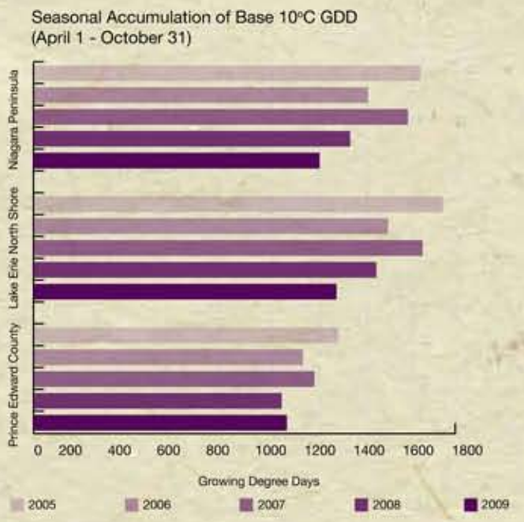
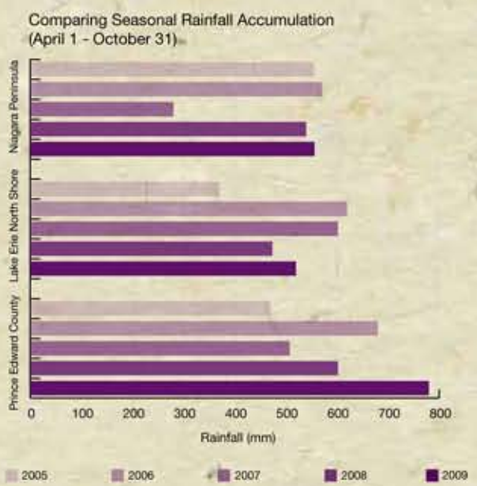
2009 Weather Report

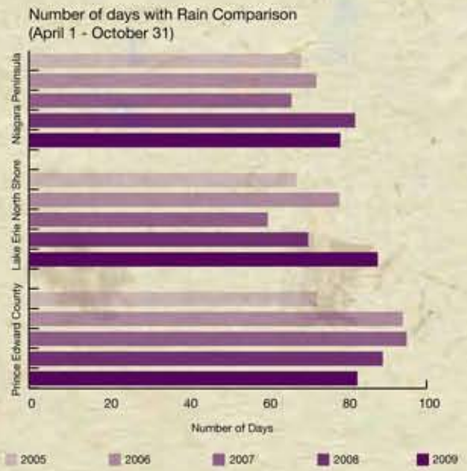
The year 2009 began with colder than normal temperatures in January and February. The coldest event in 2009 took place on February 5th, with temperatures ranging from -17.2°C at the NOTL Lakeshore station to -26.1°C at the Jordan Escarpment station. All of the Niagara West stations dipped below -20°C, while all of the Niagara East stations remained above -20°C. Warmer than normal temperatures developed in the spring of 2009, as growers assessed the impacts of the winter. The remainder of the growing season was significantly cooler than average. Growing degree days accumulated slowly throughout the summer and fall, with the total accumulation being significantly lower than average.



The seasonal accumulation of growing degree days over the past five years was the lowest in 2009, followed by 2008, with the exception of Prince Edward County. Two consecutive years of cool growing seasons were noted. Another similarity between 2008 and 2009 was in precipitation accumulation: both growing seasons were wet; however, the 2009 growing season experienced even more rainfall than in 2008.



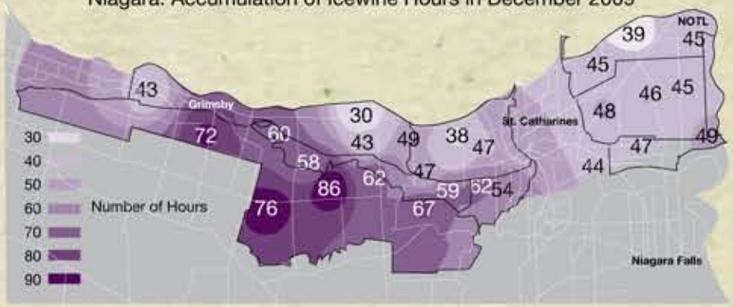
Overall precipitation was greater-than-normal, particularly during the months of April, June and August. Interestingly, despite the increase in precipitation this year, fewer days with rain occurred than in 2008, with the exception of Lake Erie North Shore.



Consequently, there were more suitable days for fungicide applications this year than last. This fact, along with the cooler temperatures helped to minimize the increased disease pressure caused by wet conditions. Cooler temperatures are a hindrance to the ripening process. The warm weeks experienced in September were welcomed and brought the needed heat accumulation prior to crop harvest.

Temperatures remained colder than normal as winter approached however, not as cold as December 2008. Thus, December 2009 provided a greater challenge to find suitable harvest hours than December 2008, but less of a challenge than in 2007. Overall, 2009 will be remembered for its cold February temperatures, its significant rainfall and its cooler than average growing season.

Niagara: Accumulation of Icewine Hours in December 2009



The weather based program for the grape and tender fruit industry was expanded in 2009. For more detailed weather data, management tools and weather reports, visit vineandtreefruitinnovations.com