

April 2007 Climate Narrative For Southwest Lower Michigan

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Overview

April of 2007 will primarily be remembered for an extended period of unseasonably cold weather from April fourth through the fifteenth and also for a very late season significant snow event which occurred on April eleventh. **Table 1** shows temperature, precipitation and snowfall amounts for April 2007 as well as April normals and departure from normals information for each location.

Location		Temperature (degrees F)	Precipitation (inches)	Snowfall (inches)
Grand Rapids	<i>Reported</i>	45.1	4.27	6.7
	<i>Normal</i>	46.3	3.48	2.8
	<i>Departure</i>	-1.2	+0.79	+3.9
Lansing	<i>Reported</i>	44.6	3.37	6.0
	<i>Normal</i>	45.5	3.09	2.5
	<i>Departure</i>	-0.9	+0.28	+3.5
Muskegon	<i>Reported</i>	43.7	4.22	13.7
	<i>Normal</i>	44.9	2.91	3.1
	<i>Departure</i>	-1.2	+1.31	+10.6

Table 1. Temperature, precipitation, and snowfall amounts for April 2007 for Grand Rapids, Lansing and Muskegon.

Temperatures

Temperatures averaged anywhere from five to twenty degrees above normal during the first three days of April before a two week period of unseasonably cold weather settled in from April fourth through the eighteenth. In fact, temperatures averaged about five to twenty degrees below normal from April fourth all the way through the fifteenth.

As seen in **Figure 1a** temperatures averaged between 41 and 46 degrees for the month of April.

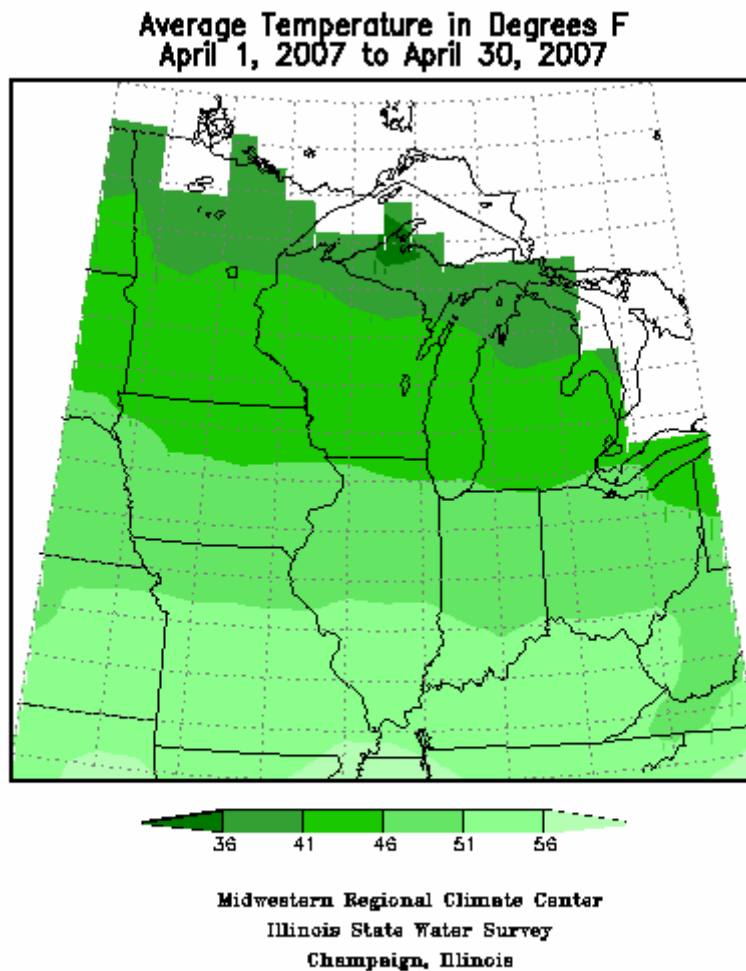
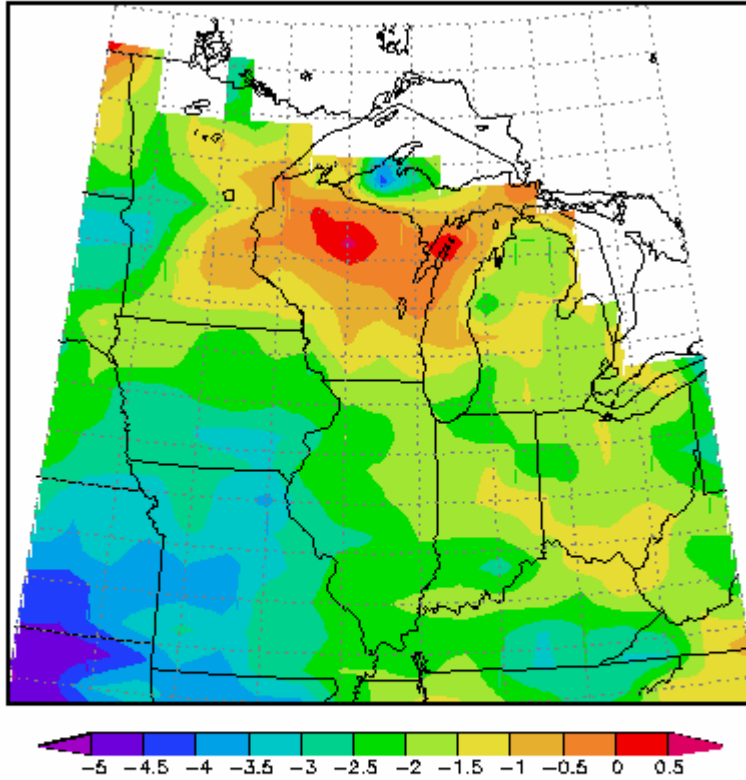


