

Like the Antarctic continent as a whole, sea ice at Palmer Station is less abundant than usual and this year we have not yet seen ice extend past Hero Inlet.

METEOROLOGY

Mike Carmody, Principal Investigator, United States Antarctic Program

Palmer Station is Station 89061 in the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Worldwide Network. Automated surface synoptic observations are made 8 times each day and emailed to the

National Atmospheric and Oceanographic Administration (NOAA) for entry into the Global Telecommunication System (GTS).

The Palmer Automatic Weather Station (PAWS) is a collection of sensors, computers, and software that records the meteorological data and generates synoptic reports. PAWS began recording data in September of 2015. It was a replacement for the Palmer Meteorological Observing System (PalMOS) that was taken down in November 2017. The PAWS sensors and data acquisition hardware are located on a ridge in the backyard at -64.774130° -64.047440° at an elevation of 38.3 meters above sea level using the World Geodetic System-84. In addition to the synoptic and METAR reporting, PAWS also archives the current conditions at one-minute intervals and displays both raw data and graphs of the sensor data on our local intranet.

The Research Associate acts as Chief Weather Observer on station, measuring, compiling and distributing all meteorological data. Snow accumulation is physically observed by taking an average of five accumulation stakes found near the PAWS system. All weather data is archived locally and forwarded to the University of Wisconsin on the first day of each month for archiving and further distribution.

One minute weather data is archived on the AMRC website:

<http://amrc.ssec.wisc.edu/data/ftp/pub/palmer/>.

Palmer Monthly Met summary for August, 2023

Temperature
Average: -5.5 °C / 22 °F
Maximum: 1.7 °C / 35.06 °F on 9 Aug 18:05
Minimum: -13.4 °C / 7.88 °F on 25 Aug 16:44
Air Pressure
Average: 981.9 mb
Maximum: 1008.7 mb on 17 Aug 17:37
Minimum: 953.8 mb on 1 Aug 20:07
Wind
Average: 14.1 knots / 16.2 mph
Peak (5 Sec Gust): 71 knots / 81 mph on 21 Aug 02:30 from NNE (26 deg)
Prevailing Direction for Month: SW
Surface
Total Rainfall: 64.5 mm / 2.54 in
Total Snowfall: 63 cm / 24.6 in
Greatest Depth at Snow Stake: 107.6 cm / 42 in
WMO Sea Ice Observation: 6-10 bergs, bergy bits, growlers, brash ice, grease ice, nilas, and pancake ice
Average Sea Surface Temperature: -1.54 °C / 29.2 °F

This month, we reached our lowest temperature of the season: -13.4 °C on August 25.

2023 continues to experience greater-than-usual precipitation. August saw 64.5 mm of melted precipitation and a year to date (YTD) total of 680.0 mm, compared to a historical average of 438.1 mm (YTD).

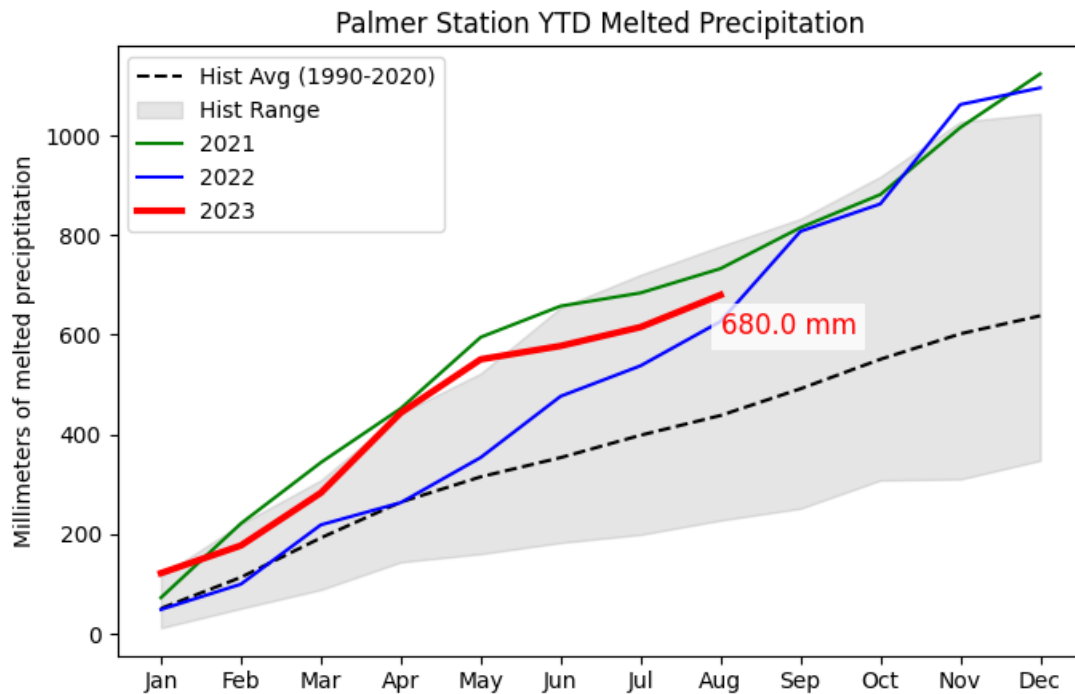


Figure 12. Palmer Station year to date (YTD) melted precipitation, 1990-present.