

May 2007 Climate Narrative For Southwest Lower Michigan

By Wayne Hoepner

Overview

May was a fairly typical spring month with frontal systems traversing the country on a path toward the U.S.-Canadian border. The weather systems marched through the area about every five days. Temperatures were above normal through most of the month, with the exceptions of a few days in the middle of the month and a couple days at the end of the month. Near normal precipitation occurred during the month.

May of 2007 started out with rain and with temperatures near to a little above normal as a frontal system was moving through the Great Lakes Region. Temperatures remained steady as another system moved south of the area on the fifth. There was little precipitation in Southwest Lower Michigan as it passed. The temperatures rose to more than ten degrees above normal ahead of a system on the 9th. Temperatures remained warm through the 12th when northeast winds behind yet another system took temperatures down below normal.

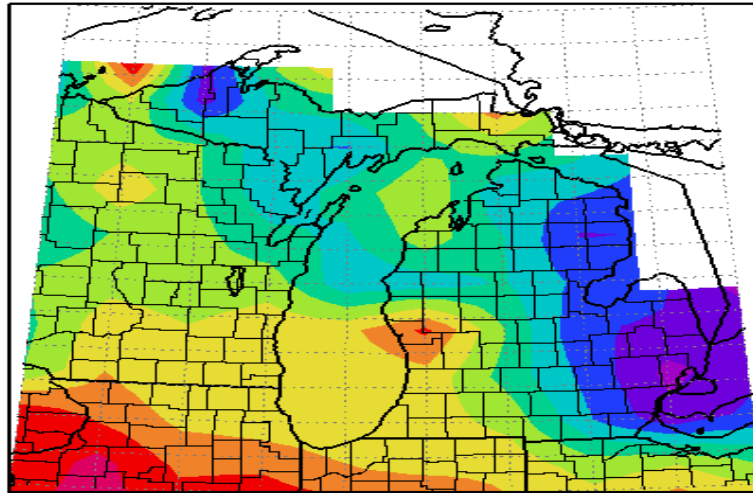
The second half of the month began with temperatures ten degrees above normal and precipitation as another system traversed the region. The temperatures remained below normal through the 20th as this slow moving system kept northwest winds in its wake. A large warm up then occurred ahead of a system on the 25th. This slow mover brought three days of precipitation and a return to just below average temperatures. As the month drew to a close, temperatures returned to about ten degrees above normal.

Location		Temperature (degrees F)	Precipitation (inches)	Snowfall (inches)
Grand Rapids	<i>Reported</i>	62.7	1.68	0.0
	<i>Normal</i>	58.1	3.35	T
	<i>Departure</i>	4.6	-1.67	0.0
Lansing	<i>Reported</i>	60.5	3.49	0.0
	<i>Normal</i>	57.1	2.71	T
	<i>Departure</i>	3.4	+0.02	0.0
Muskegon	<i>Reported</i>	60.6	1.82	0.0
	<i>Normal</i>	56.1	2.95	T
	<i>Departure</i>	4.5	-1.13	0.0

Temperature, precipitation, and snowfall amounts for May 2007 for Grand Rapids, Lansing and Muskegon.

Temperatures

Average Temperature Departure from Mean in Degrees F
May 1, 2007 to May 31, 2007



1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5
Midwestern Regional Climate Center
Illinois State Water Survey
Champaign, Illinois

Figure 1a. Lower Michigan average temperature departure for May 2007 (courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center).

Average High Temp Departure from Mean in Degrees F
May 1, 2007 to May 31, 2007

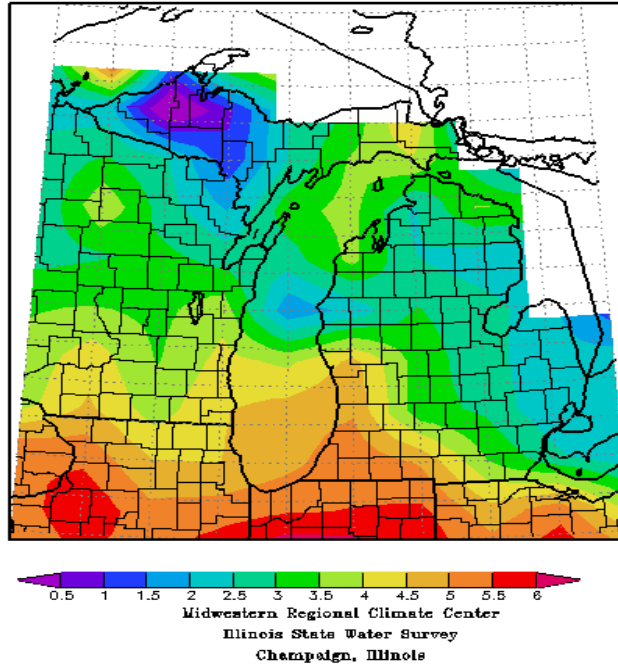


Figure 1b. Lower Michigan average high temperature departure from normal for May 2007 (courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center).

