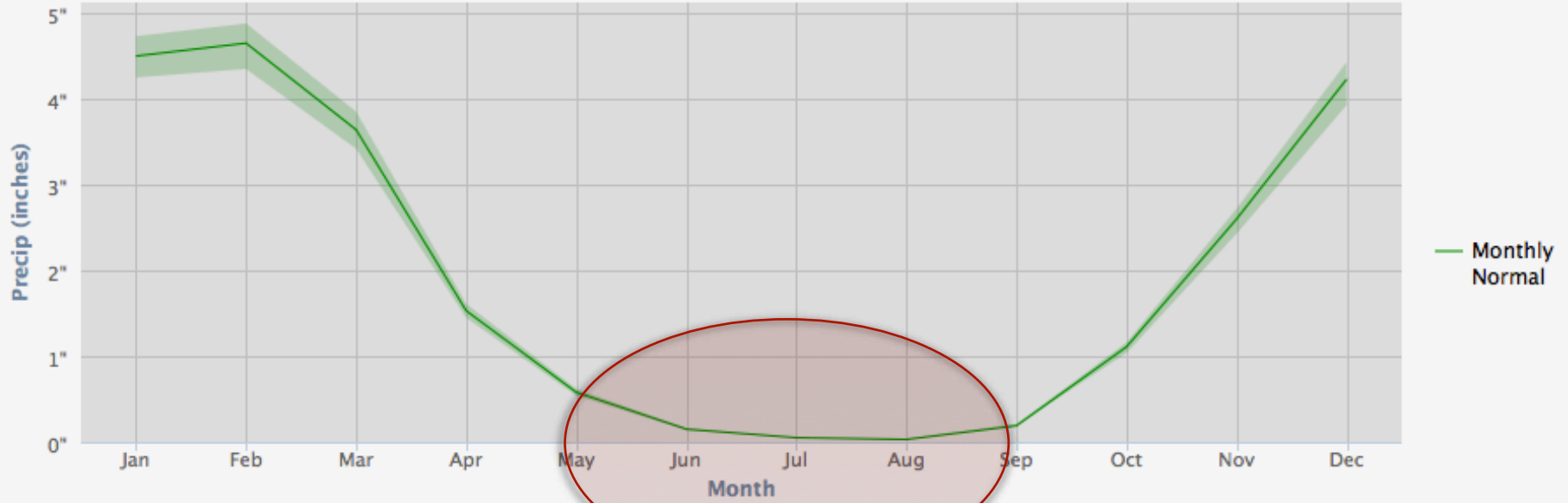
Mouseover to view individual values
Click-and-drag to zoom
"Reset zoom" link restores full display

Average annual precip: 23.26"

[View or download](#) data values

Click to download the plotted data to a spreadsheet

Show: Nearby range



Looks like this is a very dry time of year for Central California . . .
You can leave the umbrella at home.

APPLICATIONS

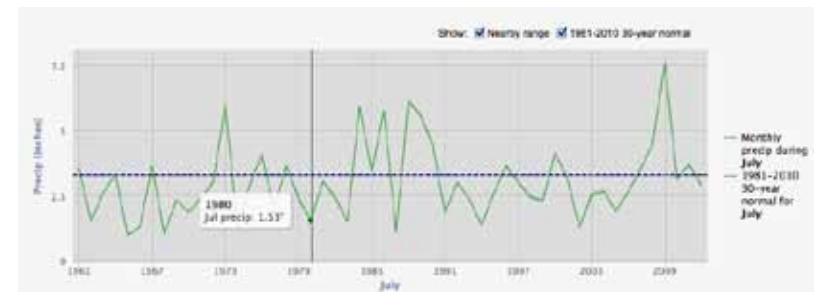
Historical Time Series



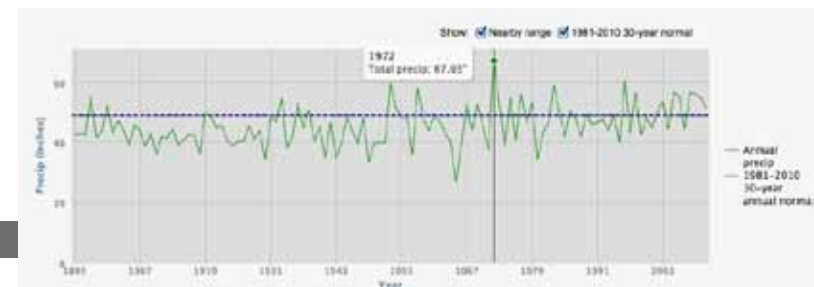
How does **monthly** precipitation vary in Plymouth, Massachusetts over the past fifteen years?



