



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 2°C at any of the stations across Niagara during the month of May. Accumulated growing degree days for the month hit the 30 year normal values nearly on the mark (Fig 1), similar to the month of April. As of the end of May, accumulated growing degree days reached similar totals to the same point in time during the 2009 growing season.

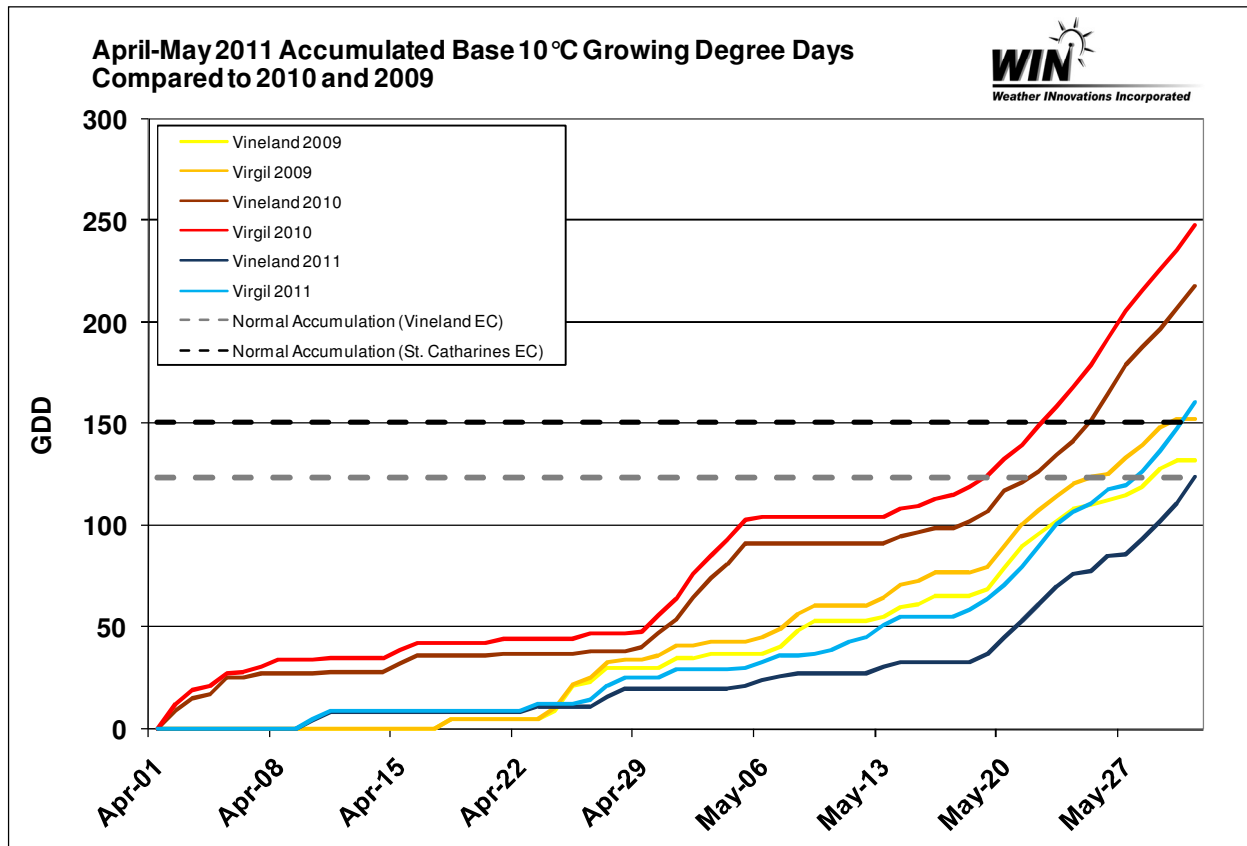


Figure 1: Growing Degree Days

The significantly wet conditions in April also continued throughout the month of May. Similar to the month of April, all stations received 1.5 to 2 times the normal rainfall accumulation for the month. The combined rainfall totals for April and May 2011 exceeded the normal monthly totals for April, May, June and July combined at some locations (Fig 2 and 3)! April and May both had higher than the normal number of days when rain events occurred, in addition to higher rainfall accumulation. Most stations received 4-8 more days with rainfall than normal in May (Fig 4 and 5). This means that most stations received 8-16 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.

