

April 2015 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

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Overview

April 2015 featured temperatures which averaged out to near normal (Table 1 and Fig. 2). Precipitation was above normal in portions of Central and Western Lower Michigan, and near to below normal in Southern Lower Michigan (Table 1 and Fig. 4). Snowfall was below normal (Table 1 and Fig. 6), totaling about 2 inches in parts of Central Michigan, with light accumulations or trace amounts near and south of Muskegon, Grand Rapids and Lansing (Fig. 5).

The first 20 days of April were generally near to somewhat above normal, with a mixture of warm and cool days. A band of accumulating snow occurred in Central Michigan the morning of April 5th. The first severe thunderstorm event of the year then followed on April 9th, when a strong low pressure system spawned tornadoes in Illinois and a line of thunderstorms with sporadic wind gusts in West Michigan. Estimated 70 to 80 mph gusts destroyed a metal storage building in downtown Muskegon and a storage barn north of Sparta. A number of trees fell in Muskegon, Newaygo and Montcalm Counties from isolated strong wind gusts. Daily rainfall records were set at Grand Rapids and Muskegon, as 2 to 4 inches of rain fell in the area between Grand Rapids and Pentwater, causing minor river and lowland flooding. Many locations then experienced their first 70°F day of the year in mid-April.

A shot of cold air enveloped the Great Lakes region for a few days after April 20. Lansing tied a record cold high temperature of 39°F on April 22, and Grand Rapids set a record cold low temperature of 25°F on April 24. Showers containing rain, snow or graupel provided some locations with minor accumulations of frozen precipitation during this period. The weather settled down and temperatures moderated closer to normal for the final several days of the month.

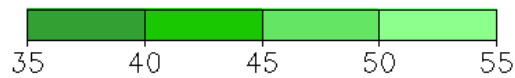
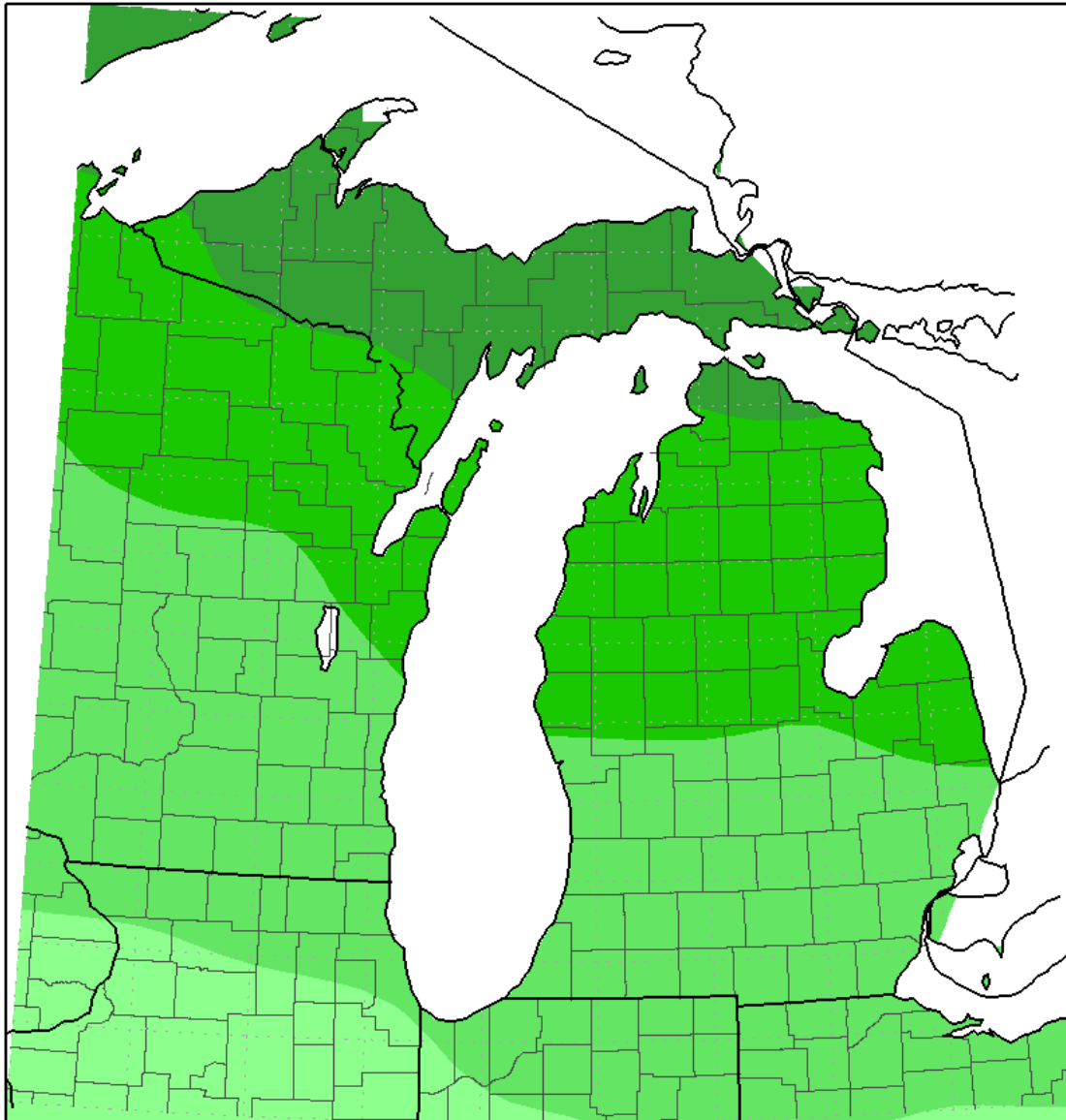
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Table 1. Reported temperature, precipitation and snowfall amounts for April 2015 at the primary climate stations in Southwest Lower Michigan and departures from normal.