How does **July** precipitation vary in Plymouth, Massachusetts from 1961 – 2012 ?



How does **annual** precipitation vary in Plymouth, Massachusetts from 1895 – 2011 ?



Selected Time Span

How does **monthly** precipitation vary in Plymouth, Massachusetts over the past twenty years?

Time Series Precipitation Data

Monthly and annual precipitation values computed by the PRISM model are also available. Select the months you would like plotted for your location.

Selected time span

Starts: 1997 July Data for this date is [unlikely to change](#)

Runs through: 2012 July Data for this date is [likely to change](#)

Selected month only (e.g., all Januaries between 1980 and 2000)

Month: July

From: 1961 through 2012

Annual values only

From: 1895 through 2011

Click here to learn about PRISM data stability. The more recent the date, the more likely the data will change in the future.

CLICK

Plot Time-Series Data

Time-Series Data from the PRISM Climate Mapping System

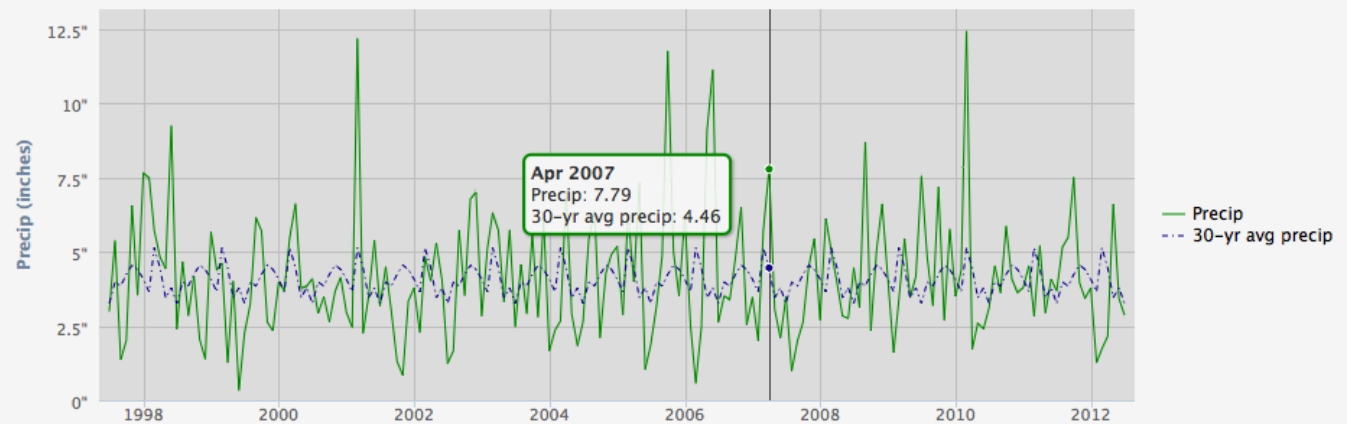
Learn [how the PRISM normal estimates are made](#)

Start Date: **July 1997** Data for this date is [unlikely to change](#)
End Date: **July 2012** Data for this date is [likely to change](#)

Monthly precipitation (total inches) for **MA-PL-2**, 41.8096/-70.5581
(Plymouth County, Massachusetts) and [nearby locations](#) compared to 30-year normals
[View or download](#) data values

Mouseover to view individual values
Click-and-drag to zoom
"Reset zoom" link restores full display

Show: Precip 30-yr avg precip Nearby range



Time Series Precipitation Data

Monthly and annual precipitation values computed by the PRISM model are also available. Select the months you would like plotted for your location.

