



## Lake Erie North Shore - October 2011:

The final month of the 2011 growing season brought above-normal daytime temperatures and rainfall. The growing degree day accumulation during the month of October was slightly above normal, although there was essentially no accumulation during the last half of October (Fig 1). Accumulated growing degree days for the entire 2011 growing season totaled 1505 for Colchester, 1499 for Kingsville and 1403 for Cedar Springs, only slightly above the normal of 1462 for Kingsville. This is not surprising as daily maximum and minimum temperatures tended to fluctuate between above average and below average throughout the growing season. Average daily maximums in October were approximately 1°C above normal in October, while daily minimums were approximately 1°C below normal (Fig 2 and 3). Temperatures in Colchester and Kingsville first dipped below 0°C on Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> and fell below -2°C on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of October. Temperatures in Cedar Springs came in under 0°C later, reaching -1.8°C on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October.

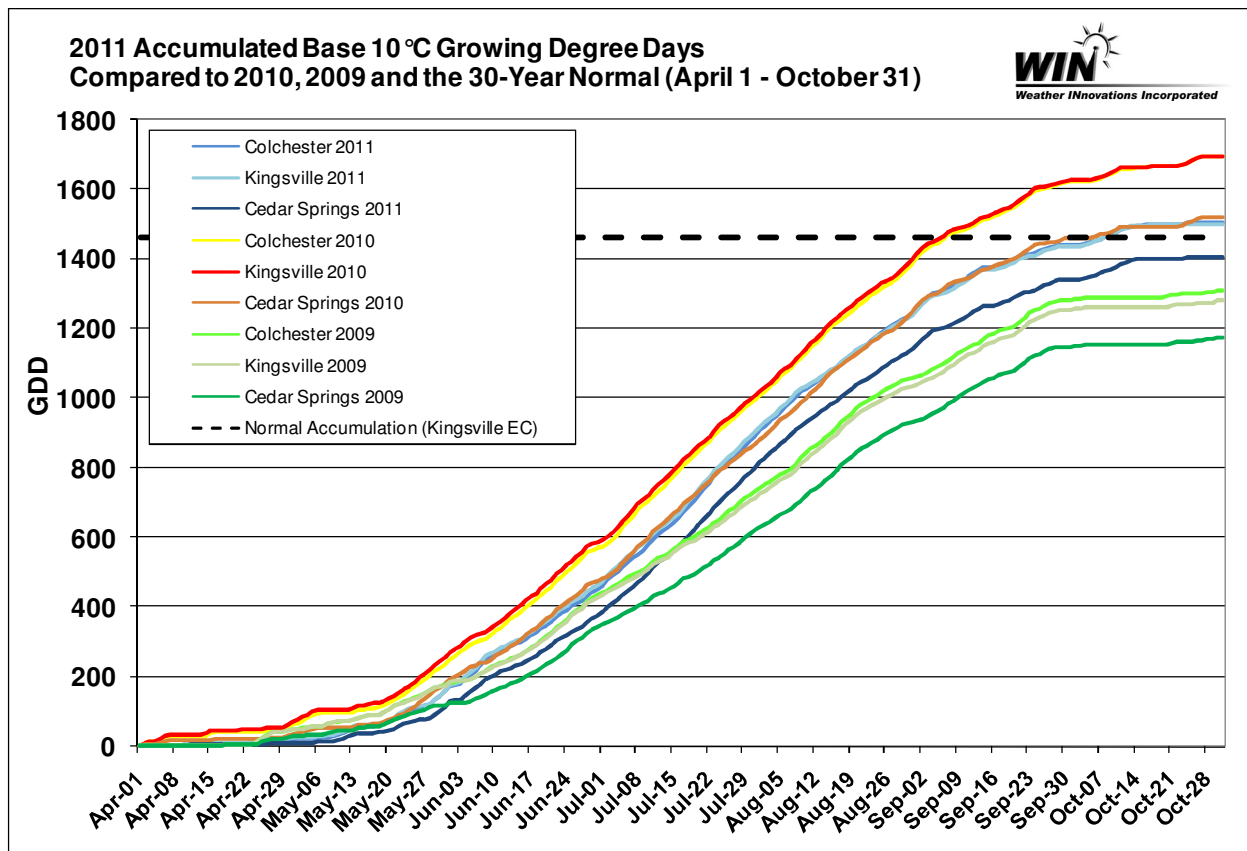


Figure 1: Growing Degree Days

One aspect of the 2011 growing season in the Lake Erie North Shore appellation that did not fluctuate was above-average rainfall. The month of October continued to bring an above-normal number of rain events: 7 days above normal in Colchester, 7 in Kingsville and 9 in Cedar Springs (Fig 4). These events resulted in highly above-normal rainfall for the month: 200% of normal for Colchester, 206% for Kingsville and 172% for Cedar Springs (Fig 5). Approximately half of the monthly rainfall fell during an extreme rainfall event on October 19<sup>th</sup>. All of these conditions led to a challenging 2011 harvest.

