



## 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 averaged higher than usual, overnight lows averaged below normal and repeatedly threatened to dip into critical ranges. The most critical frost event occurred on April 28, with the coldest temperature reaching  $-6.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  at the low-lying Hillier location.

Accumulated growing degree days (base  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) 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.

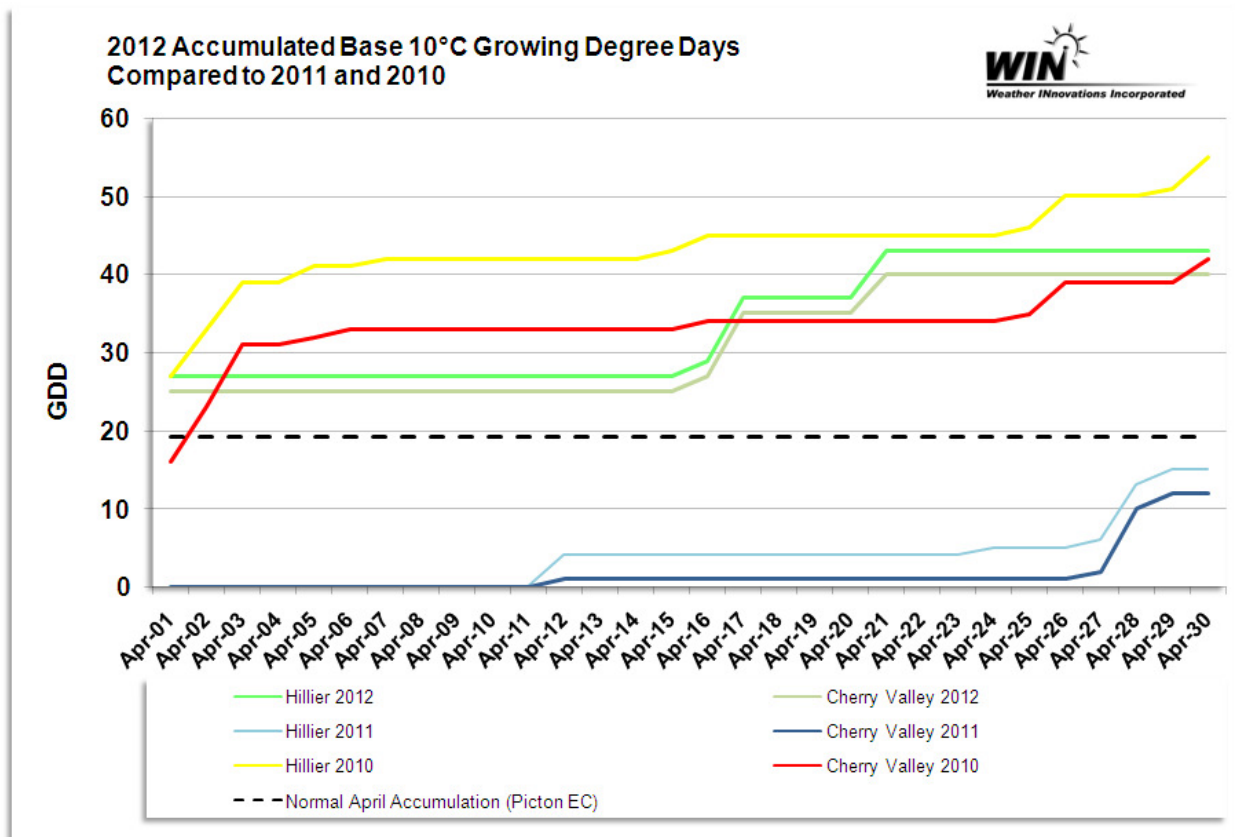


Figure 1: Growing Degree Days

April began with significantly dry conditions, following a winter short on snowfall, a drier-than-normal March and above-normal temperatures throughout. The first two-thirds of the month brought little rainfall to the region. The final third saw a number of rainfall events that bumped the monthly totals up closer to normal. This was in direct contrast to last year's severely wet April which brought twice the normal rainfall accumulation.