Selected time span

Starts: 1997 ▾ July ▾ Data for this date is [unlikely to change](#)

Runs through: 2012 ▾ July ▾ Data for this date is [likely to change](#)

Selected month only (e.g., all Januaries between 1980 and 2000)

Month: July ▾

From: 1961 ▾ through 2012 ▾

Annual values only

From: 1895 ▾ through 2011 ▾

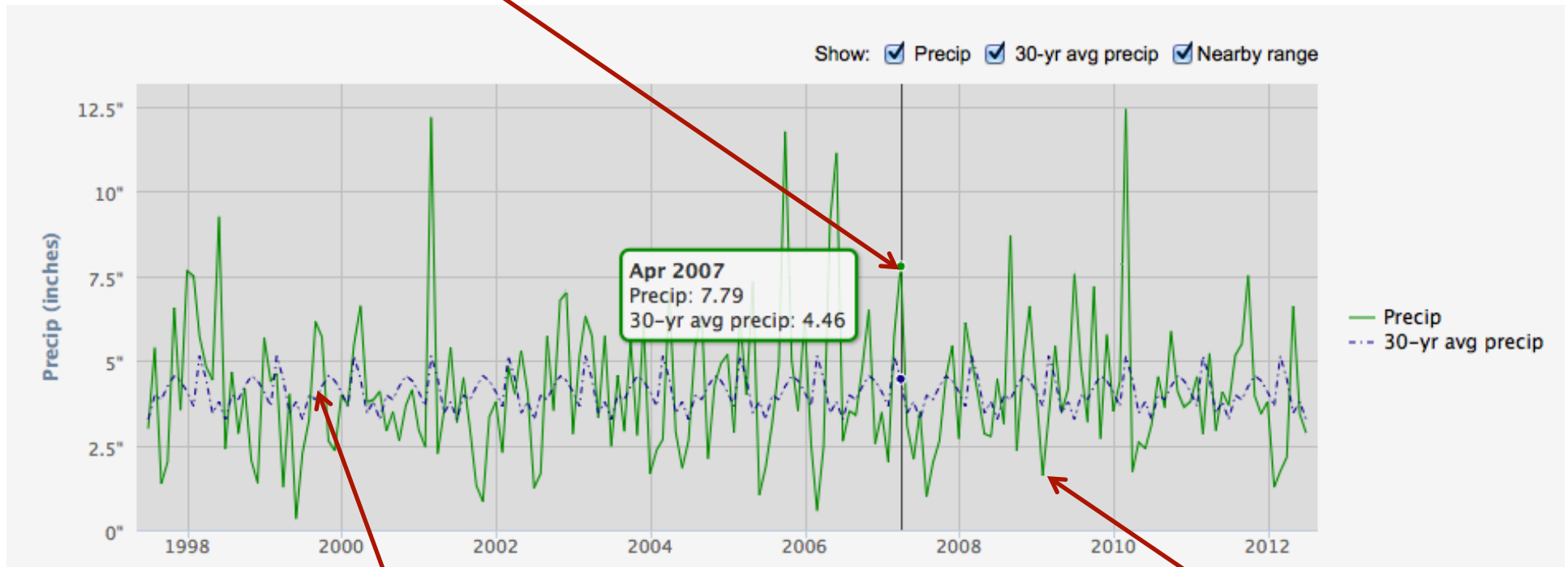
Plot Time-Series Data

The Portal provides a time series graph of monthly precipitation from 1997 - 2012

Selected Time Span



Our “mouse-over” function will show you specific individual values



30-yr avg precip (blue)

Precipitation (green)

Selected Month

How does **July** precipitation vary in Plymouth, Massachusetts from 1961 – 2012 ?

Time Series Precipitation Data

Monthly and annual precipitation values computed by the PRISM model are also available. Select the months you would like plotted for your location.

Selected time span

Starts: 1895 July Data for this date is [unlikely to change](#)

Runs through: 2012 July Data for this date is [likely to change](#)

Selected month only (e.g., all Januaries between 1980 and 2000)

Month: July

From: 1961 through 2012

Annual values only

From: 1895 through 2011

CLICK

Plot Time-Series Data

Monthly Time-Series Data from the PRISM Climate Mapping System

Learn [how the PRISM normal estimates are made](#)

Start Date: **July 1961** [Data for this date is unlikely to change](#)
End Date: **July 2012** [Data for this date is likely to change](#)