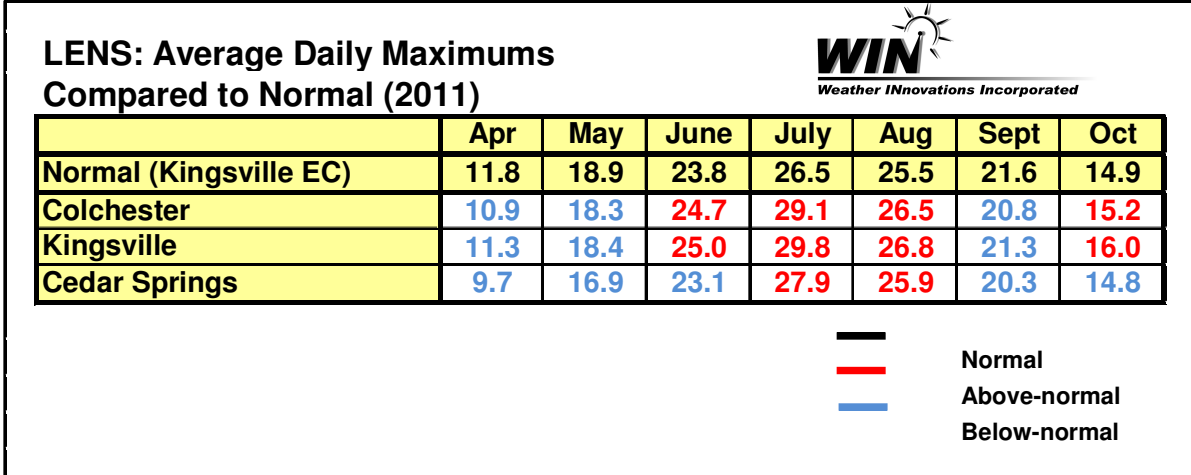


Figure 2: Maximum Temperatures

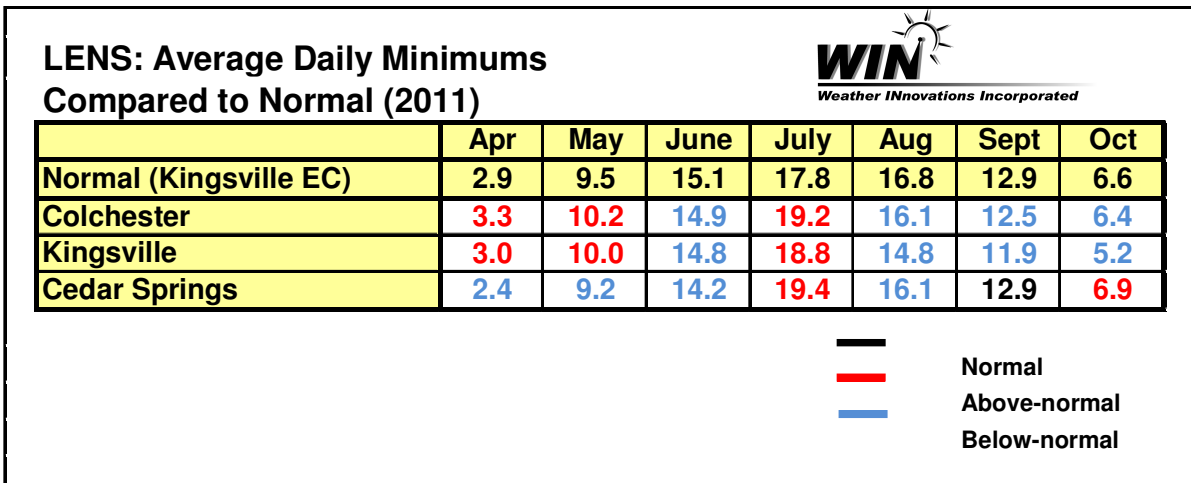


Figure 3: Minimum Temperatures