### PEC: April 2012 Daily Minimums

Date	Cherry Valley	Hillier
1-Apr	-2.4	-4.1
2-Apr	0	-2.6
3-Apr	-0.7	-4.8
4-Apr	1.4	-1.9
5-Apr	0.5	-2.8
6-Apr	-0.3	-2.8
7-Apr	-0.4	-4.6
8-Apr	0	-4
9-Apr	4.1	3.8
10-Apr	3.6	3.5
11-Apr	1.8	1.7
12-Apr	2.3	1.5
13-Apr	-1	-0.3
14-Apr	0.8	-2
15-Apr	8.9	9.2
16-Apr	10.6	11.8
17-Apr	2.3	1.2
18-Apr	-1.8	-4.8
19-Apr	0.1	-2.2
20-Apr	7.8	9
21-Apr	3.9	4.1
22-Apr	2.8	2.8
23-Apr	0	0.6
24-Apr	1.1	0.9
25-Apr	-0.1	-0.5
26-Apr	1.2	2.2
27-Apr	-0.4	-3.2
28-Apr	-3.9	-6.3
29-Apr	-0.5	-3.4
30-Apr	-1.2	-3.4



Most Critical Frost Event

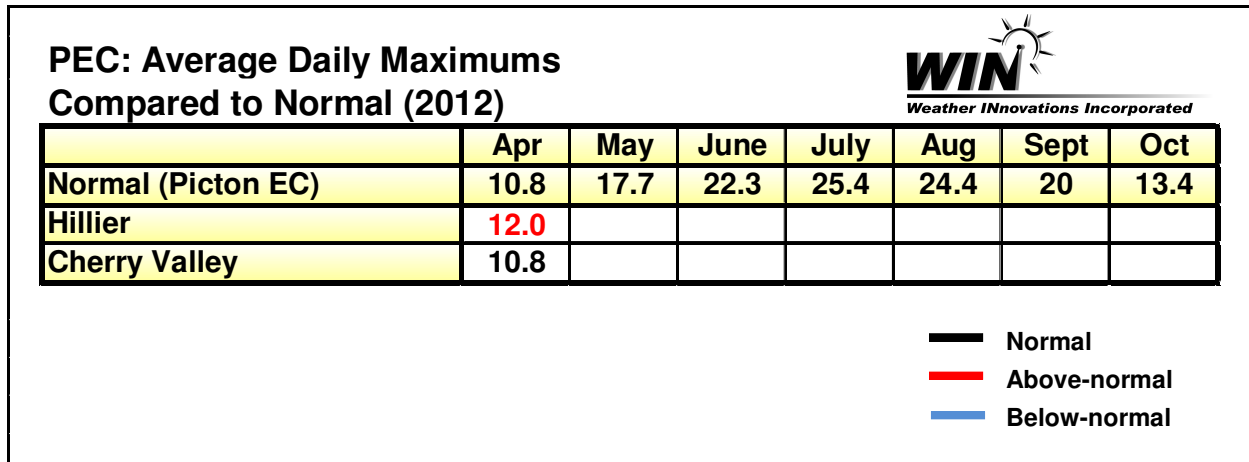


Figure 2: Maximum Temperatures

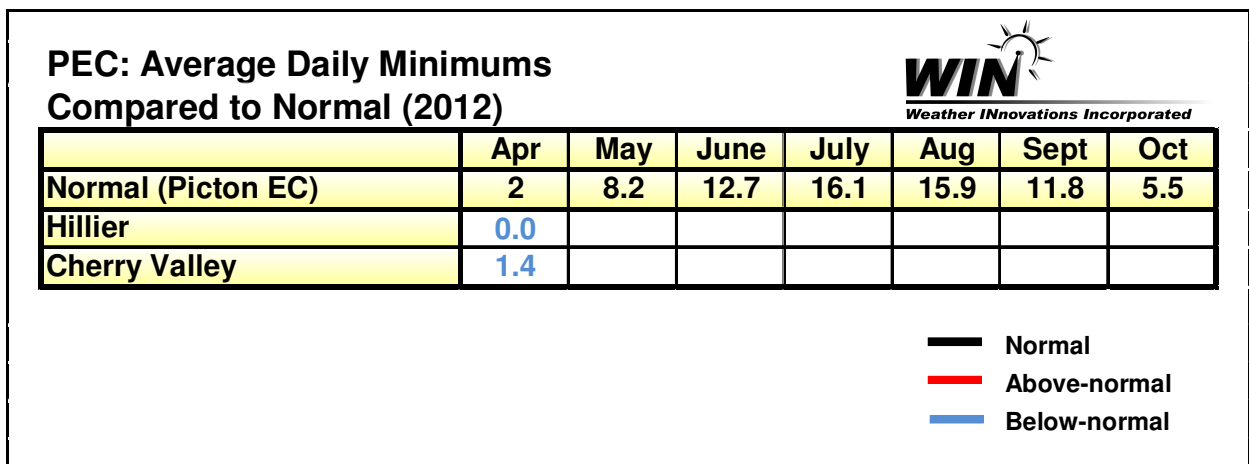


Figure 3: Minimum Temperatures

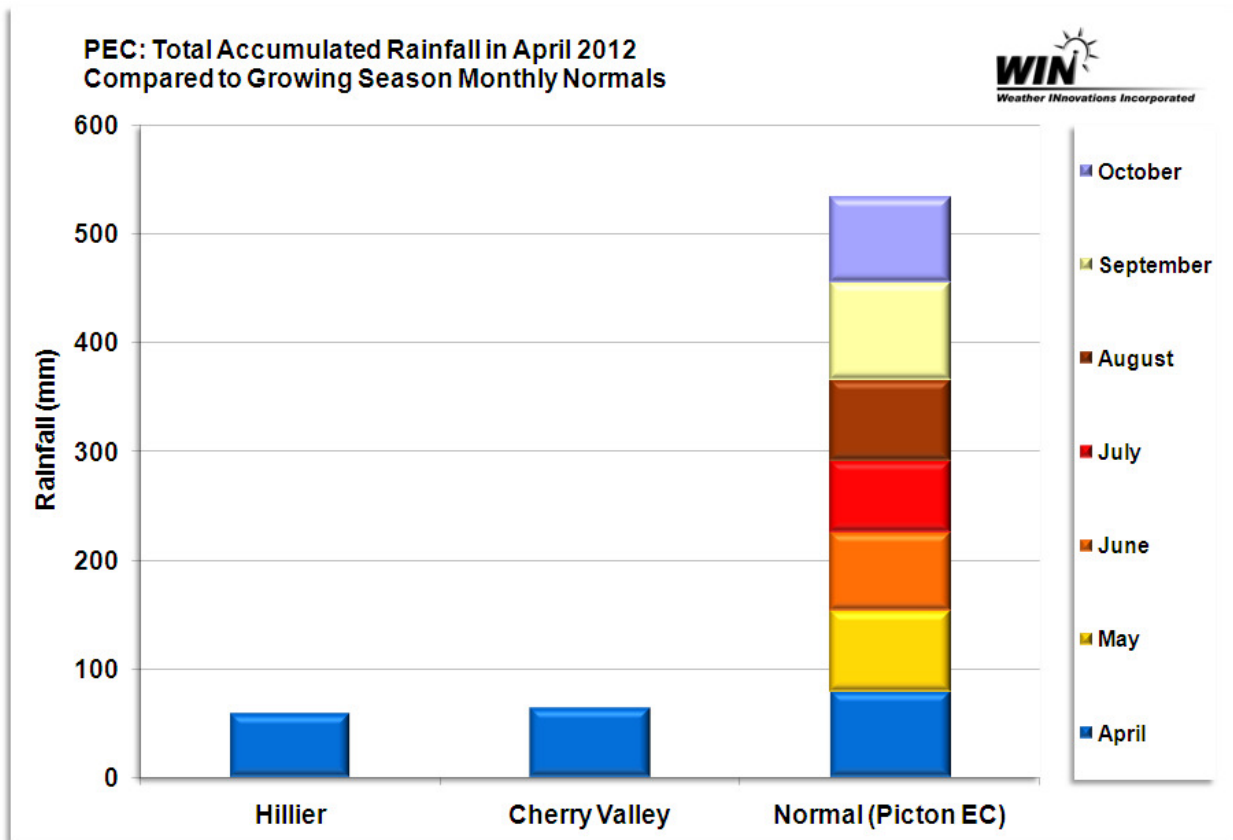


Figure 3: Rainfall