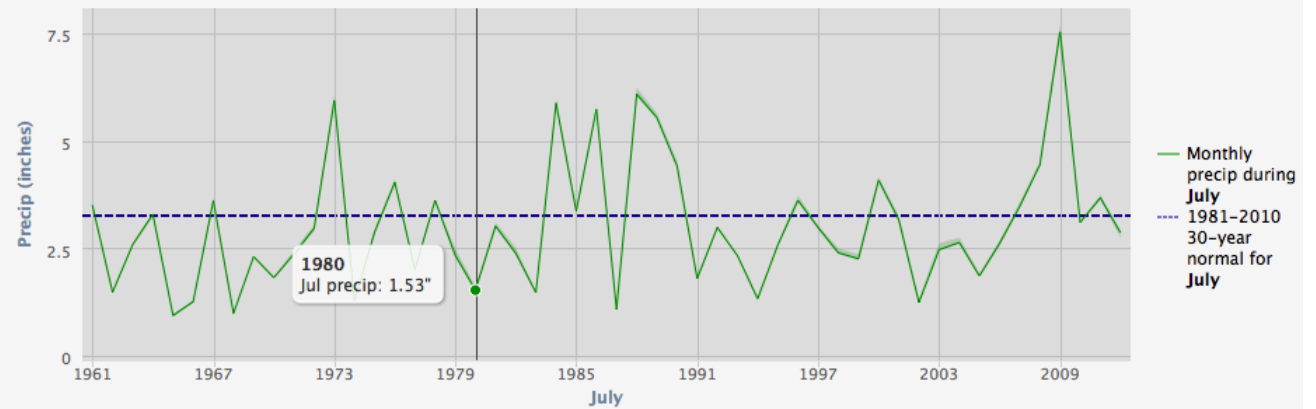
Monthly precipitation (total inches) for **MA-PL-2**, 41.8096/-70.5581
(Plymouth County, Massachusetts)

1981-2010 30-year normal for **July**: 3.26"

[View or download](#) data values

Mouseover to view individual values
Click-and-drag to zoom
"Reset zoom" link restores full display

Show: Nearby range 1981-2010 30-year normal



The Portal provides a time series graph of monthly precipitation for July from 1961 - 2012

Time Series Precipitation Data

Monthly and annual precipitation values computed by the PRISM model are also available. Select the months you would like plotted for your location.

Selected time span

Starts: [Data for this date is unlikely to change](#)

Runs through: [Data for this date is likely to change](#)

Selected month only (e.g., all Januaries between 1980 and 2000)

Month:

From: through

Annual values only

From: through

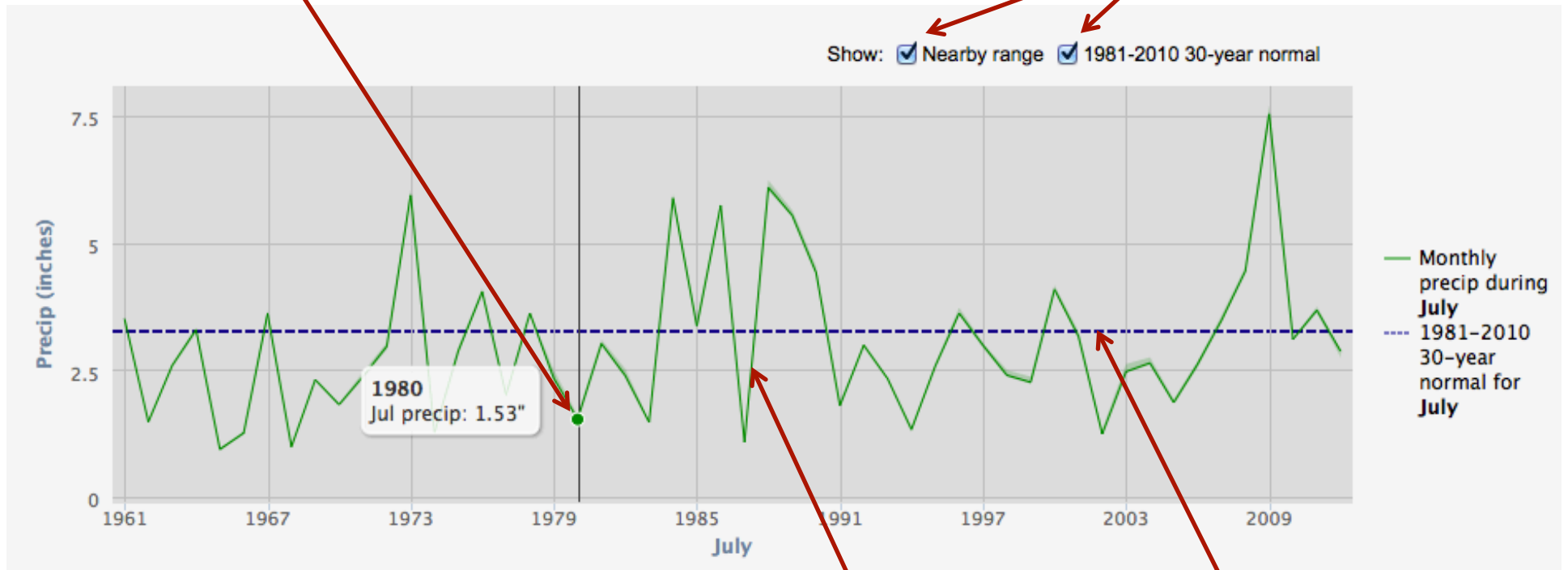
[Plot Time-Series Data](#)