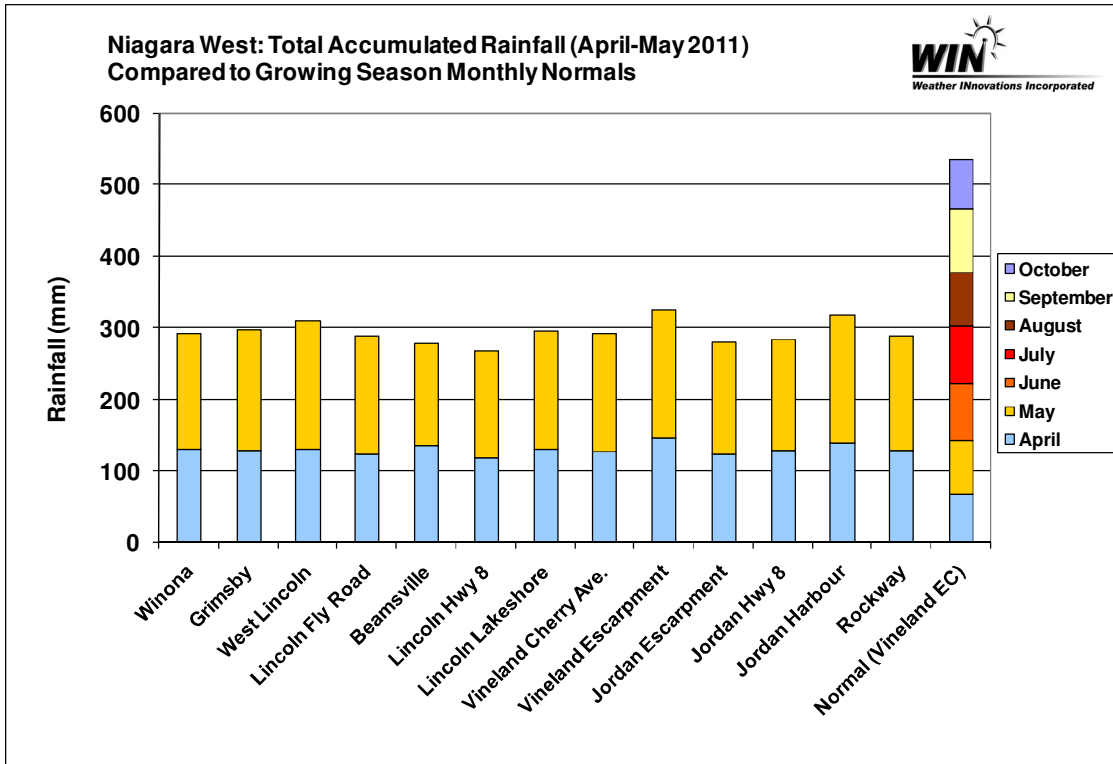


Figure 2: Niagara West - Rainfall

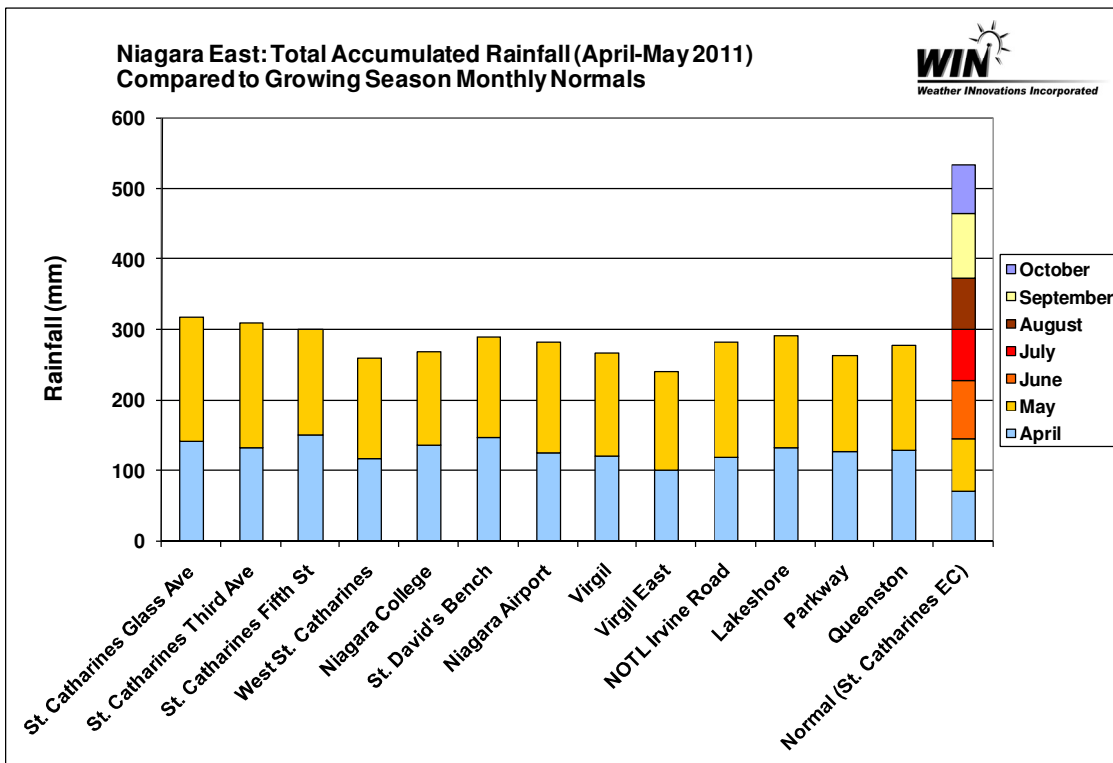


