



April 2011:

The launch to the 2011 growing season left a cool and wet impression in the Lake Erie North Shore appellation. Indeed, the month of April brought slightly cooler than normal temperatures. Accumulated growing degree days for the month fell slightly below the 30 year normal (Fig 1). The impression of a cool spring is enhanced by the fact that both April 2010 and April 2009 brought above normal temperatures. The significantly warmer than normal April of 2010 brought over twice the normal accumulation of growing degree days.

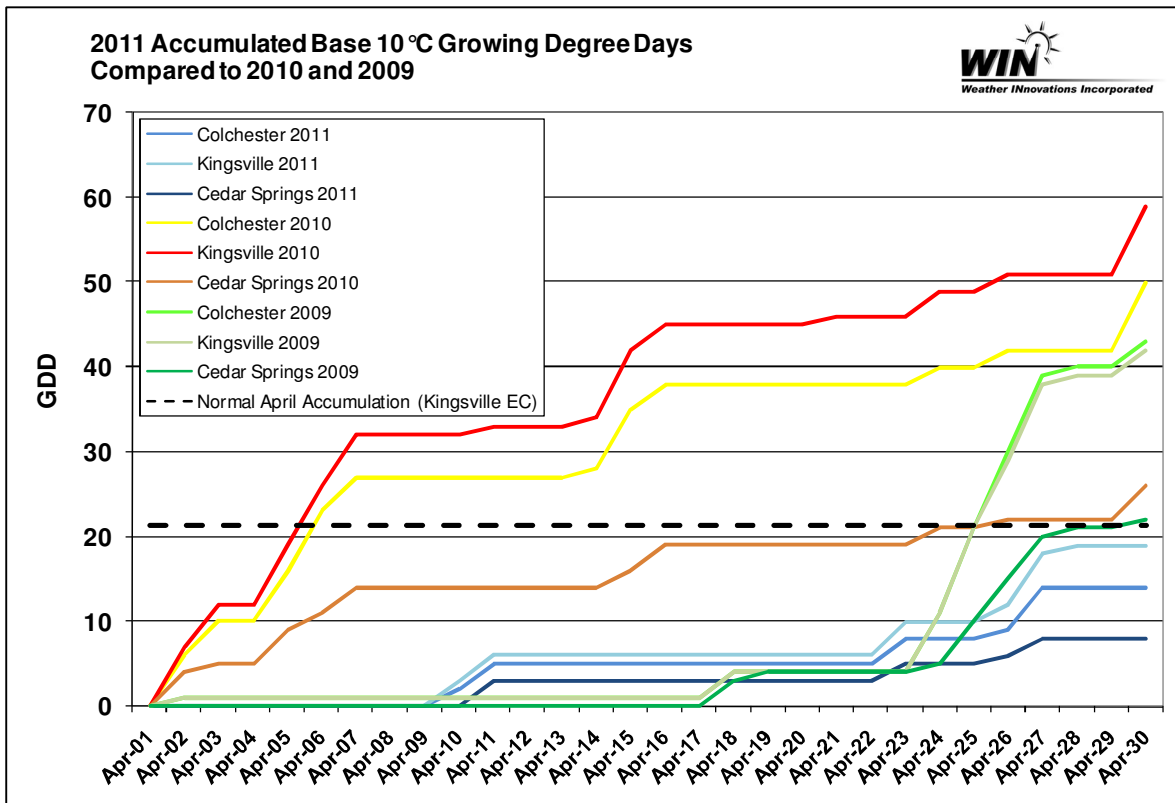


Figure 1: Growing Degree Days

April 2011 brought significantly wet conditions. All stations received twice the normal rainfall accumulation for the month, even greater than the normal for April and May combined (Fig 2)! The month of April had higher than the normal number of days when rain events occurred, in addition to higher rainfall accumulation. Most stations received 5-6 more days with rainfall, than normal (Fig 3).

Fortunately, a cool and wet spring is not necessarily a precursor for the remainder of the growing season. There is still an equivalent likelihood that the remainder of the growing season will bring sufficient heat and desirable moisture to each designated viticulture area.

