



April 2012:

Near-normal April temperatures put the brakes on the 2012 growing season after an extremely warm March resulted in a hasty and early launch. Although day-time highs were higher than usual, overnight lows averaged below normal and repeatedly threatened to dip into critical ranges, particularly for tender fruit. Wind machines went into action frequently to provide frost protection. The most critical frost event occurred on April 29, with the coldest temperature reaching -3.6°C at Colchester.

Accumulated growing degree days (base 10°C) for the month were typical. The month-end total for the growing season thus far, however, is above-normal as a result of the heat in March. The growing-degree-day accumulation at the end of April 2012 is lower as compared to 2010 but higher than the cooler-than-normal April 2011.

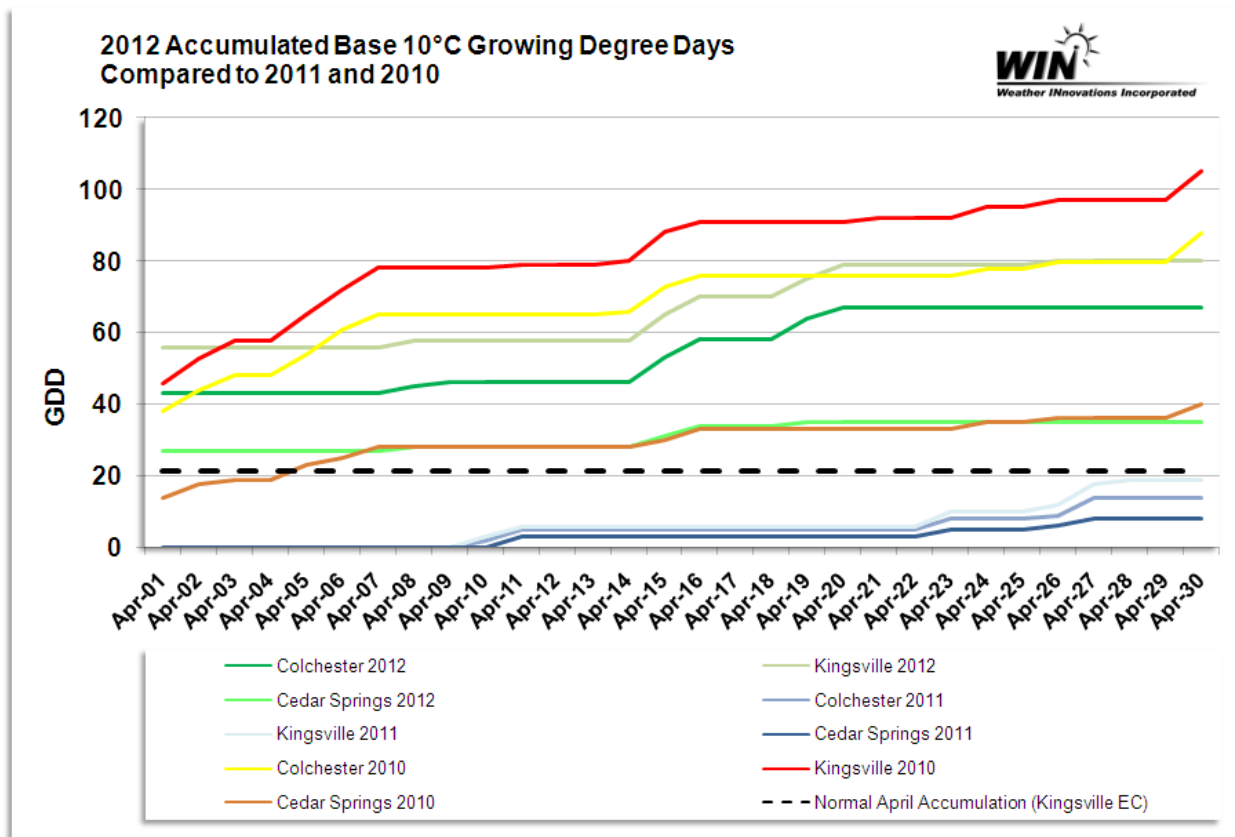


Figure 1: Growing Degree Days

April began with significantly dry conditions, following a winter short on snowfall, a drier-than-normal March and above-normal temperatures throughout. The region received only half of the normal monthly rainfall total. Moreover, the majority of rainfall did not occur until a significant rainfall event on the very last day of the month. This was in direct contrast to last year's severely wet April which brought twice the normal rainfall accumulation.



