



May 2011:

The near normal temperatures experienced in April continued throughout the month of May. Although daytime temperatures were slightly below normal in May, overnight temperatures were above normal. One benefit of these conditions was the absence of the concern for spring frosts. Daily minimums never dipped below 1°C at any of the stations across the Lake Erie North Shore appellation during the month of May. Accumulated growing degree days for the month fell slightly below the 30 year normal (Fig 1), similar to the month of April. As of the end of May, accumulated growing degree days nearly reached similar totals to the same point in time during the 2009 growing season.

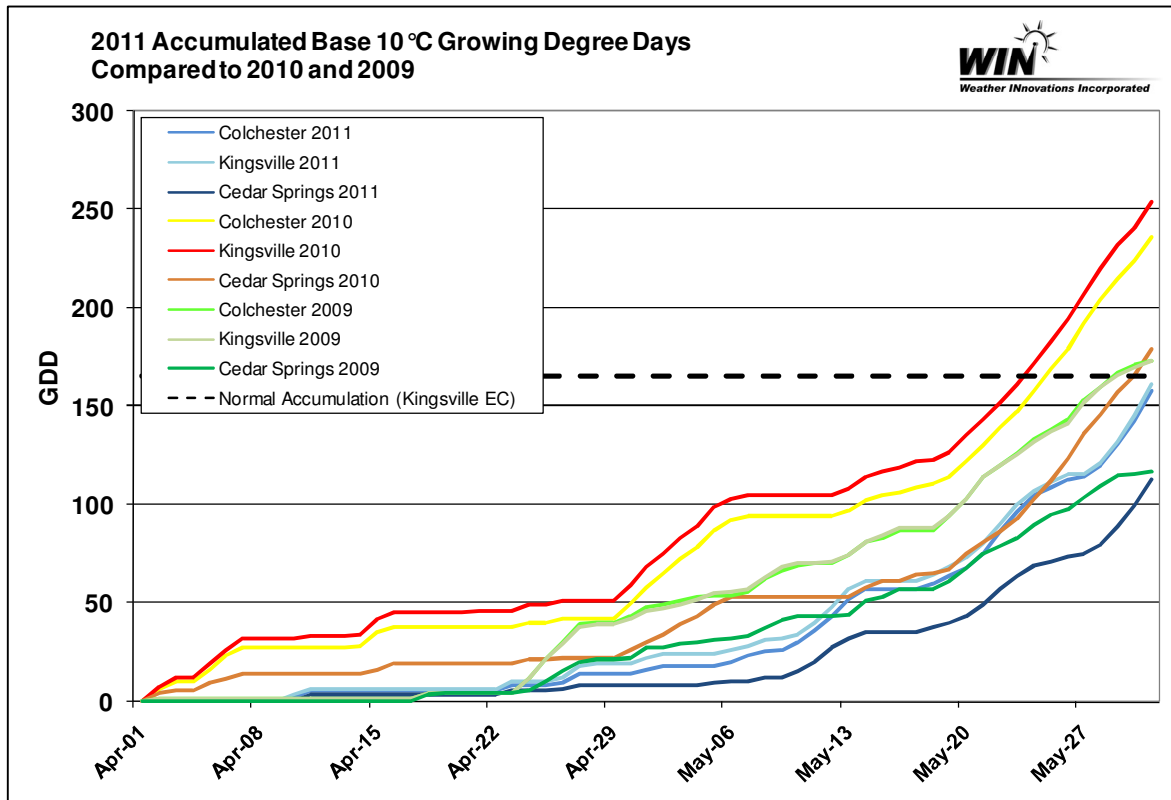


Figure 1: Growing Degree Days

The significantly wet conditions in April also continued throughout the month of May. The Colchester and Cedar Springs stations received 2.5 times the normal rainfall accumulation for the month. Moreover, the Kingsville station received a staggering 3.75 times the normal rainfall accumulation for the month! The rainfall totals for April and May 2011 combined exceeded the combined normal monthly totals for April, May, June, July and half of August at all the stations, but also exceeded the normal totals for all of August and half of September at the Kingsville station (Fig 2)! April and May both had higher than the normal number of days when rain events occurred, in addition to higher rainfall accumulation. Each station received 7-10 more days with rainfall than normal in May (Fig 3). This means that most stations received 12-16 more days with rainfall than normal for the months of April and May combined! Fortunately, the beginning of June has brought forth a change in these patterns, characterized by drier and warmer conditions thus far.

