

# June 2015 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

*NOAA / National Weather Service - Grand Rapids, MI*

## Overview

Average temperatures in Southwest Lower Michigan during June 2015 ran near normal to slightly below normal (Figure 2). Southern locations like Kalamazoo and Jackson were closer to normal, while areas near and north of Grand Rapids saw slightly cooler than normal temperatures. Precipitation was above normal and well above normal across the southern half of Lower Michigan (Figure 4). Lansing recorded its third wettest June and seventh wettest month on record. The first significant severe weather event of the season occurred June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Temperatures started out cool - June 1<sup>st</sup> was the coldest day of the month. Average temperatures on June 1<sup>st</sup> were around 10 degrees below normal with highs only in the upper 60s and lows in the 30s in some locations. Frost was a concern for the first couple days of the month for those with agricultural interests. Temperatures warmed up nicely shortly thereafter, with near normal temperatures experienced from June 4-22. Highs were mostly in the 70s and 80s during this time period. A pattern shift following severe storms on June 22<sup>nd</sup> resulted in an upper level trough across the eastern United States during the last week of the month. Temperatures were cooler than normal from June 23-30.

Precipitation was above normal in June. Multiple storm systems impacted Southwest Lower Michigan, the first of which was June 7-8. Kalamazoo recorded 1.33 inches of rain during this 2-day period. Heavy rainfall occurred again June 12-14. Many locations received 2-4 inches of rain. Lansing set a daily rainfall record on June 14 with 3.04 inches of rain. That broke the previous record of 1.49 inches in 1937. Lansing broke another daily rainfall record on June 22 with 2.75 inches, breaking the old record of 1.80 inches set in 1903. Two rounds of strong to severe storms came through on June 22, resulting in torrential rainfall and flooding in many areas. There were numerous reports of standing water on roadways, resulting in road closures. There were also washouts on the sides of roads, mainly dirt roads, also resulting in road closures. Several rivers and streams exceeded their banks following the heavy rainfall on June 22, and a couple reached minor flood stage. Minor flooding was common in low-lying areas and along these swollen rivers and streams. River flow remained high across the area at the end of June.

Two rounds of strong to severe thunderstorms swept through Lower Michigan on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The first round came through during the early to mid-afternoon hours. The

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strongest storms produced torrential rainfall, frequent lightning, and damaging winds. One EF-1 tornado was confirmed in Portland, Michigan in Ionia County. The tornado touched down just west of town around 2:30 pm and tracked east through the heart of the town of Portland. NWS damage survey estimated peak wind speeds of 110 mph. Damage to homes and businesses occurred throughout portions of Portland. More than 50 structures were impacted with mainly roof damage or broken glass windows. Hundreds of trees were uprooted or snapped. The tornado was on the ground for about six minutes.