Location		Average Temperature (°F)	Precipitation (inches)	Snowfall (inches)
Grand Rapids	Observed	47.7	4.07	0.1
	Departure from Normal	-0.3	0.72	-1.7
	Normal	48.0	3.35	1.8
Lansing	Observed	47.4	1.29	T
	Departure from Normal	0.0	-1.74	-1.9
	Normal	47.4	3.03	1.9
Muskegon	Observed	46.9	4.72	T
	Departure from Normal	0.3	1.81	-2.3
	Normal	46.6	2.91	2.3

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Average Temperature (°F)
April 1, 2015 to April 30, 2015

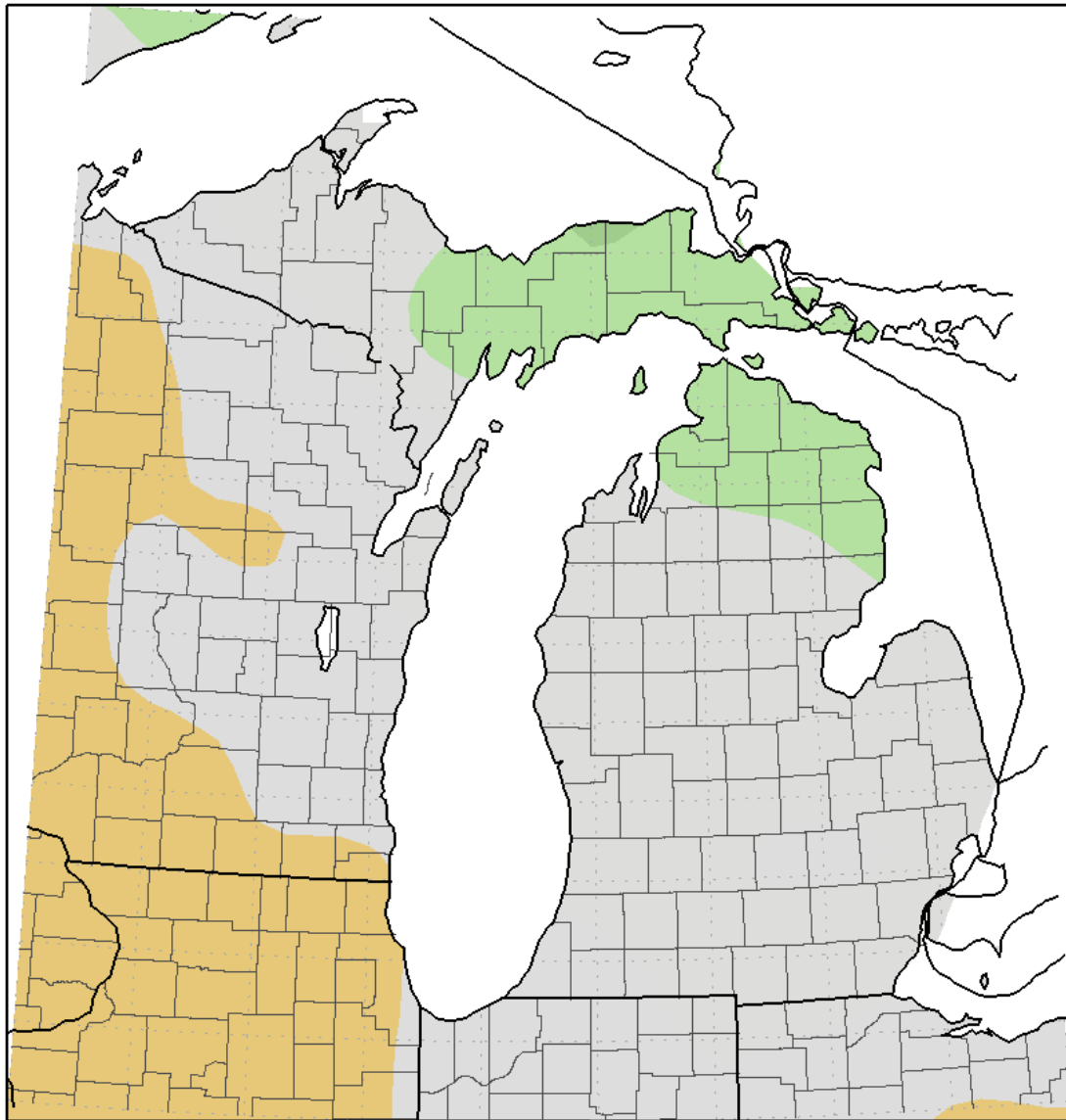


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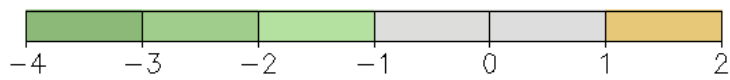
Figure 1. Average temperature (°F) for April 2015.

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Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean
April 1, 2015 to April 30, 2015



Mean period is 1981-2010.