Selected Month



Specific month via mouse-over function

Turn each line off and on by checking or un-checking these boxes



Monthly July Precip (green)

30-year normal for July (blue)

Annual Values Only

How does the annual precipitation vary in Plymouth, Massachusetts from 1895 – 2011 ?

Time Series Precipitation Data

Monthly and annual precipitation values computed by the PRISM model are also available. Select the months you would like plotted for your location.

Selected time span

Starts: 1895 ▾ July ▾ Data for this date is [unlikely to change](#)

Runs through: 2012 ▾ July ▾ Data for this date is [likely to change](#)

Selected month only (e.g., all Januaries between 1980 and 2000)

Month: July ▾

From: 1961 ▾ through 2012 ▾

Annual values only

From: 1895 ▾ through 2011 ▾

[Plot Time-Series Data](#)

Annual Time-Series Data from the PRISM Climate Mapping System

Learn [how the PRISM normal estimates are made](#)

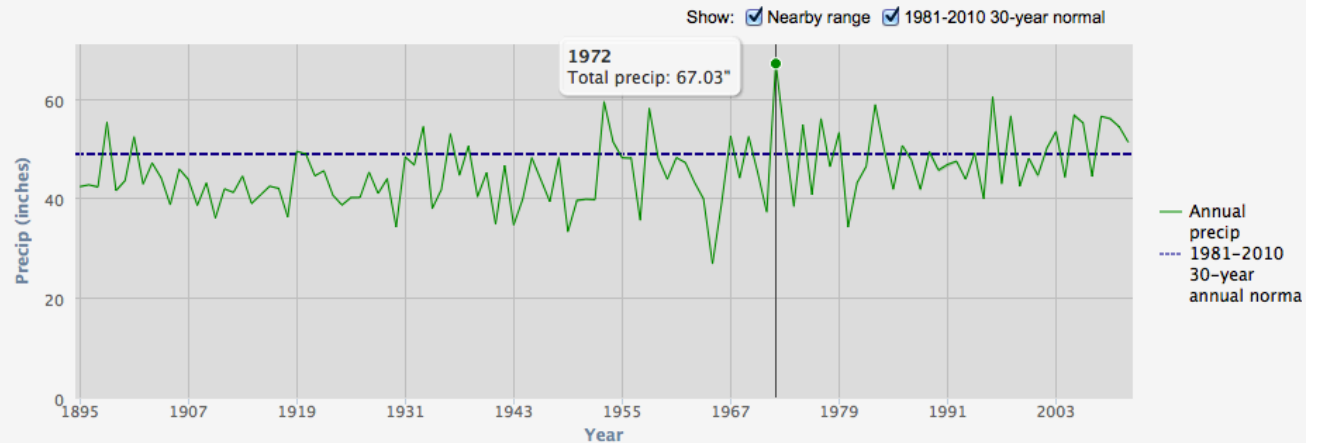
Start Date: **1895** Data for this date is [unlikely to change](#)
End Date: **2011** Data for this date is [unlikely to change](#)

Annual precipitation (total inches) for **MA-PL-2**, 41.8096/-70.5581
(Plymouth County, Massachusetts)

1981-2010 30-year **annual normal**: 48.86"

[View or download](#) data values

Mouseover to view individual values
Click-and-drag to zoom
"Reset zoom" link restores full display



The Portal provides a time series graph of annual precipitation from 1895 - 2011

Time Series Precipitation Data

Monthly and annual precipitation values computed by the PRISM model are also available. Select the months you would like plotted for your location.

