



For Immediate Release

Dry Start to November Helps Turn Harvest Around

Chatham, ON (November 7, 2011) – Harvest of grains, grapes, sugar beets and other crops got back on track last week thanks to an excellent 7-day stretch of dry, sunny conditions. Growers cheered the long-awaited turn around after an incredibly wet October that saw rain on as many as 20 days in areas of southwestern Ontario.

The beginning of November brought little to no rainfall across the region. In locations that did receive precipitation, it was minimal, including 4 mm in London, 2.2 in Wallaceburg, 0.6 in Exeter, 0.4 in Leamington and 0.2 in Chatham. In contrast to October's massive totals, amounts were at or below normal averages of between 4 to 8 mm for most areas for the first week of November.

Several consecutive days of bright blue skies and warm temperatures helped dry out the many saturated fields, allowing growers to finally wrap up their harvests, or in some cases just get started. Daytime high temperatures were mild, and quite above seasonal in some instances. Leamington hit a high of 20°C on November 2nd, compared to its average of 11.3 on that day. The towns of Warwick, Shetland and several others reached 19°C.

Evening lows continued to creep lower, however, with overnight frosts occurring extensively and even reports of brief flurries in Leamington and a few other spots. Temperatures from Windsor to Toronto dropped consistently below 0 °C every night except Sunday, November 6th. Woodstock recorded the lowest overnight temperature of -5.5 °C on November 5th.

The lower temperatures are especially significant to grape growers anticipating this year's harvest for ice wine production. They're now keeping an eye out for overnight temperatures to fall to between -8 and -12°C, the picking window for grapes in order to qualify for the ice wine designation.

Weather INnovations Inc. reminds vineyard managers that they can visit www.vineandtreefruitinnovations.com and register for free to view site-specific frost warnings when temperatures drop below 0 °C or harvest-period alerts when the ice wine threshold is hit. Other helpful tools and info throughout the growing season include disease pressure maps as well as detailed hourly weather forecasts and historical data.

Weather INnovations Incorporated (WIN) – www.weatherinnovations.com

WIN specializes in providing turnkey weather-based monitoring and modelling solutions for agribusinesses, producer organizations, government agencies, researchers and others. WIN makes its models easier to use at the farm level by providing a connection to innovative research with site-specific applications.

For more information, please contact:

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