



5.11 Cursor Tool

The **Cursor** tool is used to show the value of data at a point and the geographic position of the point. In addition, the position of the cursor relative to another “home” point (range and bearing) are displayed. The “home” point can be selected from a pre-defined list which always includes the radar, or it can be “planted” interactively by the user.

Click the **Cursor** icon to display the tool.

Value		Threshold	Range	42.2 km
LAT	U	22°42.5' N	Slant	43.4 km
LON		114°22.7' E	Bearing	37.8
Height		10.0 km	Elev	13.2

Buttons: ? X Set Home Radar Plant Home

You can now move the cursor in the display by clicking your mouse, or dragging the cursor. The values in the menu will update “live” as you move the cursor.

You can use cursor with other tools such as the Loop tool. However in some cases, Track for example, the mouse is reserved for other functions. You can still get readouts from the cursor tool by displaying it first and then selecting **Track**. The cursor will not be displayed on the screen, but the readouts will properly reflect the values where you are pointing.

Value

This shows the value at the current position. The units are the same as those displayed in the image.

Latitude and Longitude

These fields show the latitude and longitude of the position to the nearest tenth of a minute. The “U” toggles the units between decimal degrees and degrees and decimal minutes.

Height

This field shows the height above the curved surface of the earth at the cursor position. The units are either km or thousands of feet depending on the setting of “Units” in the **Display Options** tool in Section 5.8.

Not all displays have a height– VIL for example. In these cases a value of “0.0” is displayed for height.

Range and Slant Range

Range shows the range along the curved earth’s surface relative to the “home” point. This is usually set to be the radar. Slant Range shows the range along the radar beam. The units are either km or nautical miles depending on the setting of “Units” in the Display Options tool in Section 5.8.

Similar to the Height field, not all displays have a slant range associated with them since there may be no elevation angle associated with the product. Again, VIL is a good example. In these cases, slant range is displayed as 0.0.

Bearing

This is the bearing in degrees from the Home point to the cursor as measured clockwise from true north.

Elevation

For products that have an elevation associated with them, this displays the elevation angle from the home point to the cursor. Any product that has a “height” will also have an elevation (e.g., PPI and CAPPI).

If the Home point is relative to the radar than the elevation is really the elevation angle of the radar. If the Home point is not the radar, the elevation is not the elevation angle of the radar, but rather the elevation angle that an observer at that point would observe to see the cursor at its height.



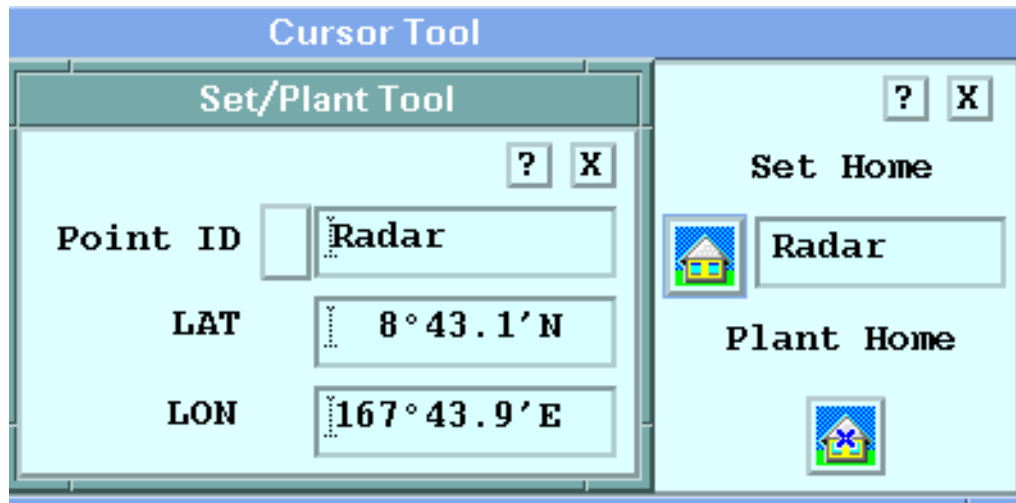
Selecting and Planting Home Points

The ability to define home points allows you to easily measure the position of a weather radar feature relative to a selected location. For example, “Thunderstorm located 120 km at 260 degrees from the airport.”

There are two ways to define home points while in the Cursor tool:

- **Plant a Home point**– Use your mouse to position the cursor and then click the “Plant Home” icon. The Home point, indicated by the “X” symbol will move to the cursor.

- **Select a pre-defined Home point**– Click on the “Set Home” icon to display the Set/Plant tool as shown below. Click on “Point ID” and then select the Home point from the list of available names.



Creating Named Home Points (Operators only)

If you have operator privilege in the window (**File**→**Set Privilege to**), you can use the Set/Plant tool to make new named points for key locations. There are two ways to do this. First enter the Set/Plant Tool by clicking the “Home” icon.

- **Type-in Method**– Enter the LAT/LON of the home point and the name of the home point. Then click the Point ID button and select Save. You can type-in the LAT/LON using either degrees and minutes or decimal degrees.
- **Cursor Plant Method**– Position your cursor where you want to place the home point and then click the Plant Home icon. Now click the Set Home icon and the LAT/LON will be filled-in for you. Simply replace the text “Plant” with the name that you want, click the Point ID button and select Save.

To delete a home point name, first select the point (using **Point ID**) and then select “Delete” in the **Point ID** menu. The Radar will be used as the home point until you select another one.