Selected time span

Starts: Data for this date is [unlikely to change](#)

Runs through: Data for this date is [likely to change](#)

Selected month only (e.g., all Januaries between 1980 and 2000)

Month:

From: through

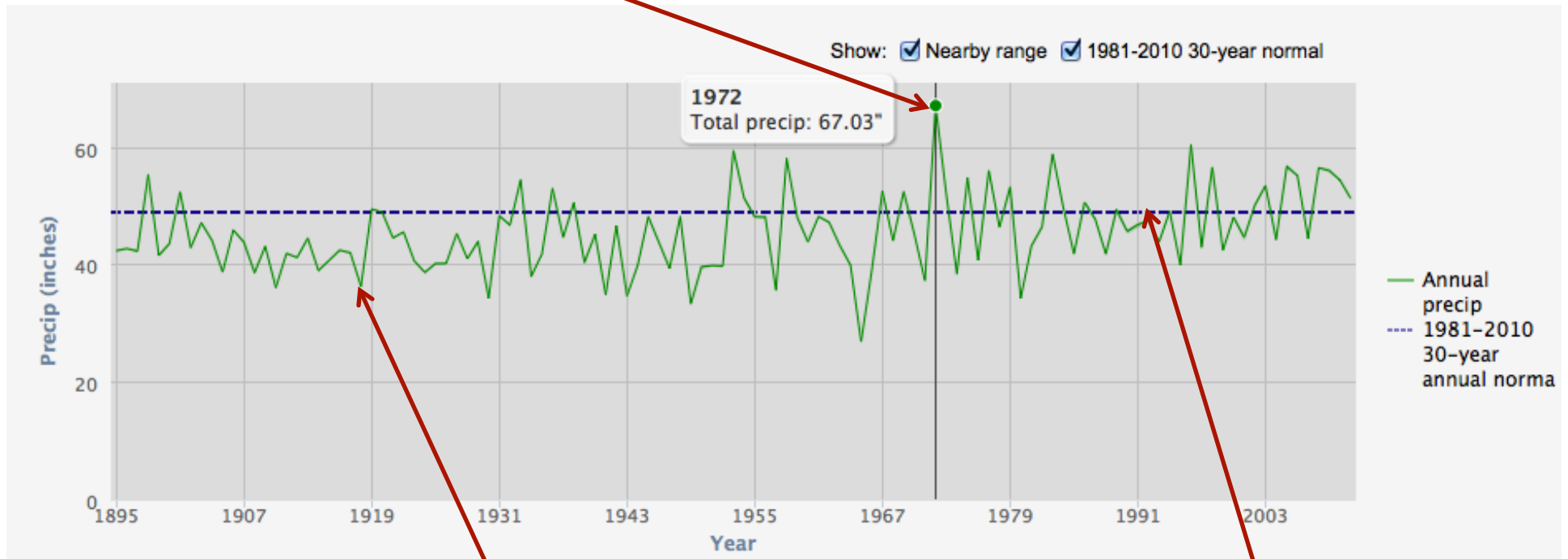
Annual values only

From: through

[Plot Time-Series Data](#)

Annual Values Only

Specific year via mouse-over function



Annual Precip (green)

30-year annual normal (blue)

Annual Time-Series Data from the PRISM

Start Date: **1895**

Data for this date is [unlikely to change](#)