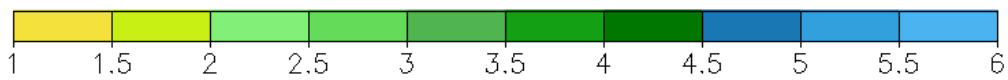
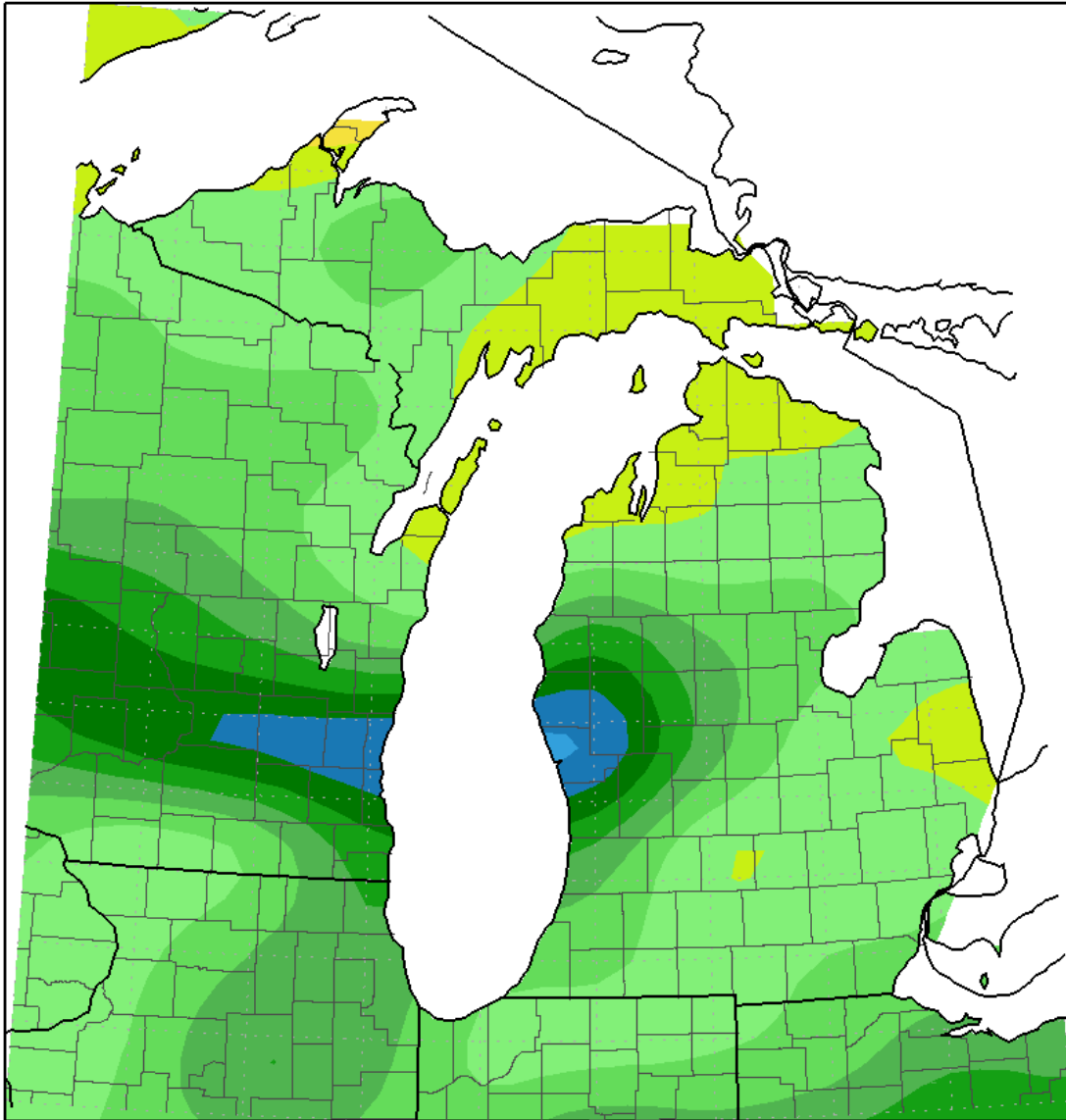


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Figure 2. Average temperature departure from normal (°F) for April 2015.

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Accumulated Precipitation (in)
April 1, 2015 to April 30, 2015