LENS: April 2012 Daily Minimums			
Date	Cedar Springs	Colchester	Kingsville
01-Apr	4.1	3.5	1.3
02-Apr	0.3	0	-0.1
03-Apr	1	1	0.8
04-Apr	2.6	2.1	1.5
05-Apr	-0.1	-0.9	-0.2
06-Apr	-0.7	-0.9	-1.4
07-Apr	-2.1	-3	-2.2
08-Apr	8	7.5	6
09-Apr	5.3	2.3	3.3
10-Apr	2.2	1.7	2.1
11-Apr	1	-0.1	0.9
12-Apr	-2.5	-2.7	-0.4
13-Apr	-0.6	-1.6	0.8
14-Apr	8.1	6.2	6.8
15-Apr	11.5	11.5	8.7
16-Apr	9.6	9	8.6
17-Apr	1.9	1.2	3.7
18-Apr	0.2	0.5	1.1
19-Apr	9	8.7	6.1
20-Apr	4.3	4.2	3.4
21-Apr	2.9	3.1	2.6
22-Apr	1.4	2.4	2.8
23-Apr	3.6	4.5	3.4
24-Apr	3.8	3.4	3.7
25-Apr	0	-1.1	1.9
26-Apr	5	5.4	3.8
27-Apr	-0.2	-0.7	0.5
28-Apr	2	2	0.8
29-Apr	-1.3	-3.6	-3
30-Apr	3.2	2.3	4.1