Average Low Temp Departure from Mean in Degrees F
May 1, 2007 to May 31, 2007

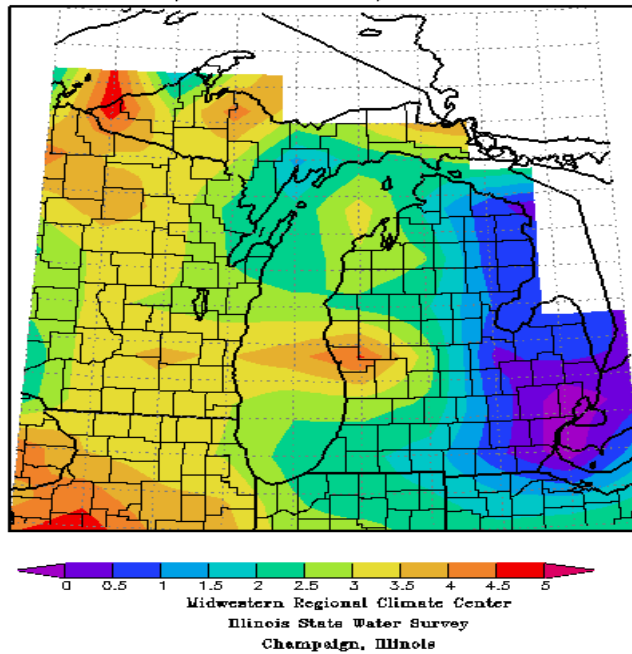
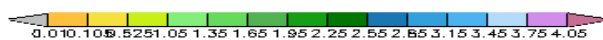
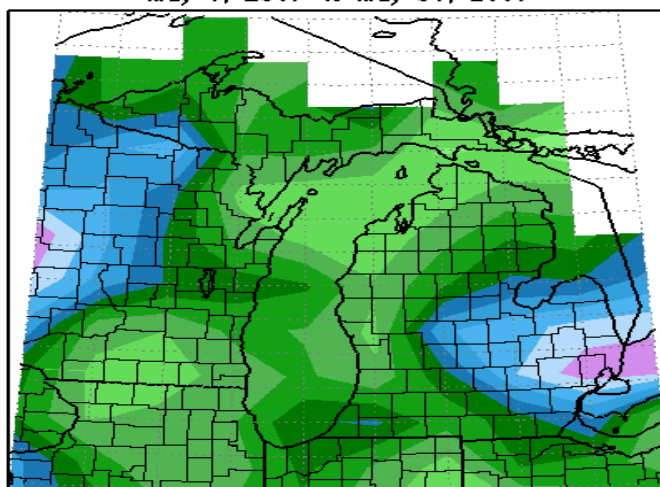


Figure 1c. Lower Michigan average low temperature departure from normal for May 2007 (courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center).

Precipitation

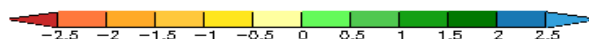
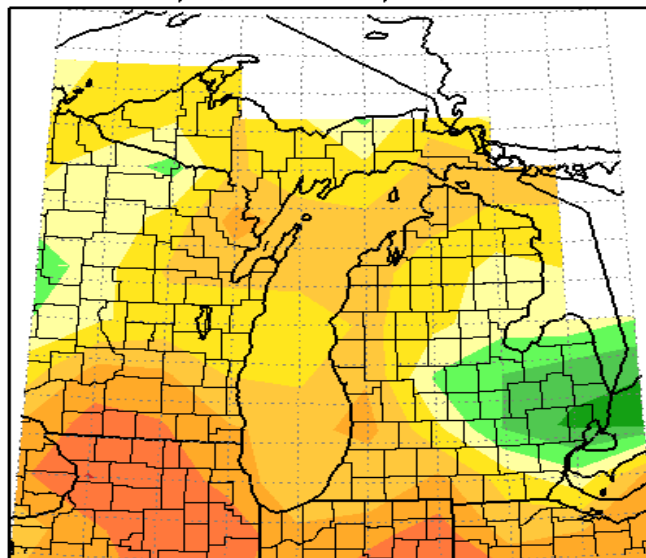
Total Precipitation in Inches
May 1, 2007 to May 31, 2007



Midwestern Regional Climate Center
Illinois State Water Survey
Champaign, Illinois

Figure 2a. Lower Michigan total precipitation for May 2007 (courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center).

Total Precipitation Departure from Mean in Inches
May 1, 2007 to May 31, 2007



Midwestern Regional Climate Center
Illinois State Water Survey
Champaign, Illinois

Figure 2b. Lower Michigan precipitation departure from normal for May 2007 (courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center).