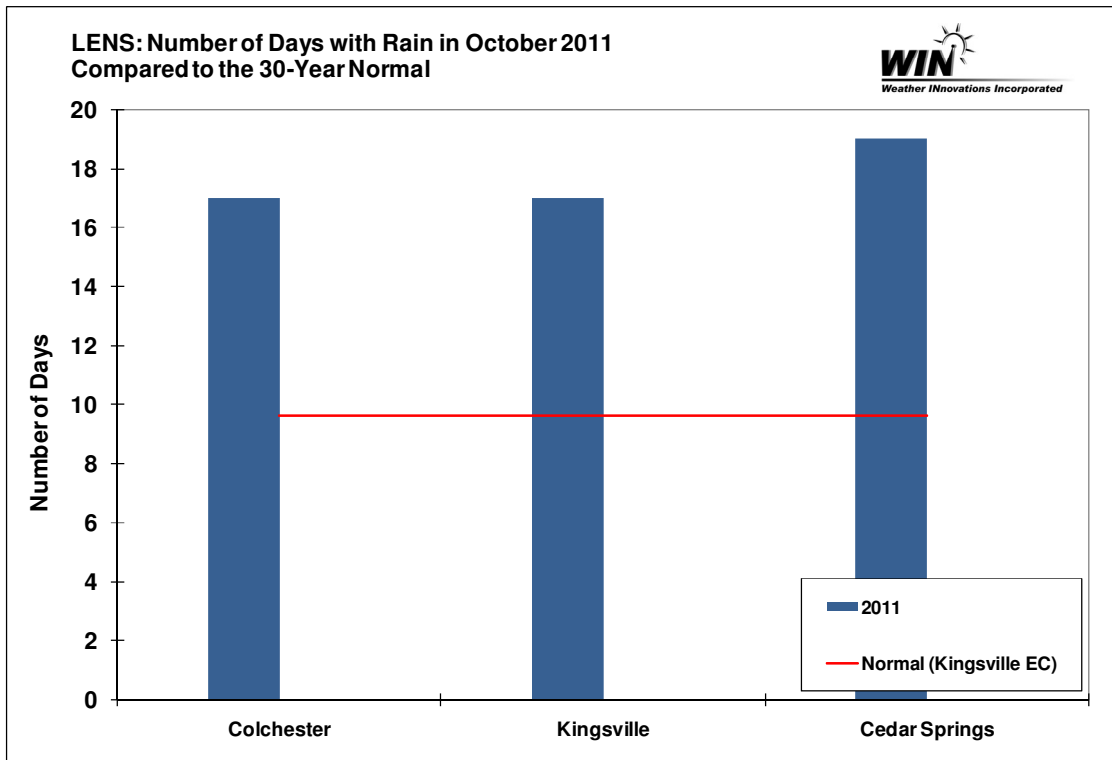


Figure 4: Days with Rainfall

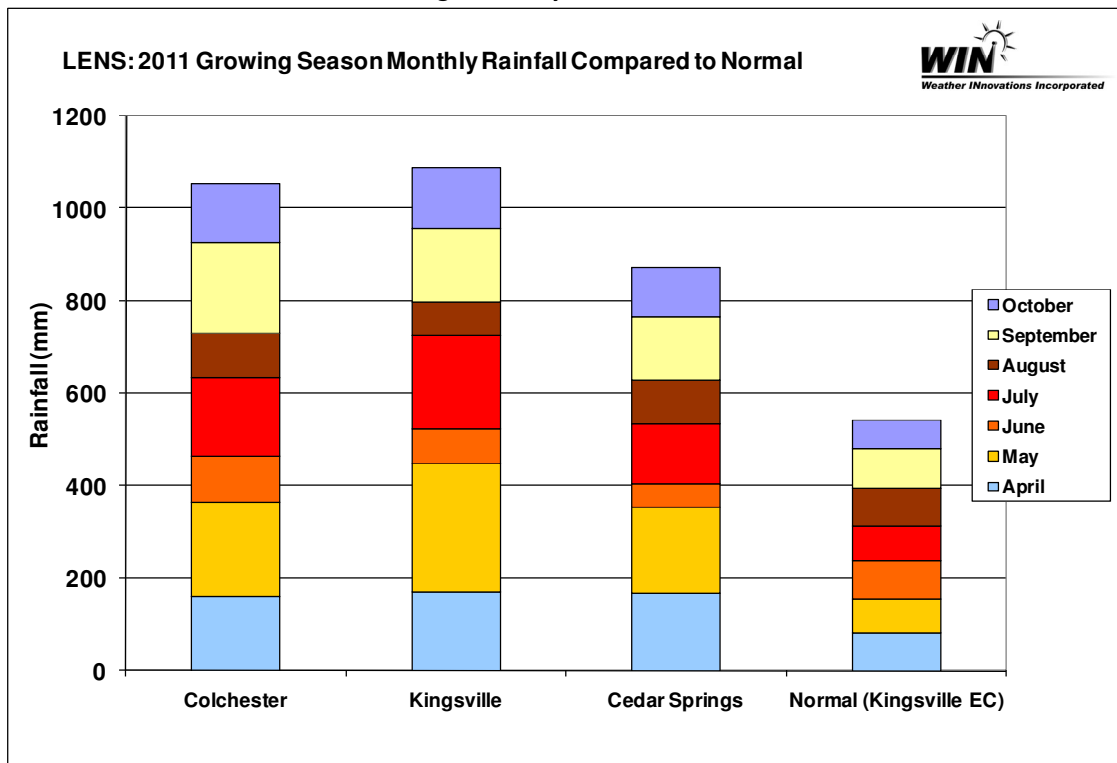


Figure 5: Monthly Rainfall