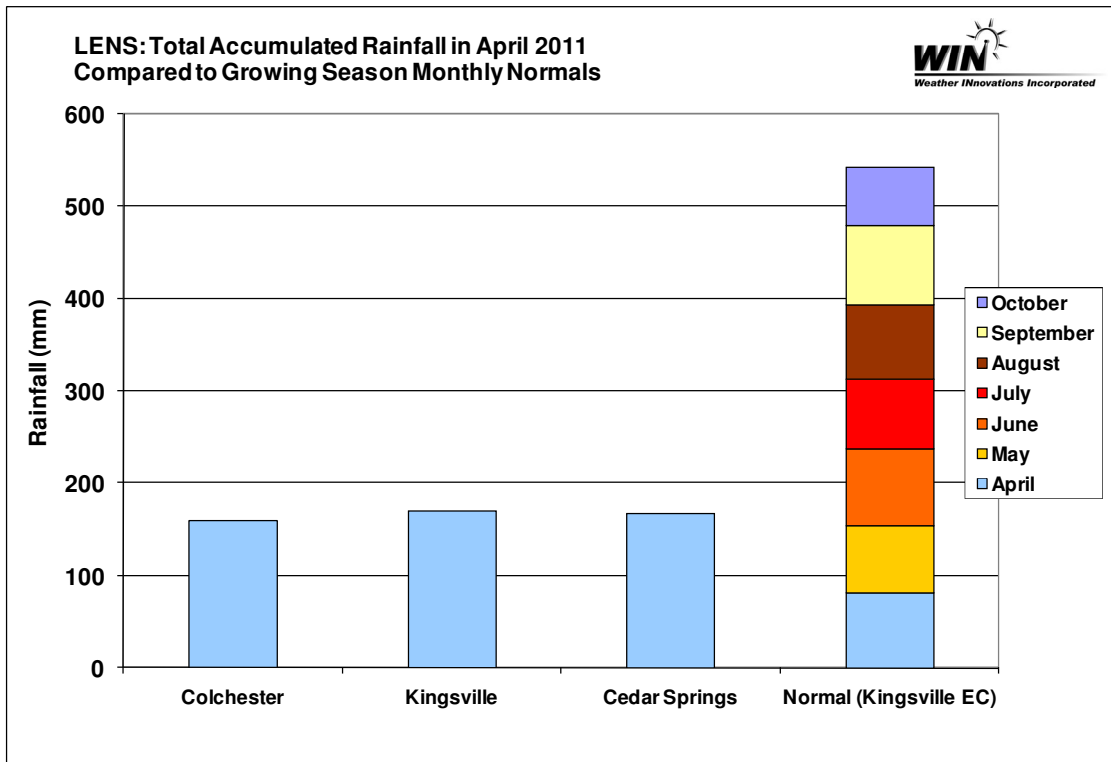


Figure 2: Rainfall

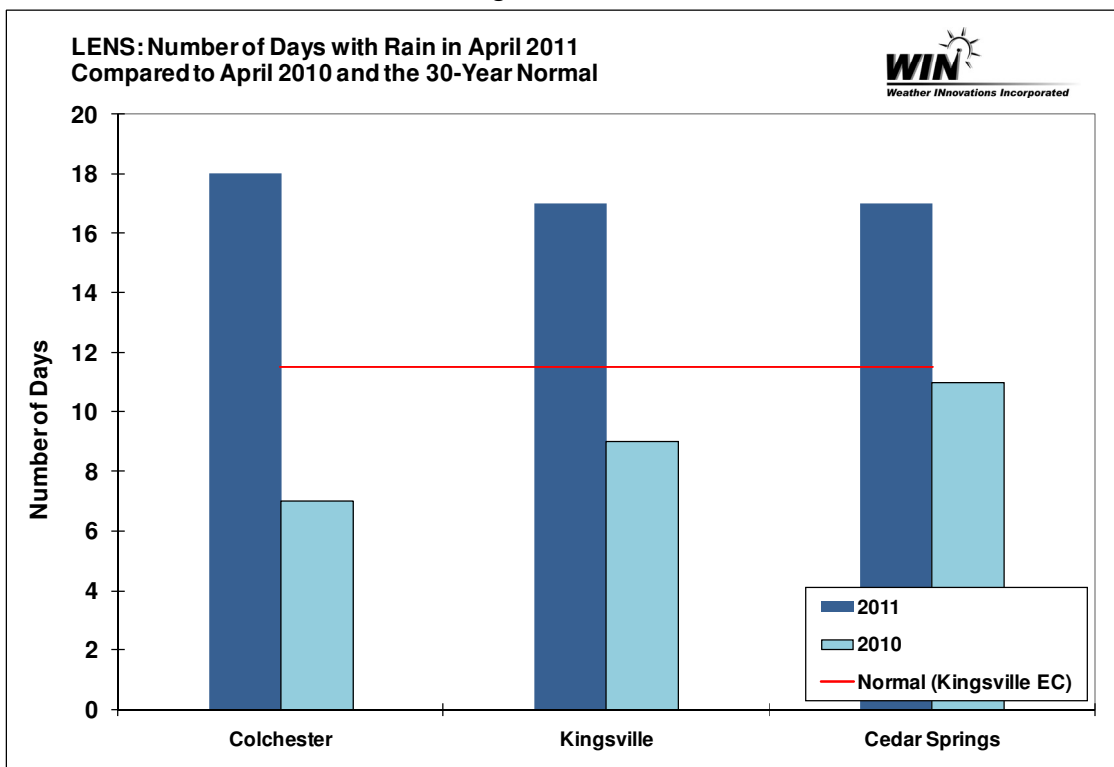


Figure 3: Number of Days with Rain