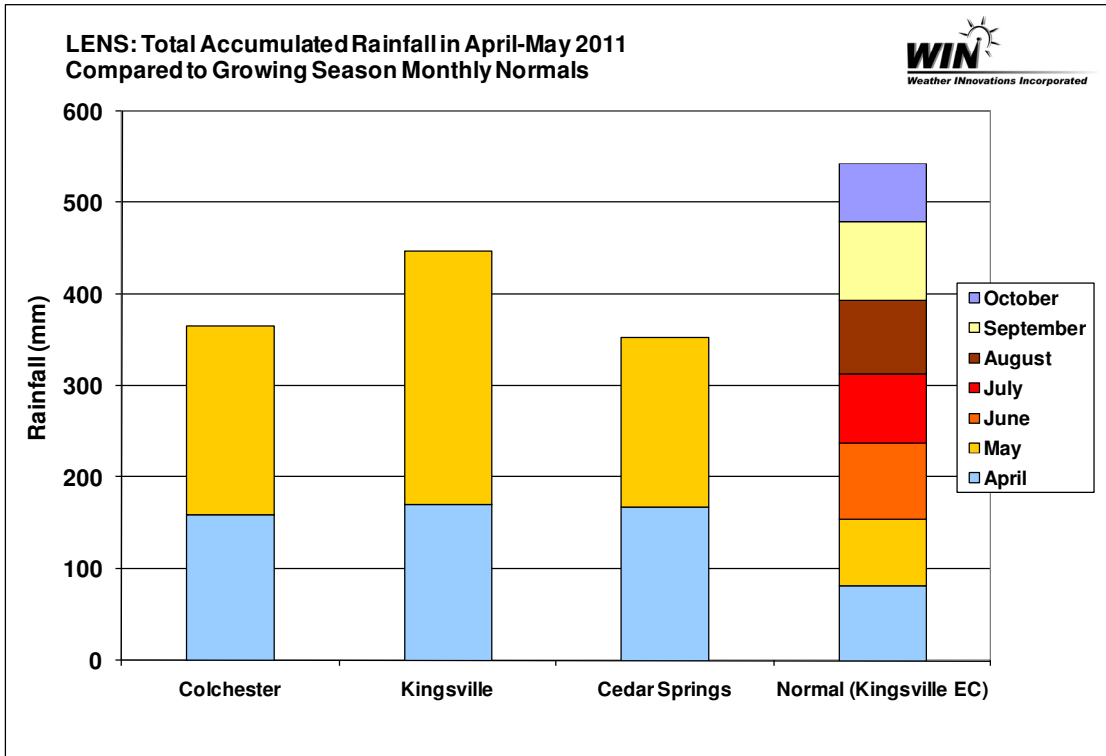


Figure 2: Rainfall

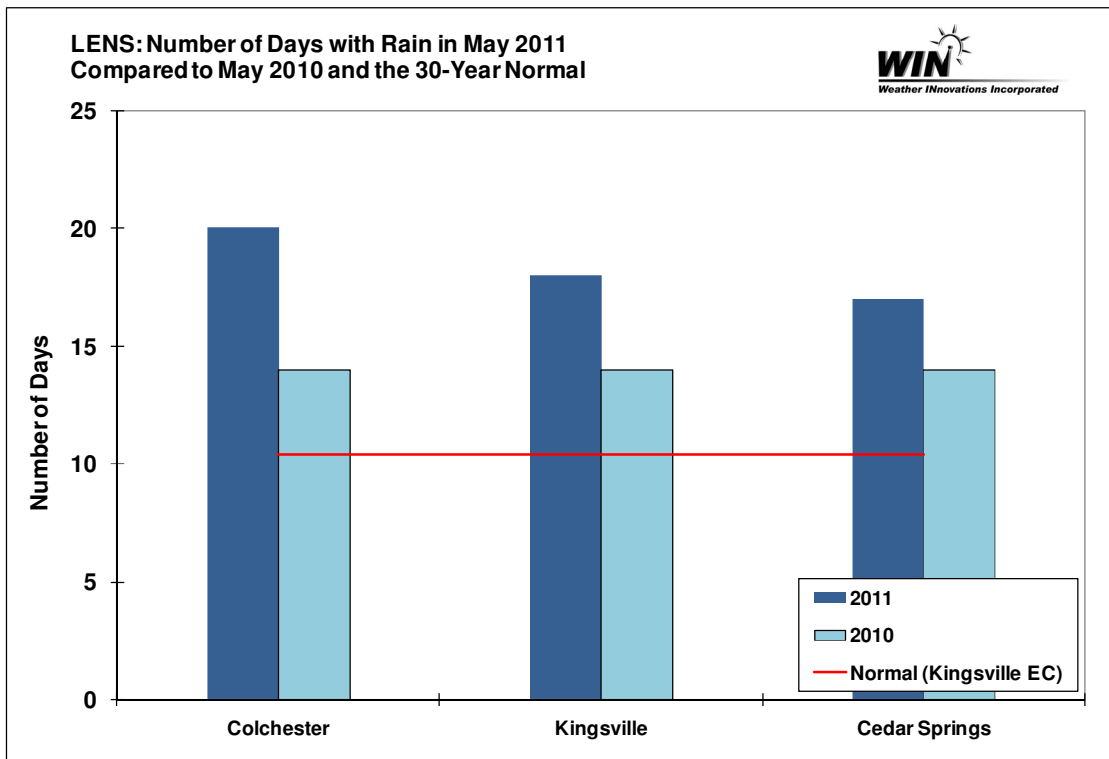


Figure 3: Number of Days with Rain