Figure 1a. Western Great Lakes region average temperature for April 2007 (courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center).

Figure 1b shows the temperature departure from normal for the month.

**Average Temperature Departure from Mean in Degrees F
April 1, 2007 to April 30, 2007**



Midwestern Regional Climate Center
Illinois State Water Survey
Champaign, Illinois

Figure 1b. Western Great Lakes region temperature departure from normal for April 2007 (courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center).

Precipitation

April 2007 was a wet month with above average precipitation across southwest lower Michigan. Precipitation departures from normal for the month averaged anywhere from 0.25" to 1.5" above normal. **Figure 2** shows the total precipitation percent of mean. This image illustrates that precipitation totals averaged near to above normal compared to the normal mean for April.

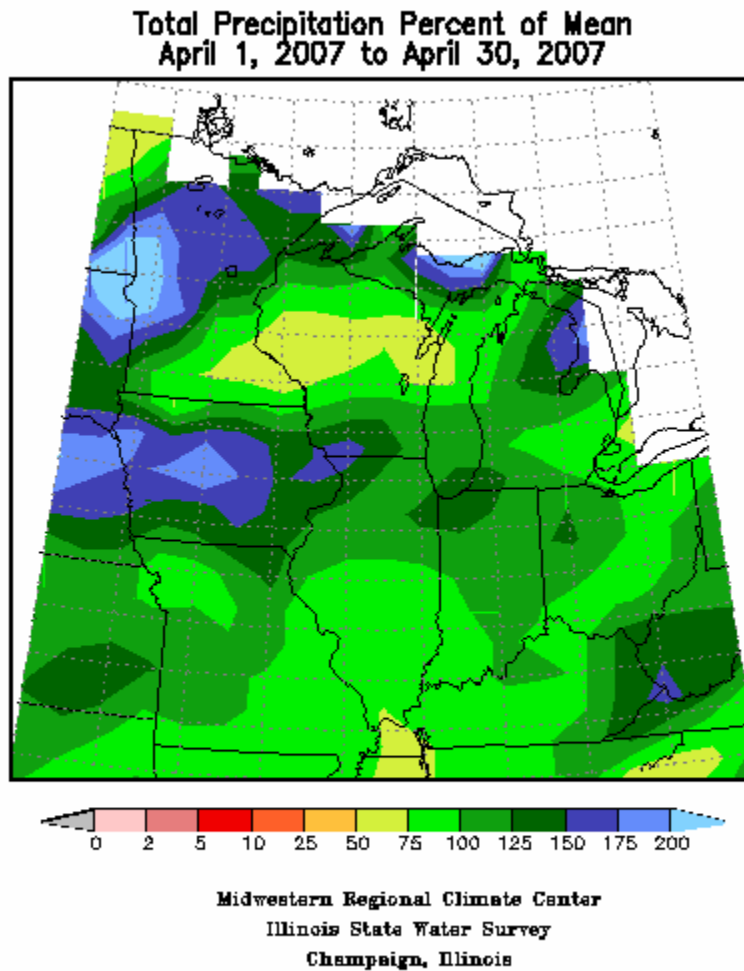


Figure 2. Western Great Lakes region total precipitation percent of mean for April 2007 (courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center).

Snowfall

April of 2007 will be remembered for above normal snowfall. As **Figure 3** shows, many locations received anywhere from five to ten inches of snow in April. Locally higher snowfall totals for the month were observed along and northwest of a line from roughly Holland to Big Rapids, where snow totals for the month locally reached or exceeded a foot.

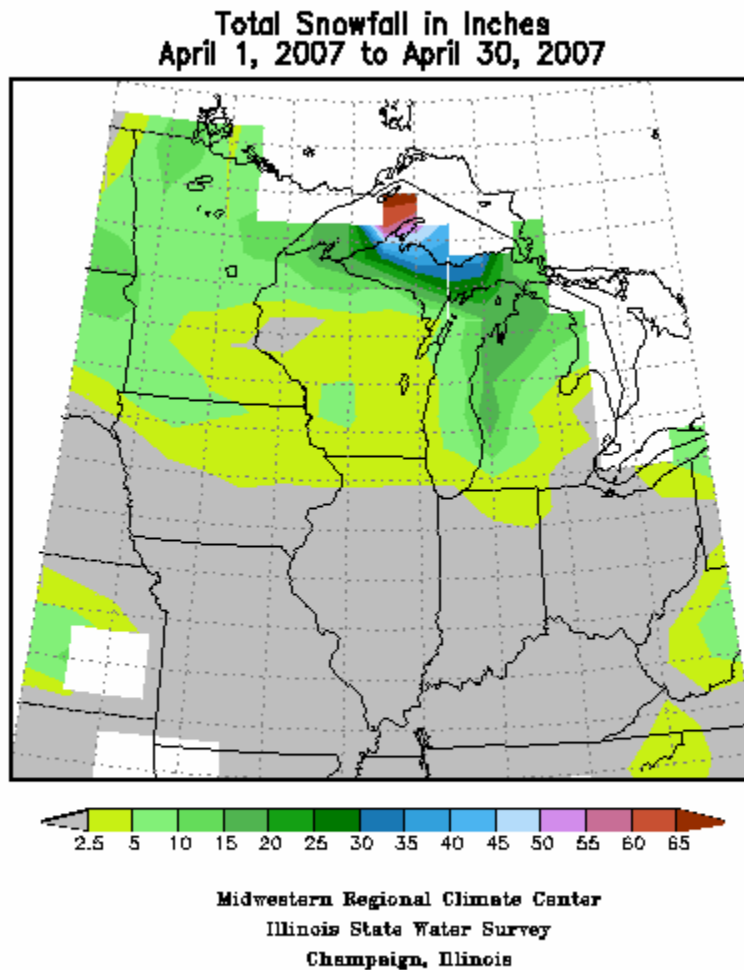


Figure 3. Western Great Lakes region total snow for April 2007 (courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center).

There was one significant very late season snow event in April. **Figure 4** below shows the snowfall totals observed for this event.