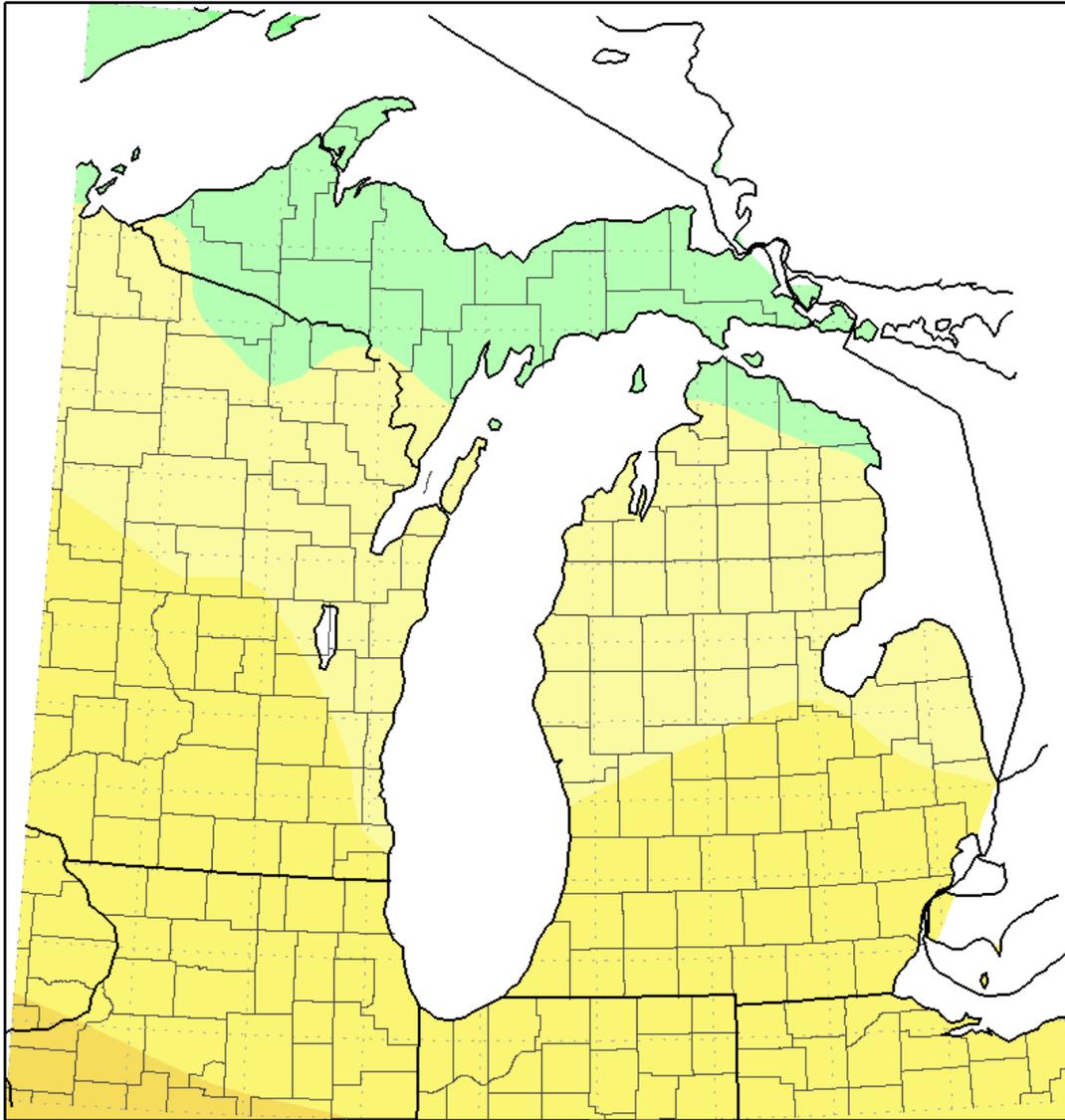
The second round of storms came through late in the evening of June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The most significant damage was noted across southern Lower Michigan, especially from Kalamazoo County east through Jackson County. One mobile home was significantly damaged in Henrietta Township in Jackson County by straight-line winds. Downed trees and power lines were common in Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties.

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

Location		Average Temperature (°F)	Precipitation (inches)
<b>Grand Rapids</b>	Observed	66.7	4.03
	Normal	68.4	3.77
	Above/Below Normal	-1.7	+0.26
<b>Lansing</b>	Observed	66.4	9.07
	Normal	67.6	3.45
	Above/Below Normal	-1.2	+5.62
<b>Muskegon</b>	Observed	65.8	3.30
	Normal	66.3	2.55
	Above/Below Normal	-0.5	+0.75