End Date: **2010**

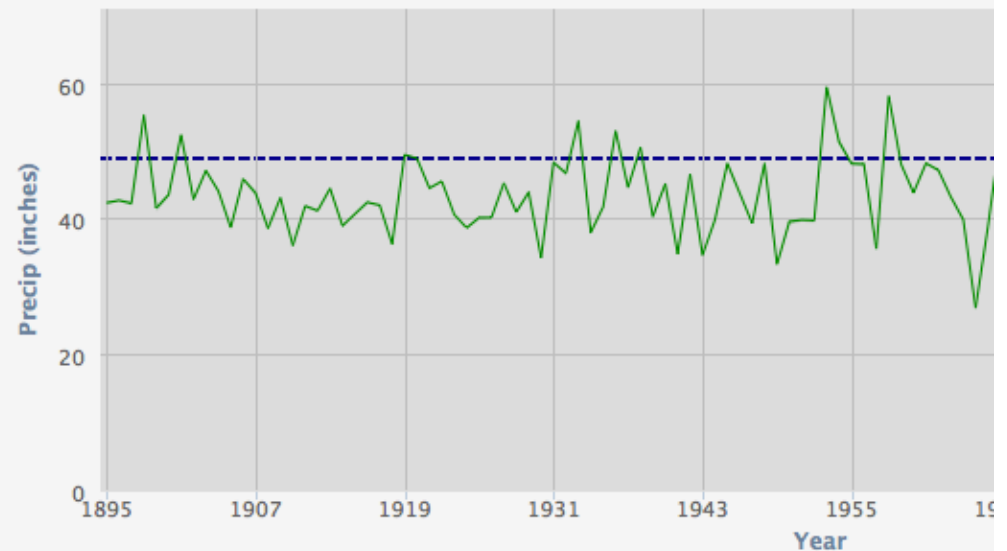
Data for this date is [unlikely to change](#)

Annual precipitation (total inches) for **MA-PL-2**, 41.8096/-70.5581
(Plymouth County, Massachusetts)

1981-2010 30-year **annual** normal: 48.86"

[View or download](#) data values

Show



You can also download any of the time series precipitation data options into table form using Excel, etc. . . .

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2		MA-PL-2 -- 41.8096/-70.5581 (Plymouth County Massachusetts)			
3		Selected Period: January 1895 - January 2010			
4		Annual precipitation			
5					
6	Time	Precip (inches)			
7	1895	42.3			
8	1896	42.64			
9	1897	42.22			
10	1898	55.2			
11	1899	41.5			
12	1900	43.49			
13	1901	52.32			
14	1902	42.81			
15	1903	47.04			
16	1904	44.05			
17	1905	38.64			
18	1906	45.82			
19	1907	43.73			
20	1908	38.54			
21	1909	43.03			
22	1910	36			
23	1911	41.84			
24	1912	41.13			
25	1913	44.41			
26	1914	38.9			
27	1915	40.64			

. . . from where you can make your own custom graphs.

APPLICATIONS

PRISM NORMALS USED IN COCORAHS WATER YEAR SUMMARIES



2012 CoCoRaHS Water Year Summary for Station CO-LR-762

Station Number	CO-LR-762	Latitude	40.62147
Station Name	Fort Collins 4.6 N	Longitude	-105.06372
County	Larimer	Elevation	5079 feet



2012 CoCoRaHS Water Year Summary for Station CO-LR-762

Station Number	CO-LR-762	Latitude	40.62147
Station Name	Fort Collins 4.6 N	Longitude	-105.06372
County	Larimer	Elevation	5079 feet



PRISM 30 YEAR NORMALS ARE BEING USED IN COCORAHS WATER YEAR SUMMARIES

APPLICATIONS



PRISM NORMALS USED IN COCORaHS WATER YEAR SUMMARIES

2012 CoCoRaHS Water Year Summary for Station CO-LR-762 Report generated on November 5, 2012

Station Overview		Station Location	
Station Number	CO-LR-762	Latitude	40.62147
Station Name	Fort Collins 4.6 N	Longitude	-105.06372
County	Larimer	Elevation (ft)	5079

PRISM normals used for comparison

Water Year Overview		Days in Water Year	Daily Prcp Observations	Multiday Prcp Observations	Hail Observations	Top of Page		
Month	30 Yr Avg by PRISM	Total Prcp Sum	Days Covered By All Observations	Daily Prcp Sum	Daily Observation Count	Multiday Prcp Sum	Days Covered by Multiday Observations	Multiday Observation Count
Oct 11	1.15	1.90	31	1.90	31	0.00	0	0
Nov 11	0.66	0.83	30	0.83	30	0.00	0	0
Dec 11	0.44	0.67	31	0.67	31	0.00	0	0
Jan 12	0.29	0.09	31	0.09	31	0.00	0	0
Feb 12	0.38	0.83	29	0.83	29	0.00	0	0
March 12	1.47	0.00	31	0.00	31	0.00	0	0
April 12	2.06	0.25	30	0.10	12	0.15	18	1
May 12	2.45	2.16	31	2.16	31	0.00	0	0
June 12	2.35	0.90	30	0.90	30	0.00	0	0
July 12	1.17	3.34	31	3.34	31	0.00	0	0
Aug 12	1.48	0.05	31	0.05	31	0.00	0	0
Sept 12	1.25	1.72	30	1.72	30	0.00	0	0
Water Year Totals:	15.15"	12.74"	366 days	12.59"	348	0.15"	18 days	1