Most Critical Frost Event

Figure 2: Daily Minimums

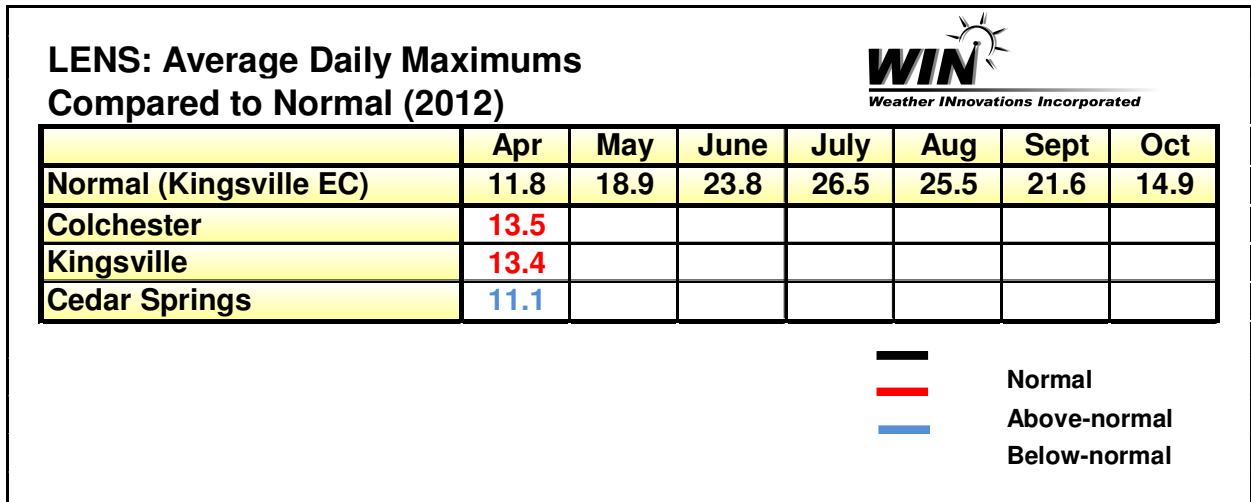


Figure 3: Maximum Temperatures

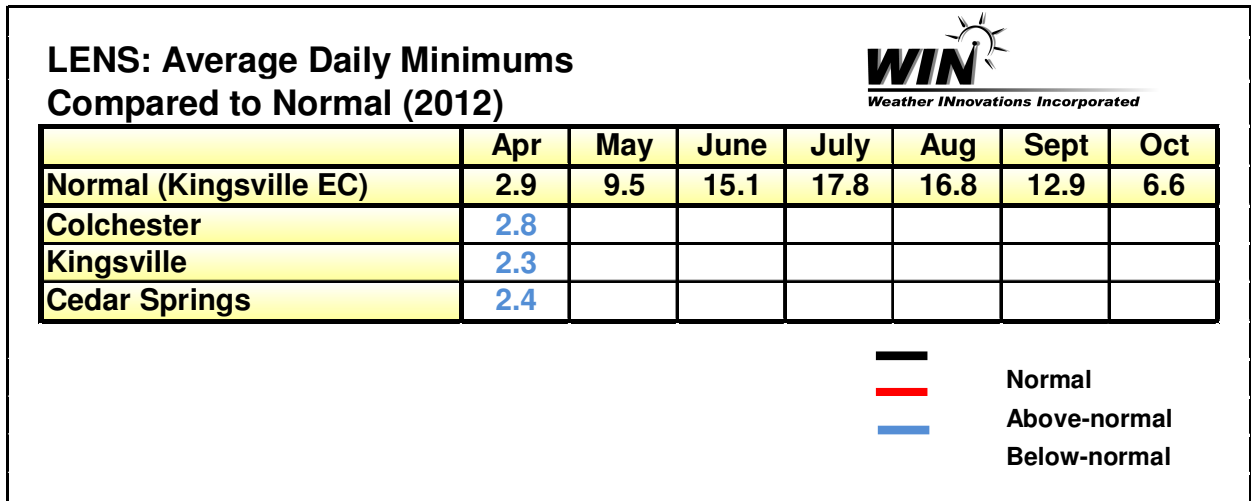


Figure 4: Minimum Temperatures

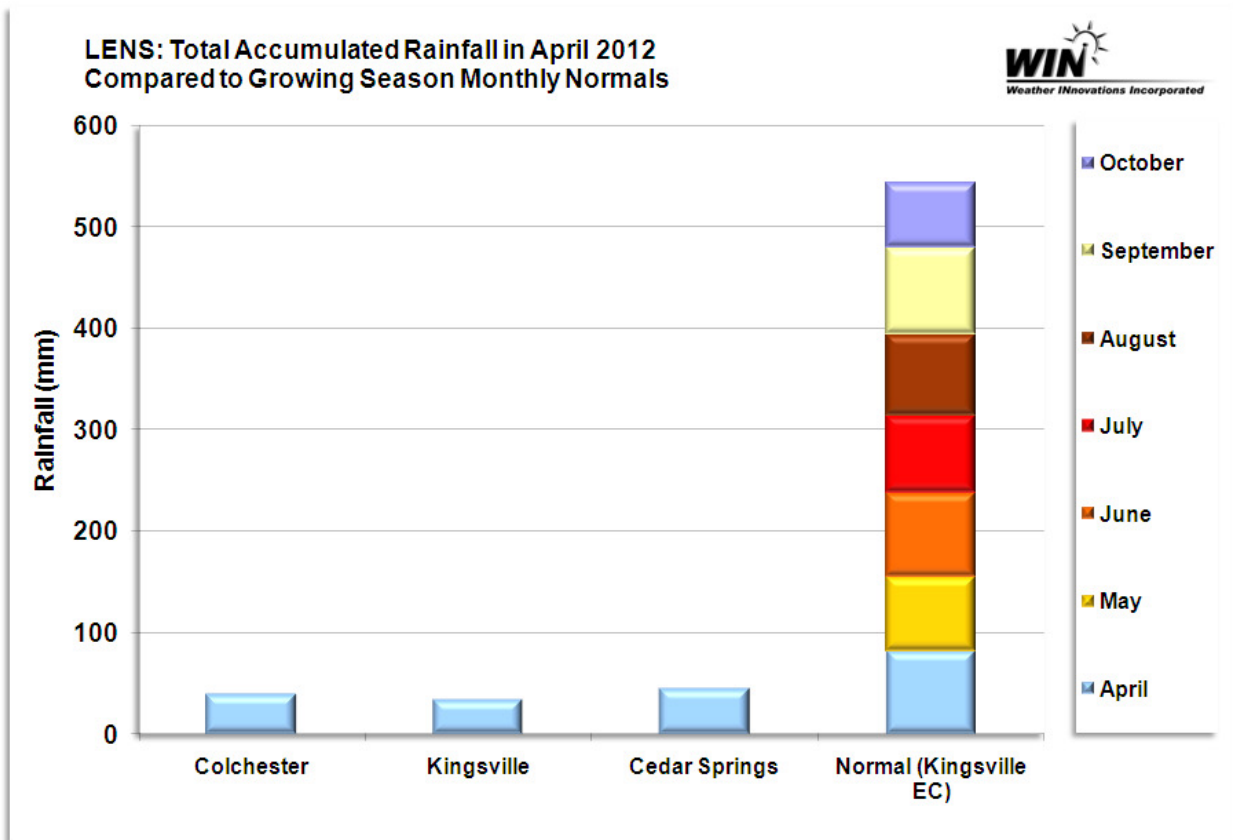


Figure 3: Rainfall