Figure 3: Niagara East - Rainfall

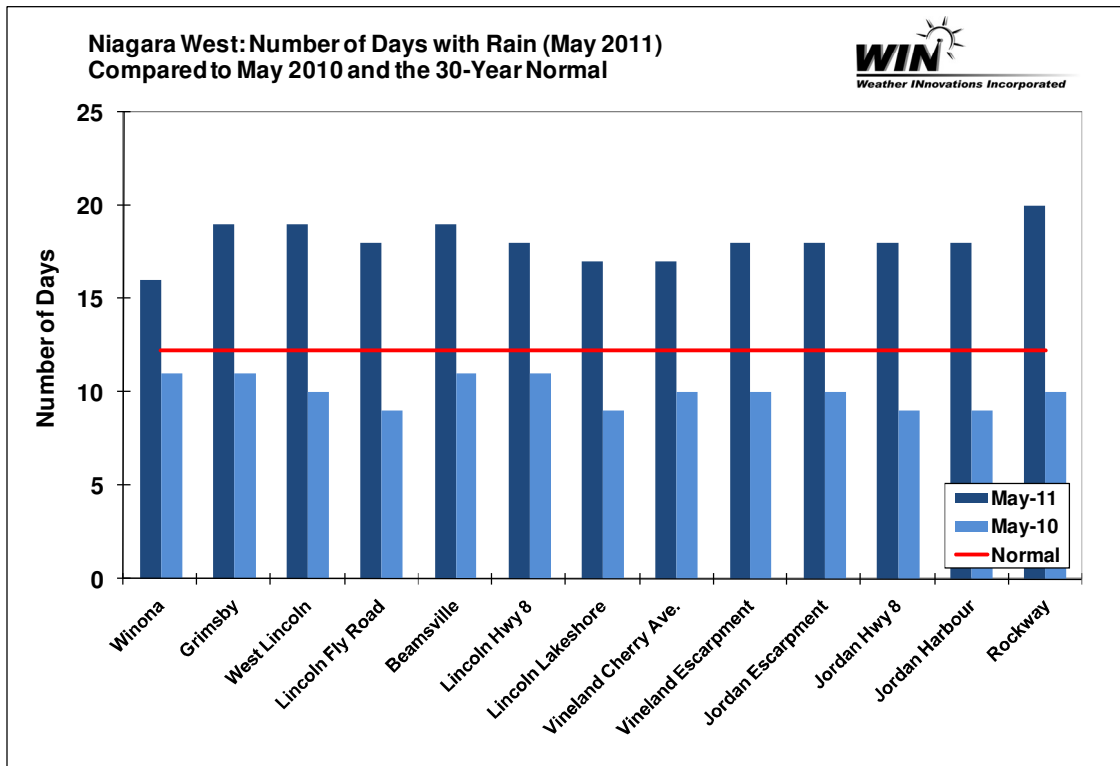


Figure 4: Niagara West - Number