



2012 Weather Summary

A brief overview of 2012



National Weather Service

Detroit/Pontiac, MI

<http://www.weather.gov/dtx>

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Early 2012 Warm Start



- ❖ 2012 started warm as the winter came in as the 3rd warmest on record for Saginaw, 5th at Flint, and 6th for Detroit.
- ❖ Despite the warm winter several small snowstorms provided enough snow to keep the main climate sites out of the top 20 snowless winters.
- ❖ Actual snowpack, however, remained anomalously low throughout last winter



March 2012

Most Anomalous Climate Event on Record



- ❖ Warmest March ever for Detroit, Flint and Saginaw beating previous record by almost 3 degrees!
- ❖ All-Time Highs for March Broken at Detroit, Flint and Saginaw.
- ❖ Record number of consecutive and total number of 60, 70 and 80 degree days also shattered.
- ❖ Highs were within 2 to 3 degrees of all-time highs for April on March 21/22.
- ❖ Unprecedented warm spell caused premature budding of trees and shrubs 4 to 5 weeks ahead of schedule. Hard freeze later in the month killed much of the plants and devastated apple crop later in the year.
- ❖ March 2012 was warmer than April 2012!



March 2012 Severe Weather



- ❖ Record Warmth, rich moisture, upper level disturbances set the stage for severe weather episodes on March 12 and 15.
- ❖ 3 inch hail at Bay City State Recreation Area and one tornado near Coleman was recorded on March 12.
- ❖ 3 tornadoes occurred on March 15 including the EF-3 Dexter Tornado and tornadoes in Ida and Columbiaville.
- ❖ March 12 ties second earliest tornado with March 15 the fourth earliest tornado in Southeast Michigan.
- ❖ Coleman and Columbiaville tornadoes first tornadoes to occur north of Interstate 69 in the month of March.
- ❖ The 4 March tornadoes were the only tornadoes to occur in all of 2012.



March 2012 Severe Weather



3 inch hail at Bay City State Recreation Area



Dexter Tornado. Photo by: Nick Nolte.



Ida Tornado. Photo by: Joey Wherry.

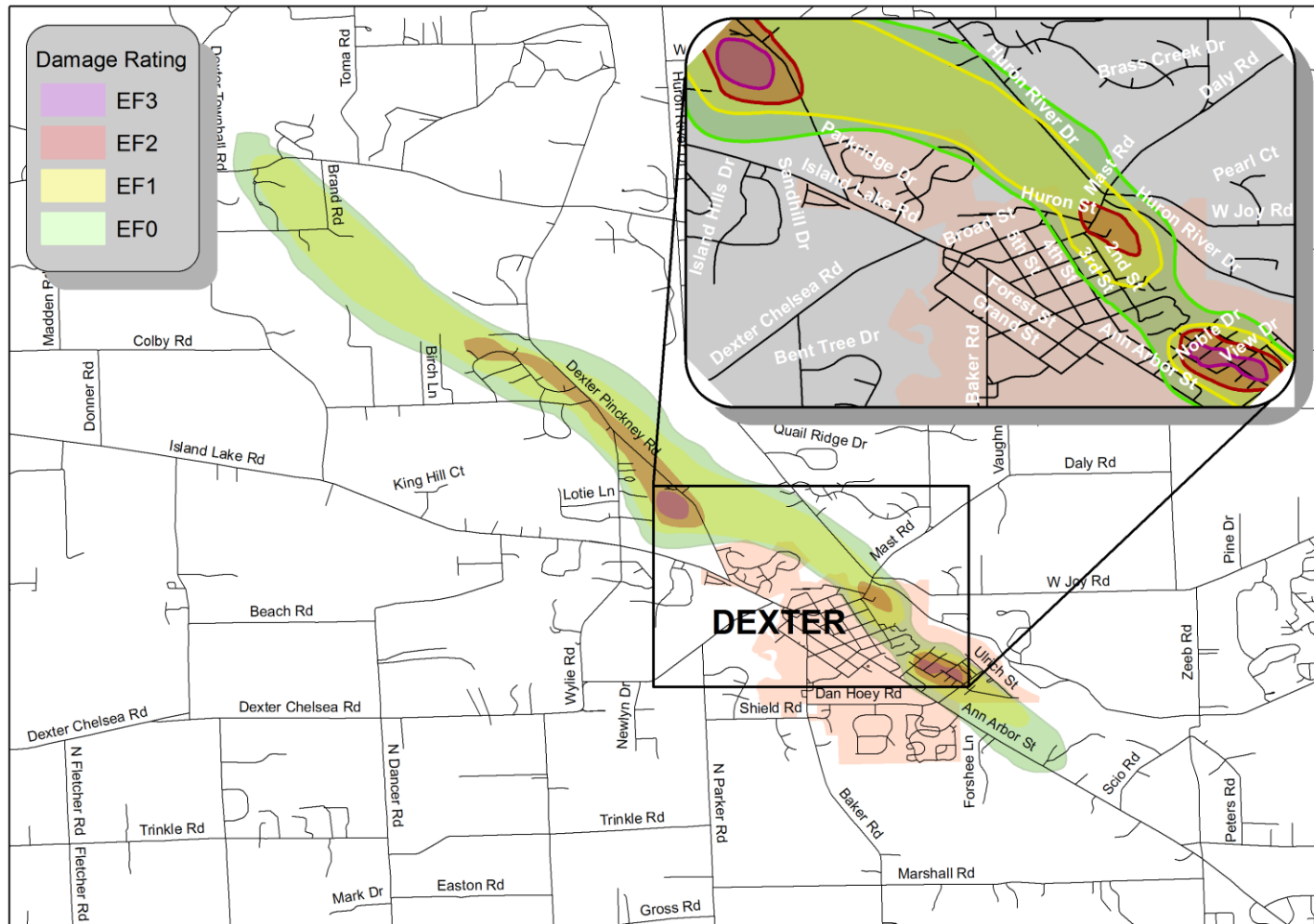
Taken By: Joey Wherry

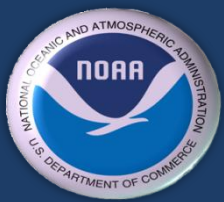


March 2012 Severe Weather



EF Damage Path for the March 15th Dexter, Michigan Tornado





Summer 2012 Heat Wave



- ❖ After a record-warm spring, summer continued the warm stretch across Southeast Michigan.
- ❖ Detroit tied its warmest summer on record, Tri-Cities tied for its 4th warmest, and Flint had its 13th warmest summer.
- ❖ Highs reached 90 degrees or more 30 times in Detroit, something that has happened only five previous times, most recently in 1988.
- ❖ Several daily records were broken with high temperatures topping the century mark once at Tri-Cities and three times each in Detroit and Flint.





December 2012 Warmth Continues



- ❖ After a seasonably cool autumn, warmth returned to Southeast Michigan in December, with new record highs set for December 4th in Flint and Saginaw.
- ❖ The warm December capped off the warmest year in the historical record, beating the previous warmest year set back in 1998.
- ❖ Although 1998's warmth can be safely attributed to a very intense el Nino episode, 2012 did not appear to feature such a strong link to any single phenomenon.



Decision Support Briefing Resources



<http://www.weather.gov/detroit>

National Weather Service Detroit/Pontiac Web Page

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/news/display cmsstory.php?wfo=dtx&storyid=90325&source=0>

2012 Detroit's Warmest Year



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For questions and additional information:

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