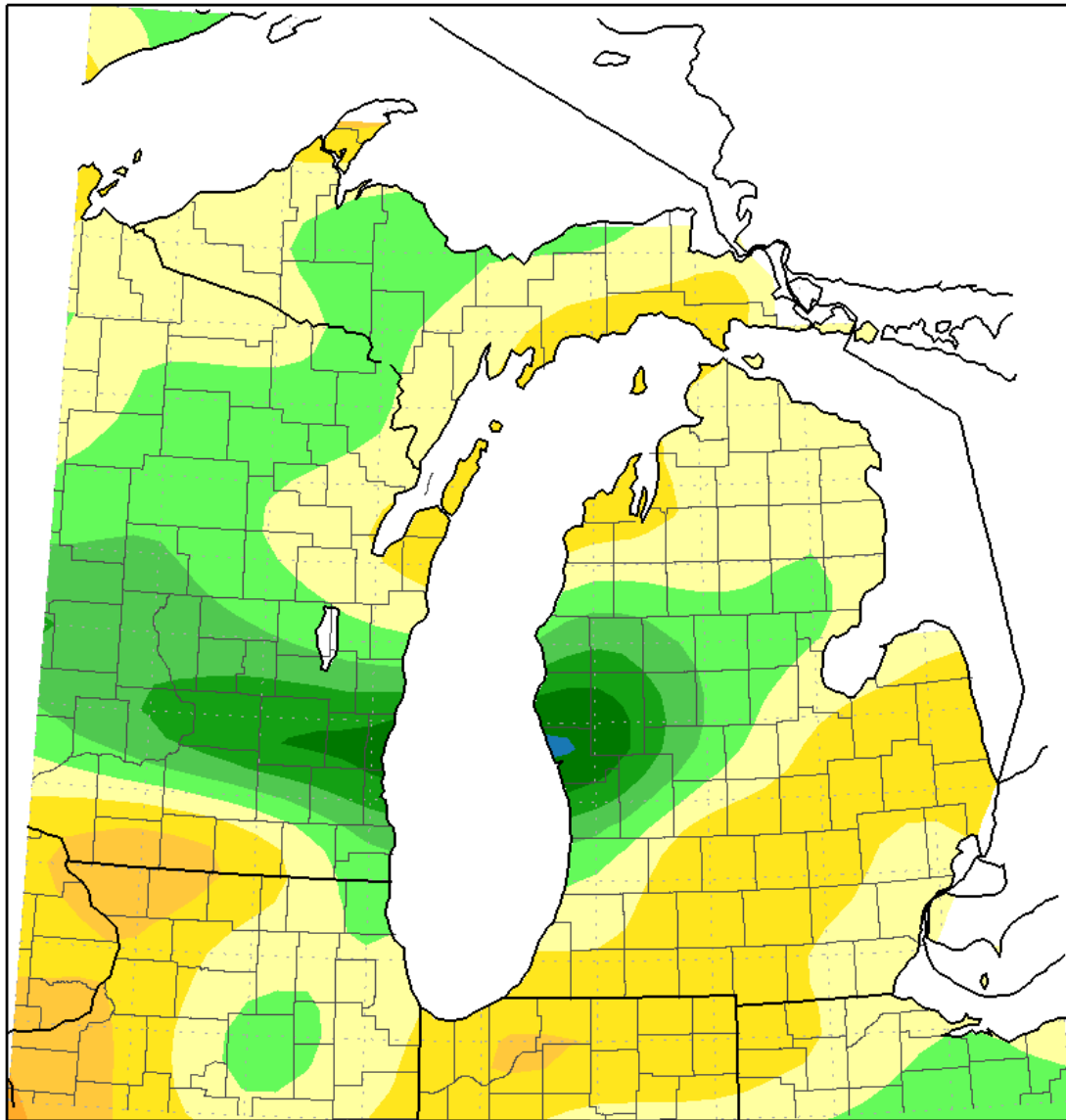


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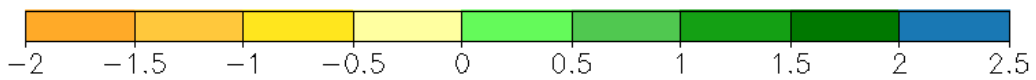
Figure 3. Total precipitation (inches) for April 2015.

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Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from Mean
April 1, 2015 to April 30, 2015



Mean period is 1981-2010.