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

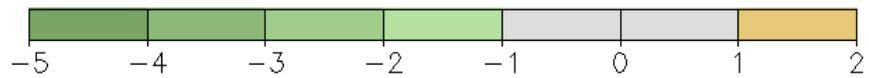
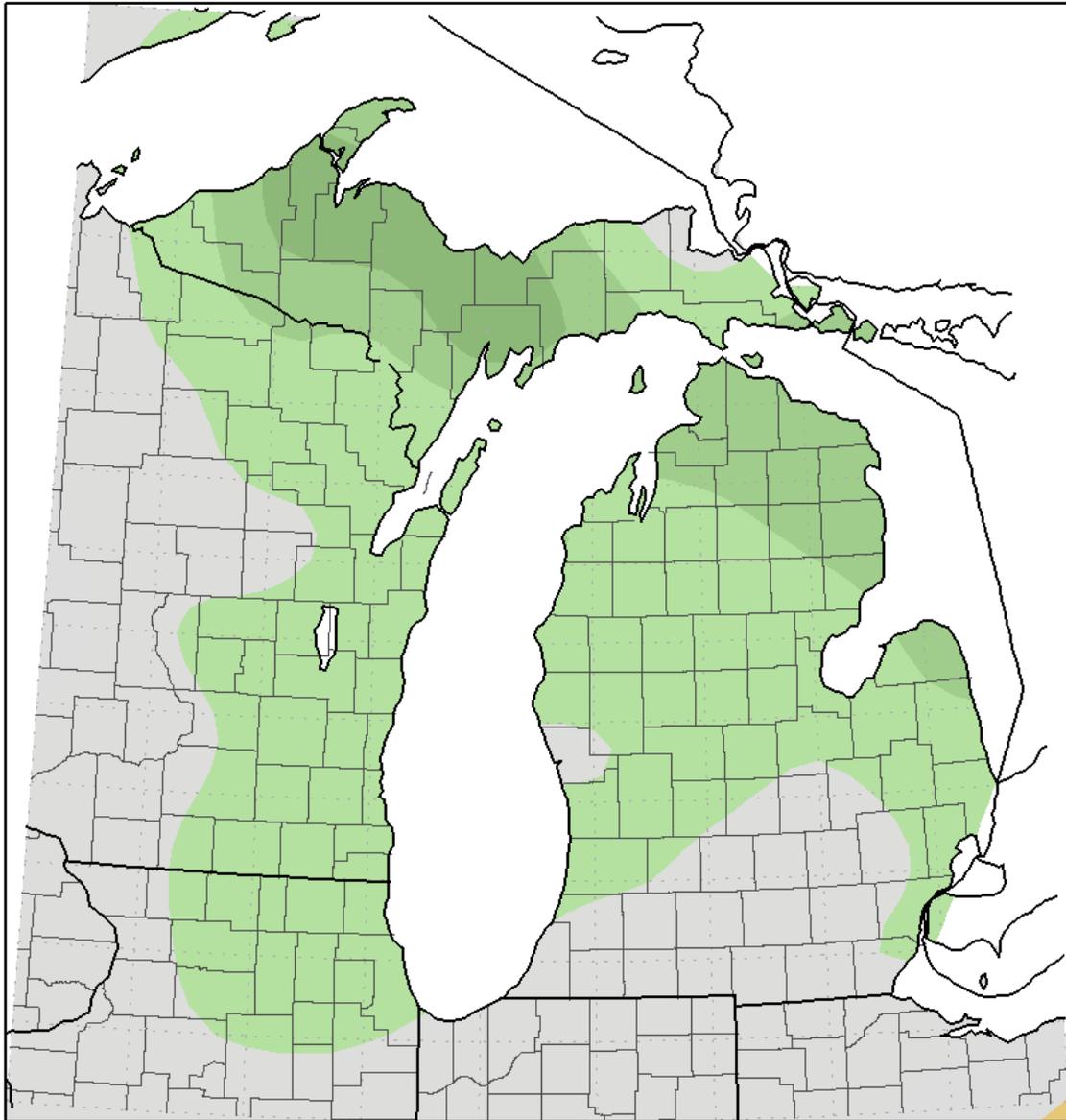


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Figure 1. Average temperature (°F) for June 2015.