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)



FAQ



WHAT IS MODELED DATA? IS IT USED ELSEWHERE?

Great question!

- *Modeled data is data that has been estimated by a computer program like PRISM, and is not a direct measurement.*
- *We don't have stations everywhere, so we make estimates, based on scientific principles, for places where stations are absent.*
- *PRISM modeled data comes on a regular grid, where each pixel is ½ mile on a side.*
- *Having estimates on a regular grid across the country is needed for a variety of applications.*
- *Sometimes the grids are analyzed directly to study the climate of an area, but usually they are used as input to other models that estimate an amazingly wide range of useful things such as water supply, agricultural production, gardening conditions, endangered species habitat, where to sell snow blowers, or even when it is time to sell ice cream!*

FAQ



WHY DOES THE PRISM TIME SERIES LOOK DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I'M COLLECTING WITH COCORAHHS?

It does look different and here's why:

- *Until now, the model so far has been using National Weather Service COOP data (not CoCoRaHS), mountain SNOTEL station data, and some other national and regional networks.*
- *However, by mid-November 2012, the PRISM grids going back to January 2011 will incorporate CoCoRaHS data. That means that graphs showing data after January 2011 will look more like your actual data. They may not match perfectly, however, because the modeled precipitation is the result of a combination of nearby station observations, estimated to a grid cell of about ½ mile on a side.*
- *When we get a chance to update PRISM data before 2011, CoCoRaHS data will certainly be used!*

FAQ

DO YOU STILL NEED MY COCORAHS DATA?



You may ask yourself, “Gee with all of this modeled data, do you still need me to take CoCoRaHS observations?”

Yes, indeed! Precipitation varies so greatly from place to place on day-to-day basis, it is impossible for even models such as PRISM to estimate exactly what rain fell where. Sometimes, our estimates are way off. The worst case for PRISM is when rainfall comes from small-scale convective showers and thunderstorms that seem to pop up randomly across the landscape. In these kinds of situations, we need as many observers as we can get to help make sure we know where it rained and where it didn't.

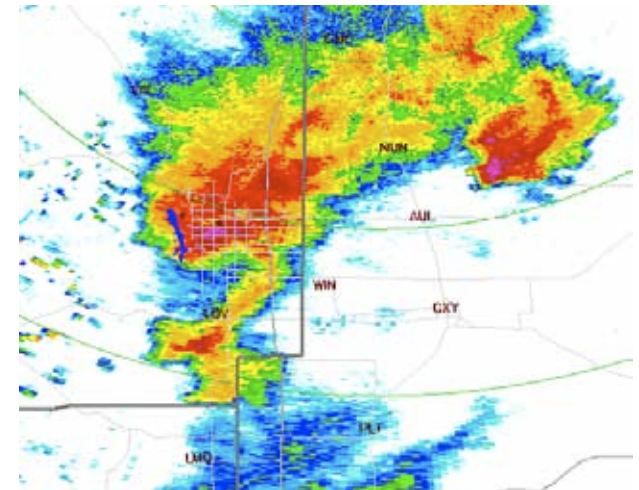


FAQ

DOES PRISM USE WEATHER RADAR?



Radar-enhanced PRISM is coming soon. National Weather Service weather radar can be very useful in estimating where and how much precipitation fell, even where there are no observing stations. However, radar does not work well everywhere. The radar beam is blocked by mountains, so is not used extensively in the western United States. It also can have trouble seeing snowfall. However, PRISM is working on a method to incorporate radar data into the PRISM maps where it is most reliable. Radar-enhanced PRISM maps will be added to the portal as soon as they are ready. But these maps will only go back as far as January 2002, which is the earliest date for which radar data are available nationally.





FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT:
info@cocorahs.org