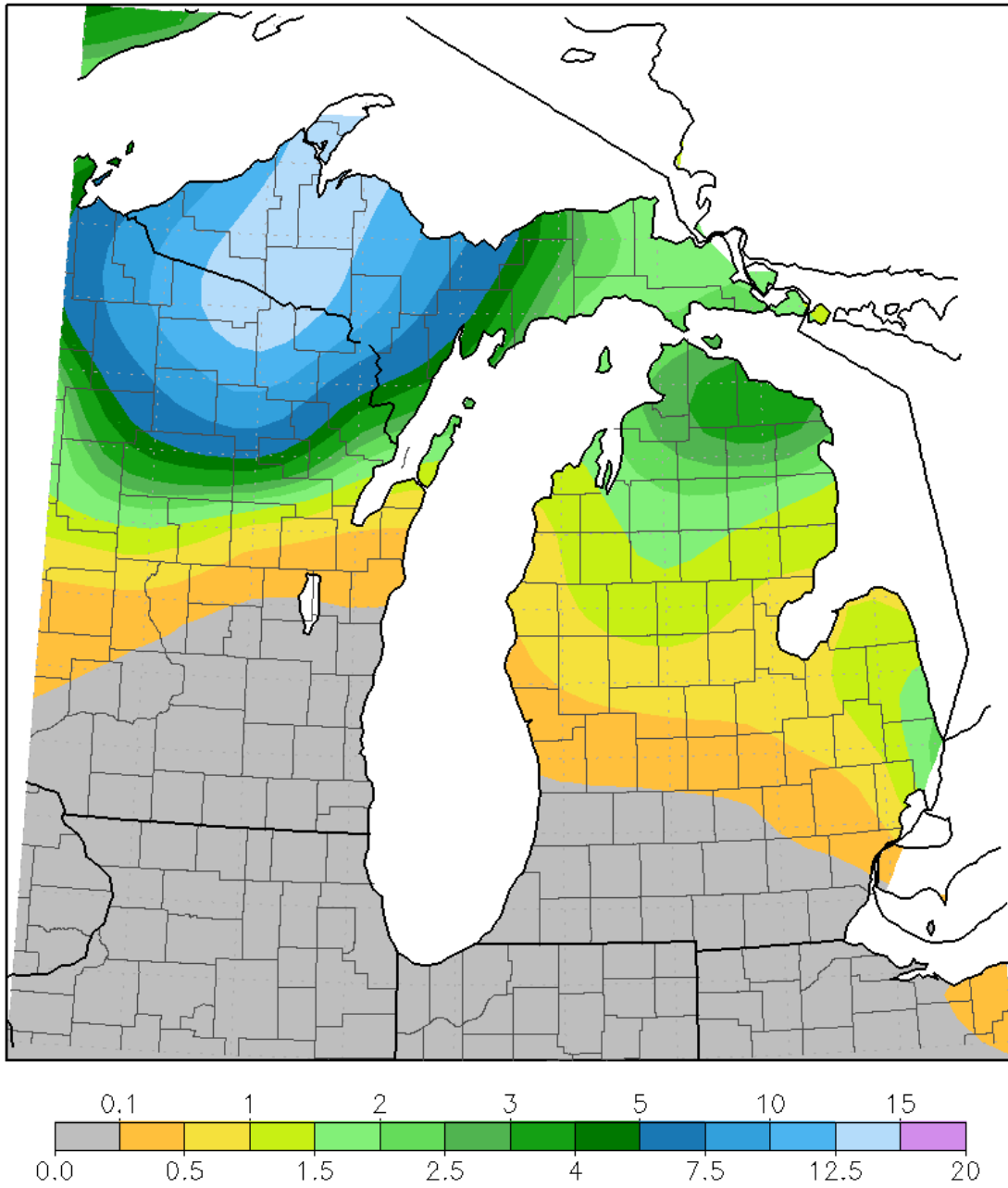


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Figure 4. Precipitation departure from normal (inches) for April 2015.