## June 2015 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

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

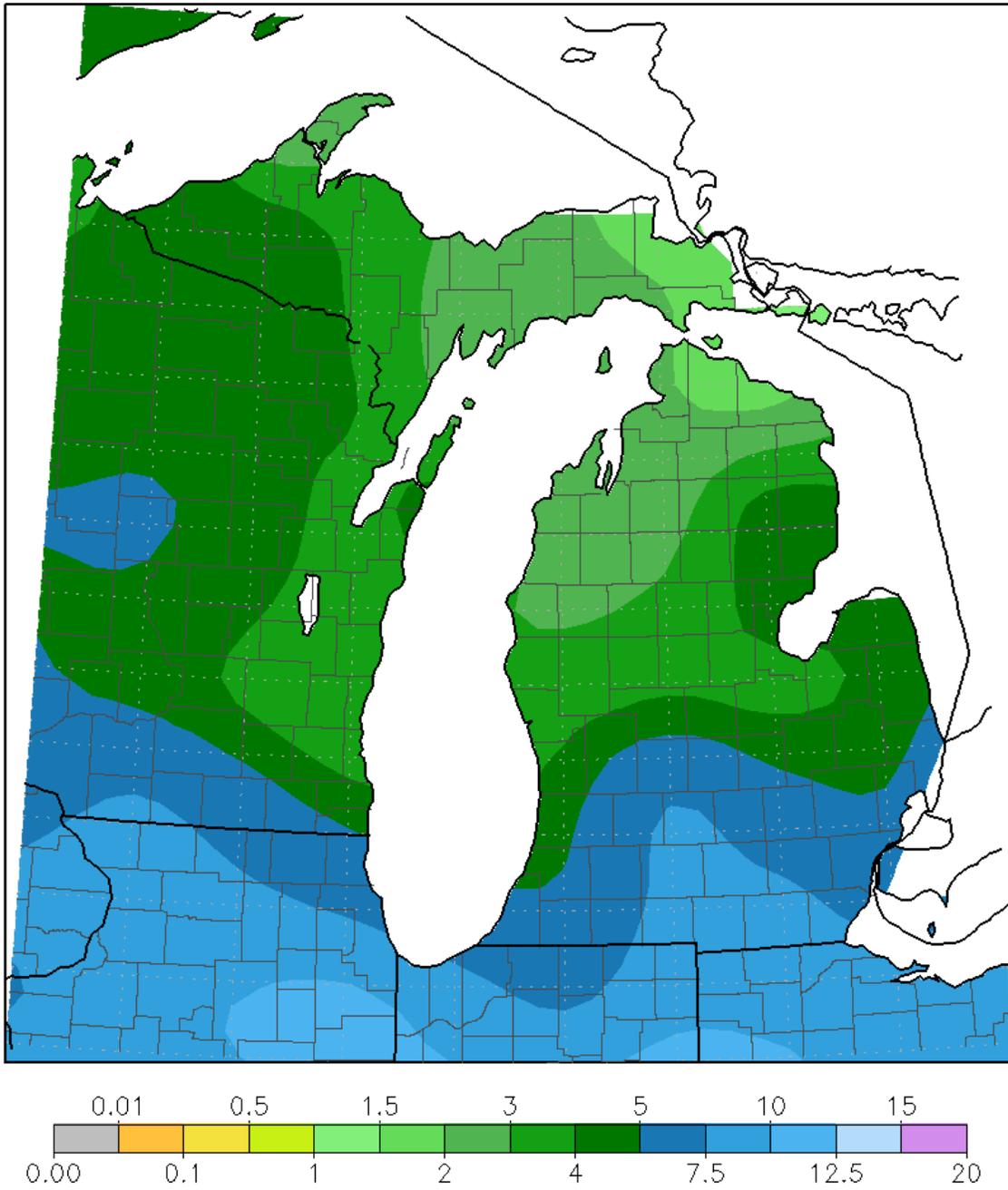


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Figure 2. Average temperature departure from normal (°F) for June 2015.