of Days with Rain

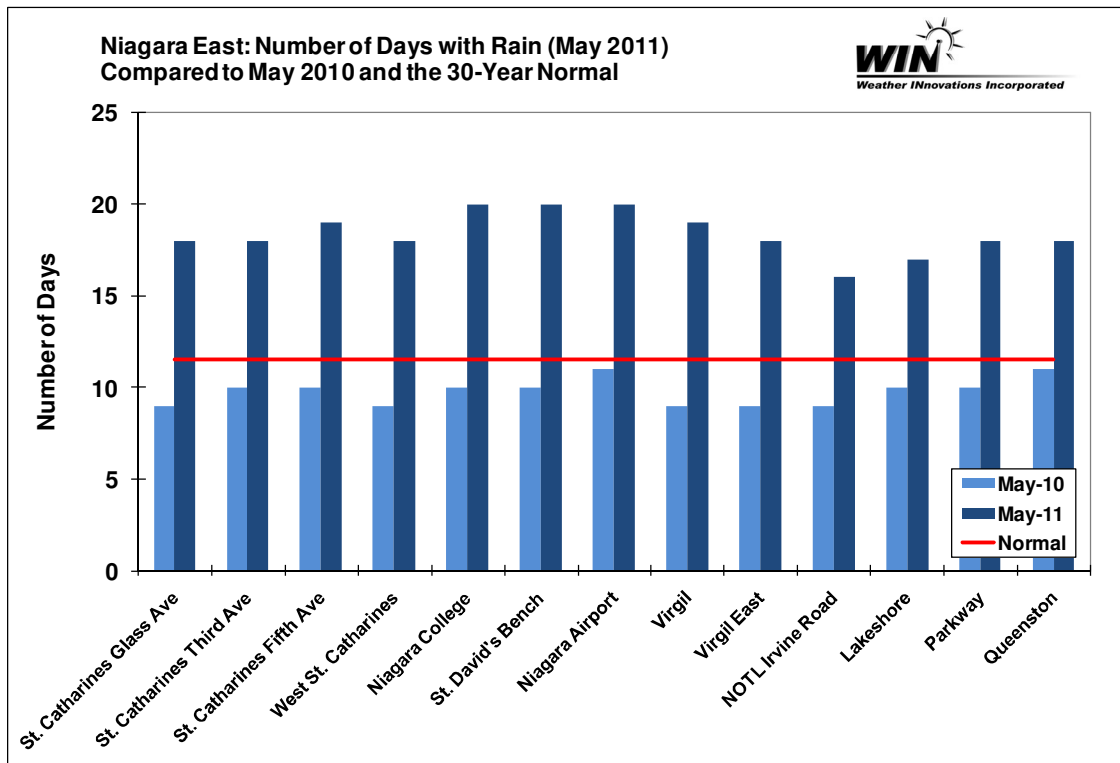


Figure 5: Niagara East - Number of Days with Rain