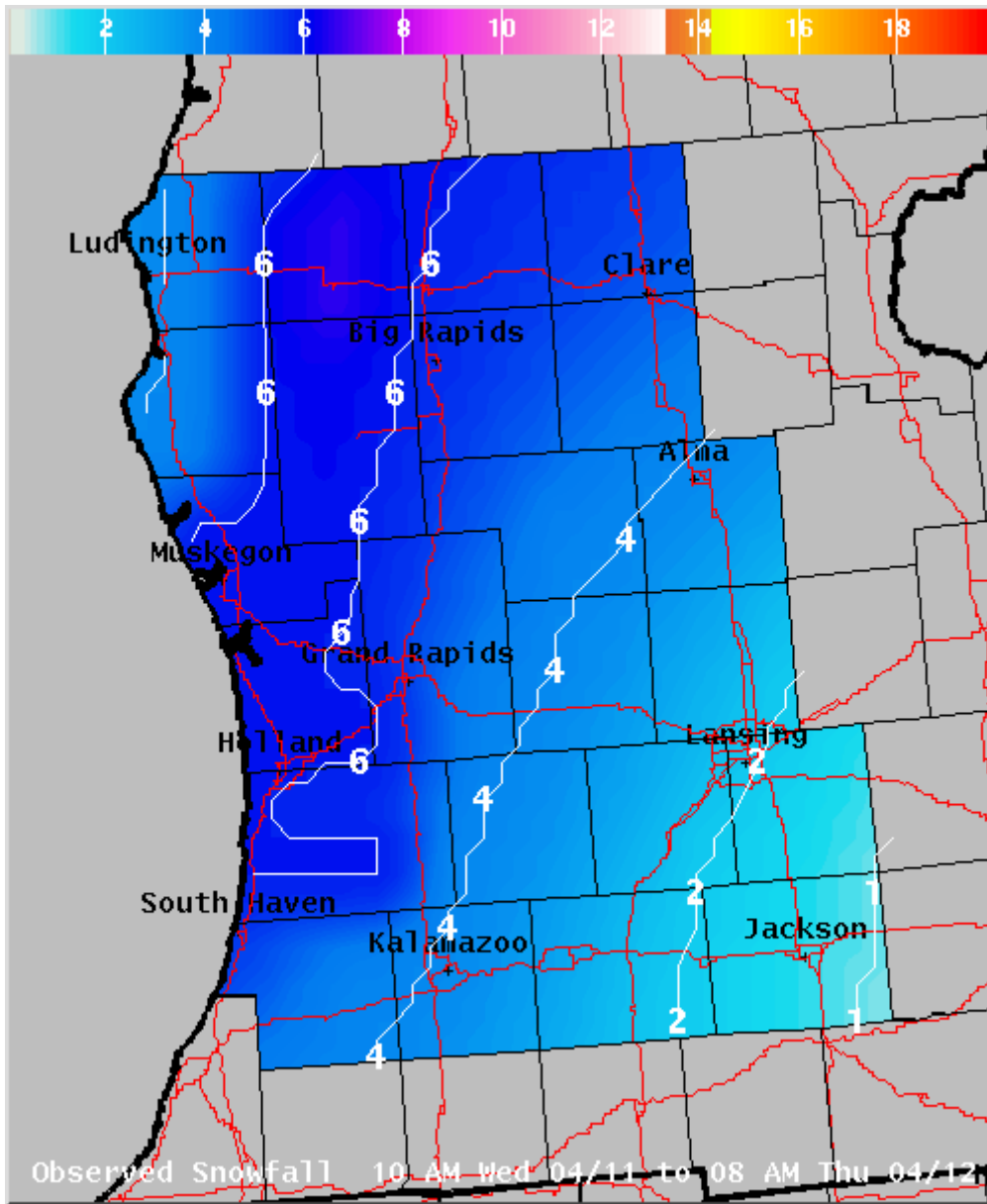


Figure 4. Snowfall totals for April 11th 2007

Fire Weather

Red flag warning fire weather criteria conditions were met across our area on Sunday April 22nd. This was the result of temperatures exceeding 75 degrees Sunday afternoon and early evening along with wind speeds of 20 to 25 mph and very low relative humidity values of around 25 percent.

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