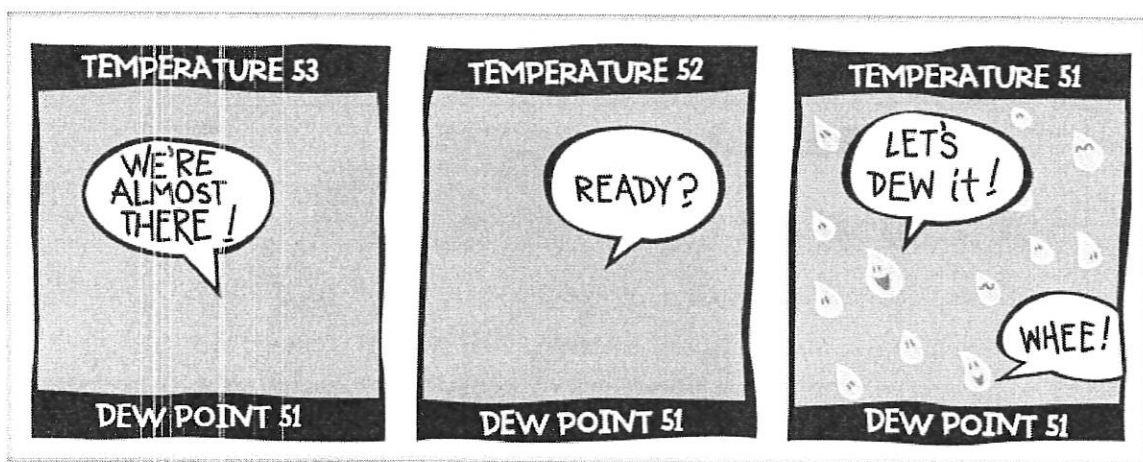


What is the Dew Point?

The air temperature at which the air will be 100% saturated with water vapor- it can't hold any more. Below this temperature water vapor will condense into tiny droplets, causing fog or rain.

A higher dew point means the air can hold more water. A lower dew point means the air can hold less water.

When the temperature falls at or below the dew point it will precipitate.



How does dew point affect me?

The more water vapor that is in the air, the more humid it is. This can make the air feel heavy and you feel sticky. Your hair may get frizzy. Damp things won't dry very well. On the other hand, a very dry day, with a low dew point, can make your skin feel dry and tight, and your throat sore. This is more common in the winter, when temperatures are low and the air cannot hold very much water vapor.

Dewpoint Scale:

<55°	dry
56 - 60°	comfortable
61 - 70°	humid
>71°	oppressive - miserable

What is the Jet Stream?

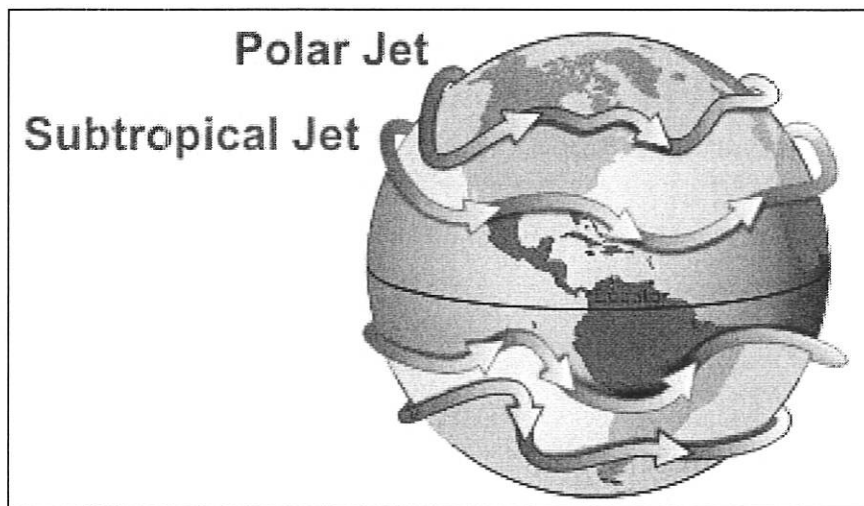
A current of fast moving air found in the upper atmosphere. It is

- hundreds of kilometers wide
- only a few kilometers thick
- 10-15 km (5-7 miles) above the surface
- Wind speeds about 60 - 250 mph

The Polar Jet Stream affects Michigan the most. The Sub-Tropical Jet Stream also affects the southern United States.

Why does it matter?

The jet stream directs air masses, and therefore weather phenomenon, so it is useful for weather forecasting.



What is a Polar Vortex?

A polar vortex is a large mass of cold, dry air that is usually positioned over a pole. One polar vortex rotates counterclockwise over the North Pole, while the other rotates clockwise over the South Pole, due to the Coriolis Effect.

Occasionally, the polar vortex can be pushed farther south, into the United States, bringing frigid temperatures with it.