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Accumulated Snowfall (in)
April 1, 2015 to April 30, 2015

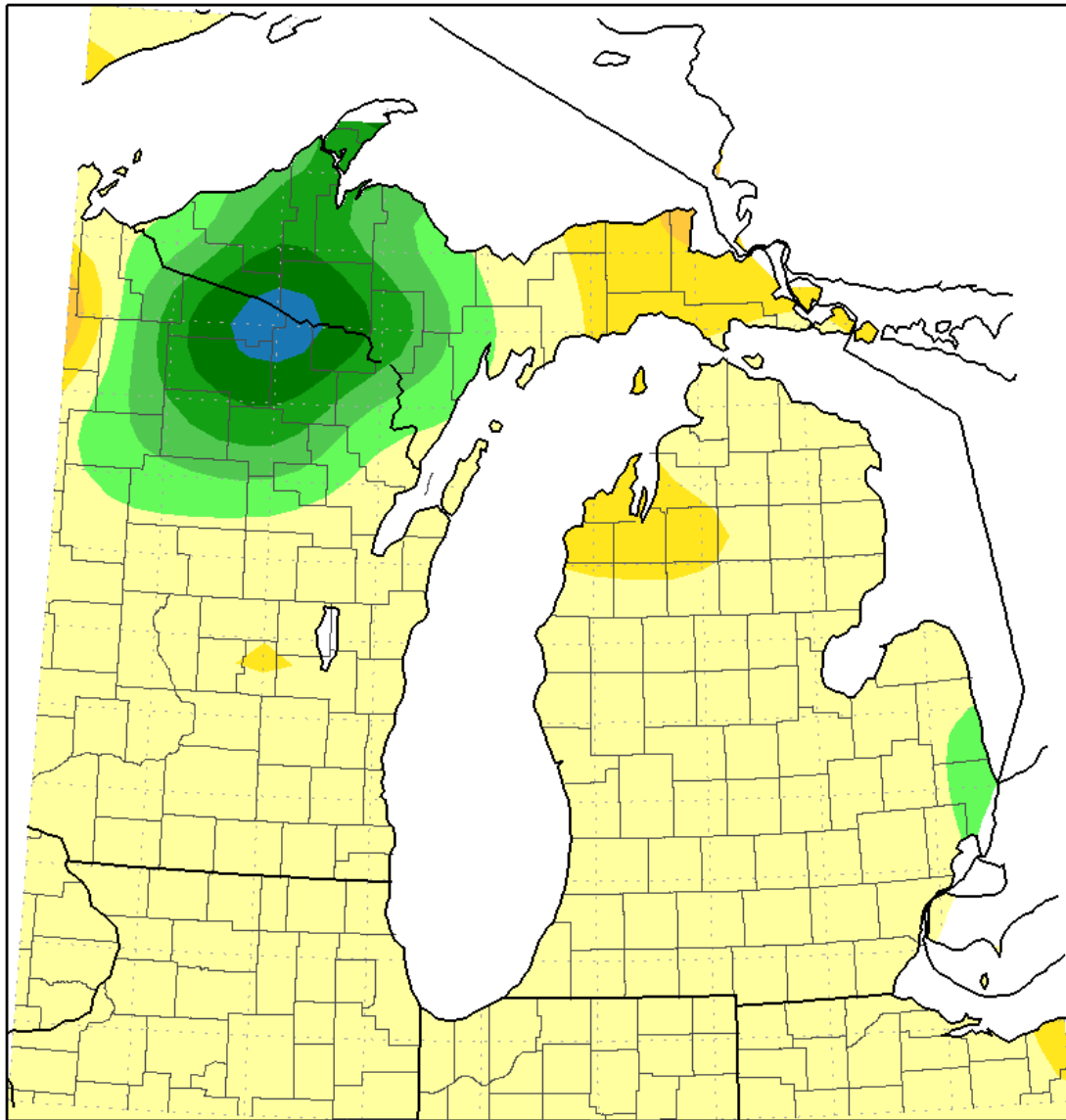


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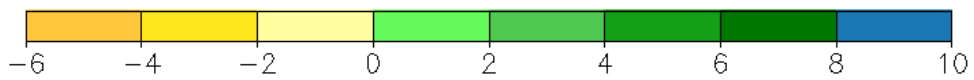
Figure 5. Accumulated snowfall (inches) for April 2015.

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Accumulated Snowfall (in): Departure from Mean
April 1, 2015 to April 30, 2015



Mean period is 1981-2010.



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Figure 6. Snowfall departure from normal (inches) for April 2015.