

THE MICHIGAN CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

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From "Michigan—the Land of Plents."

The climate of Michigan is nearly 1816, insular to a marked degree on account of the influence of the great lakes.

The determining factors of climate for any locality are chiefly latitude and the relative distribution of land and water. Other important factors are the topography of its land surface and the situation of the area in question with relation to the general movement of storm centers.

All of Michigan is situated in a latitude that is conducive to some kind of agriculture, and its comparatively long days and short nights during the crop season are not only conducive to crop growth, but they reduce to a minimum late frosts in spring and early frosts in autumn.

In lower Michigan the longest day of the year in summer is nearly 16 1/2 hours, while at New Orleans the longest day of the year is a little more than 14 hours in length. In upper Michigan the longest day of the year is nearly 16 hours. The daylight promotes all vegetable growth, while the short nights reduce the probability of frosts and also shorten the period of diurnal coolness.

The large bodies of water which make up the Great Lakes have a decided effect in modifying any temperature change sweeping from west to east is very apparent in all parts of the state. In Wisconsin winter temperatures have frequently continued from ten to twenty degrees lower during the east, either as excessive heat or in the form of excessive cold. This influence is very marked in the immediate vicinity of Lake Michigan, although it is not so marked in the other lakes. In the lower Michigan on account of the warming influence of the great lake which intervenes between the two. In spring the influence of all of the Great Lakes, and particularly that of Lake Michigan, is of untold value in modifying the eastward sweep of early hot waves and late in spring cold waves.

In summer the refreshing southwest and west winds which prevail are making the entire Lake Michigan shore one continuous summer resort. The topography of Michigan, except in the central portions of the upper peninsula, is not so generally insular as a general influence upon the climate, but it has some features that exert marked local effects. The high lands of Houghton, Baraga, Marquette, Iron and Dickinson counties in the Upper Peninsula, and the elevated portions of Oscoda, Wexford, Missaukee, Kalamazoo and Antrim counties in the Lower Peninsula are noted for their great snow depths in winter, because the moisture-laden westerly winds are deflected upward, and the relatively colder temperature of the high altitude condenses the moisture. The influence of Lake Superior is such as to cause early snows in the Upper Peninsula, and the elevated portions of Oscoda, Wexford, Missaukee, Kalamazoo and Antrim counties in the Lower Peninsula are noted for their great snow depths in winter, because the moisture-laden westerly winds are deflected upward, and the relatively colder temperature of the high altitude condenses the moisture.

The precipitation, by which is meant rain and snow, is unusually well distributed throughout the year. In all parts of the state the precipitation in May is usually the greatest of any month in the year, and very well suited to the spring plowing, spring germination and the forwarding of goods of winter wheat, winter rye, meadows and pastures.

Normally the precipitation is ample and sufficient for all crop needs during the remainder of the growing season, and then diminishes so that the least amount is found to occur in the midwinter months.

Snow. Snow has never been known to occur in July and August, and rarely in June or September, except in isolated and long-part periods in the Upper Peninsula. The first snow usually occurs in October, increasing in the amount to the end of January, after which there is a decrease in amount during the spring months. The snow falls are quite usual during May. Nearly sixty inches of snow falls annually in all counties of the Lower Peninsula and something over seventy inches in the Upper Peninsula.

Drought. Short and irregular periods of drought over limited portions of the state have occurred, but long periods of deficient precipitation are rare. An exact statement of the conditions which actually constitute a severe drought are hard to make because much depends not only on the length of time that there is an absence of rainfall, but on the condition of the soil when deficient periods of rainfall occur.

Temperature. The mean annual temperature of the Lower Peninsula is as a whole about 46 degrees, ranging from 49 degrees in the extreme southwestern part to 42 degrees in the extreme northeastern portion.

While in the Upper Peninsula the mean annual temperature is about 40 degrees, ranging from 43 degrees in the extreme southwestern part to 37 degrees in the extreme northeastern portion.

HEARD THROUGH HER FEET
Deaf Woman Found a Method by Which the Alarm Clock Would Rouse Her From Sleep.

Because I am deaf, as the days grow shorter with approaching winter, the important problem of getting up in the morning on time became the much for me, but I put up with it as I have my mother-in-law's three neighboring clocks in quest of the loudest alarm clock I could find. In

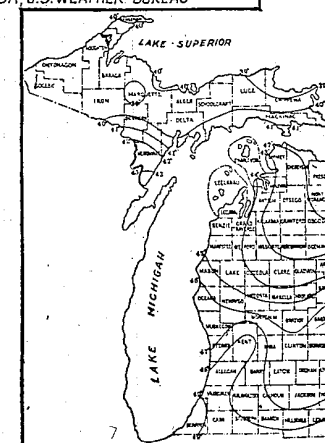


PLATE SHOWING ANNUAL MEAN TEMPERATURE

mean annual temperature is 40 degrees, ranging from 43 degrees in the extreme southern portion to about 39 degrees in the extreme northern portion. The average maximum or day temperature ranges from about 80 degrees in summer to 25 degrees in winter. The average minimum or night temperature is approximately 55 degrees in summer, and from 8 to 12 degrees in winter. Extreme temperatures of 100 degrees or more are not of frequent occurrence, although they have been recorded at some places on one or two days during the majority of summers in the past 25 years.

Zero temperatures are an invariable rule during the most months in the winter in the Upper Peninsula and northern half of the Lower Peninsula. In the southern half of the Lower Peninsula zero temperatures usually occur, although there have been some winters when there has been an entire absence of zero weather.

Frost. As a rule destructive frosts do not occur after May 15 in the spring nor after the very earliest before September 20, or 25 in the fall. Over a large portion of the state the frost season does not give an average of 145 days, or nearly five months, when in a large portion of the state under average conditions there will be no destructive frosts.

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