# June 2015 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

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

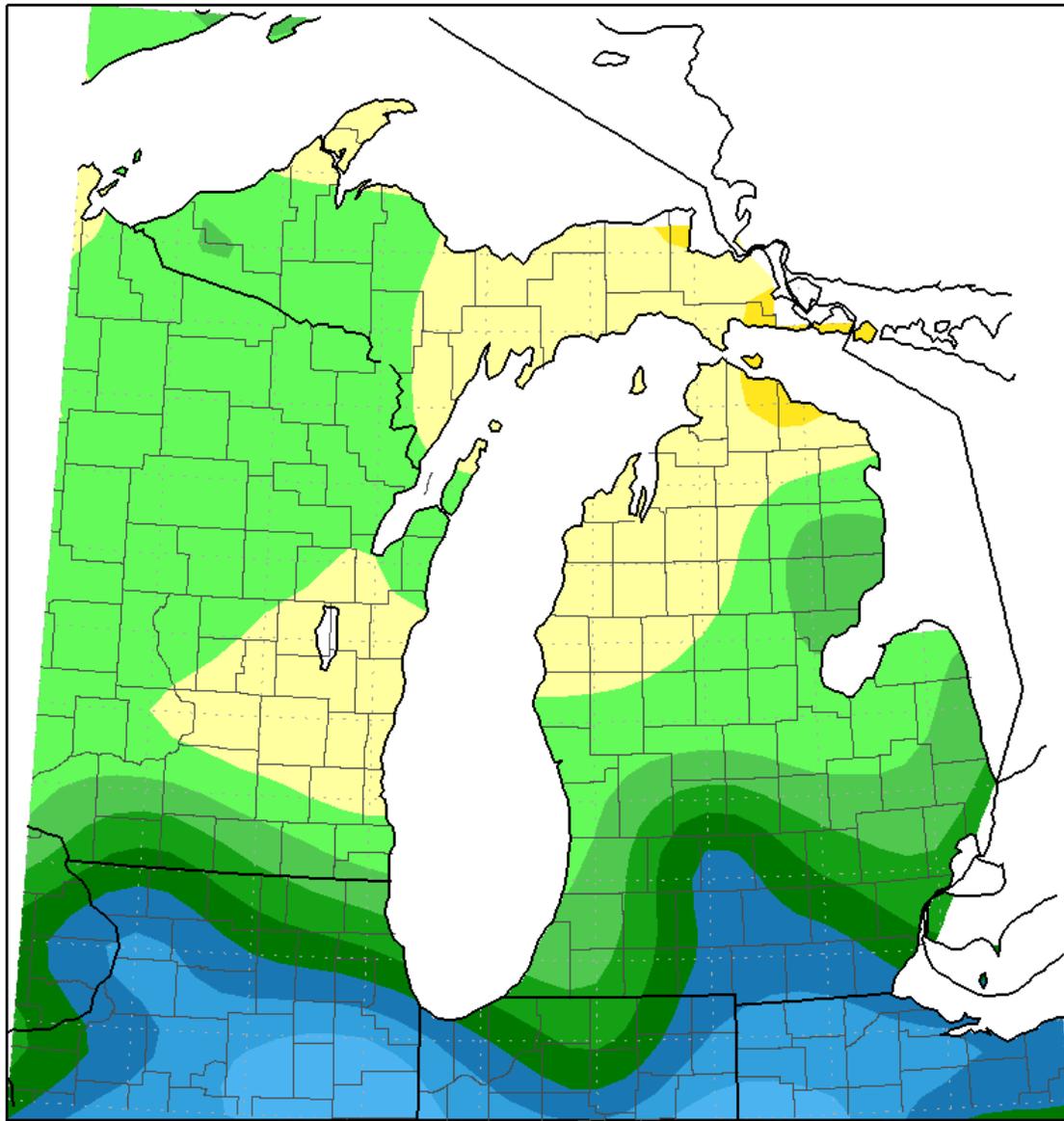


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Figure 3. Total precipitation (in inches) for June 2015.

## June 2015 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

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



Mean period is 1981–2010.



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Figure 4. Total precipitation departure from normal (in inches) for June 2015.