



Department of
**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**



PestFacts WA webinar

“DPIRD Seasonal status of pests and diseases delivered to growers” project. DAW2404-005RTX. GRDC co-investment

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal community and their cultures; and to Elders both past and present.

Webinar agenda

- WA's climate outlook

Meredith Guthrie. DPIRD senior research scientist

- Insect pests that growers need to look out for at crop establishment

Svetlana Micic. DPIRD senior research scientist

- Foliar diseases

Andrea Hills. DPIRD senior research scientist

- Soil-borne diseases

Sarah Collins. DPIRD senior research scientist

- PestFacts WA service

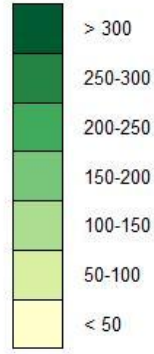
Cindy Webster. DPIRD research scientist

- Question and answer session

Out of season rain (November-March)

Rainfall (mm)

1 November 2025 - 31 March 2026
Produced using DPIRD and Patched Point Data
• Stations used in analysis



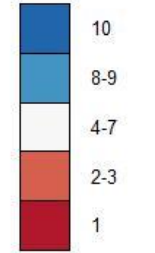
Hill River (Jurien)
32 mm

Quickup Dam (Denmark) 256 mm



Rainfall deciles

1 November 2025 - 31 March 2026
Produced using DPIRD and Patched Point Data
• Stations used in analysis

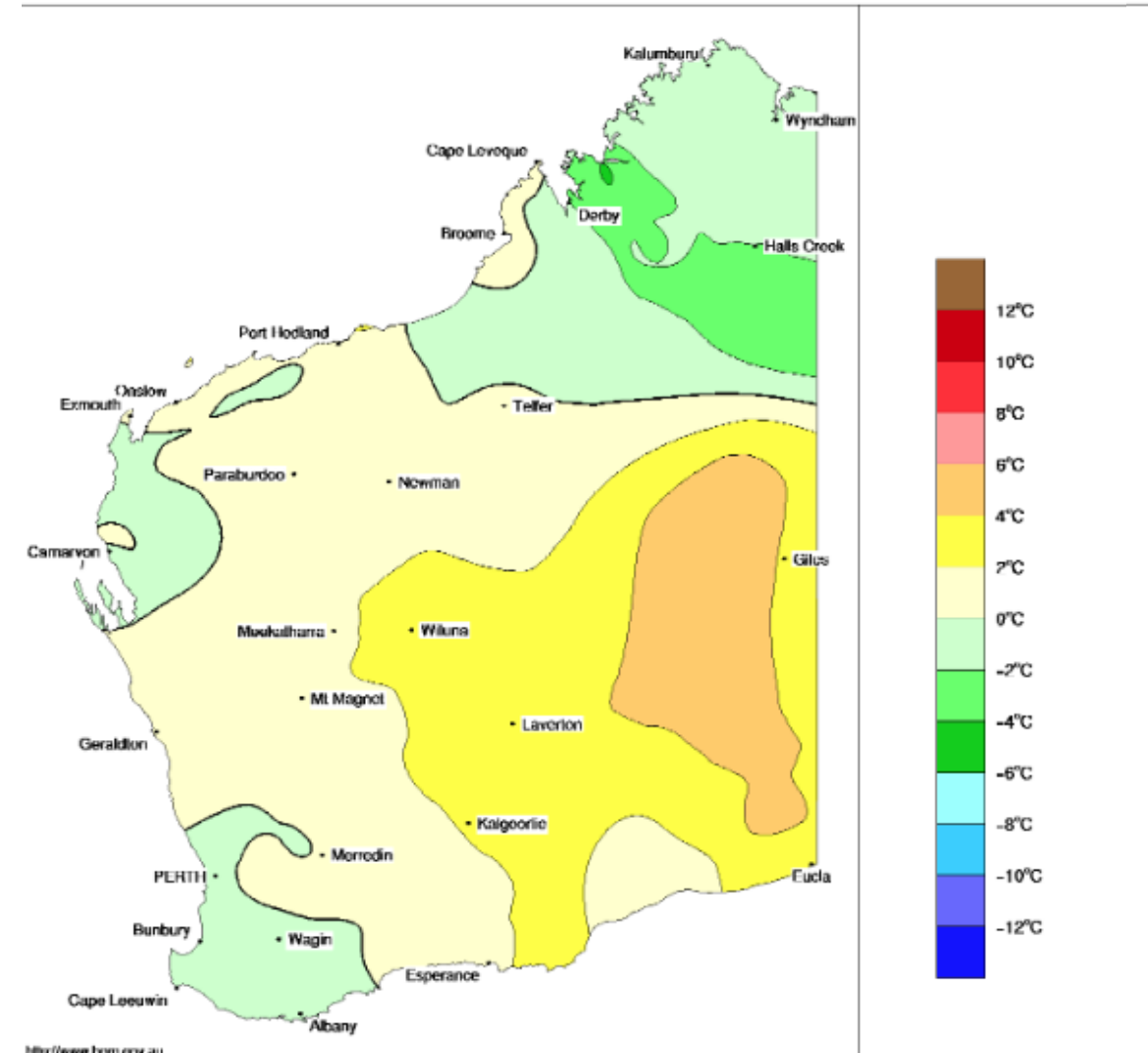
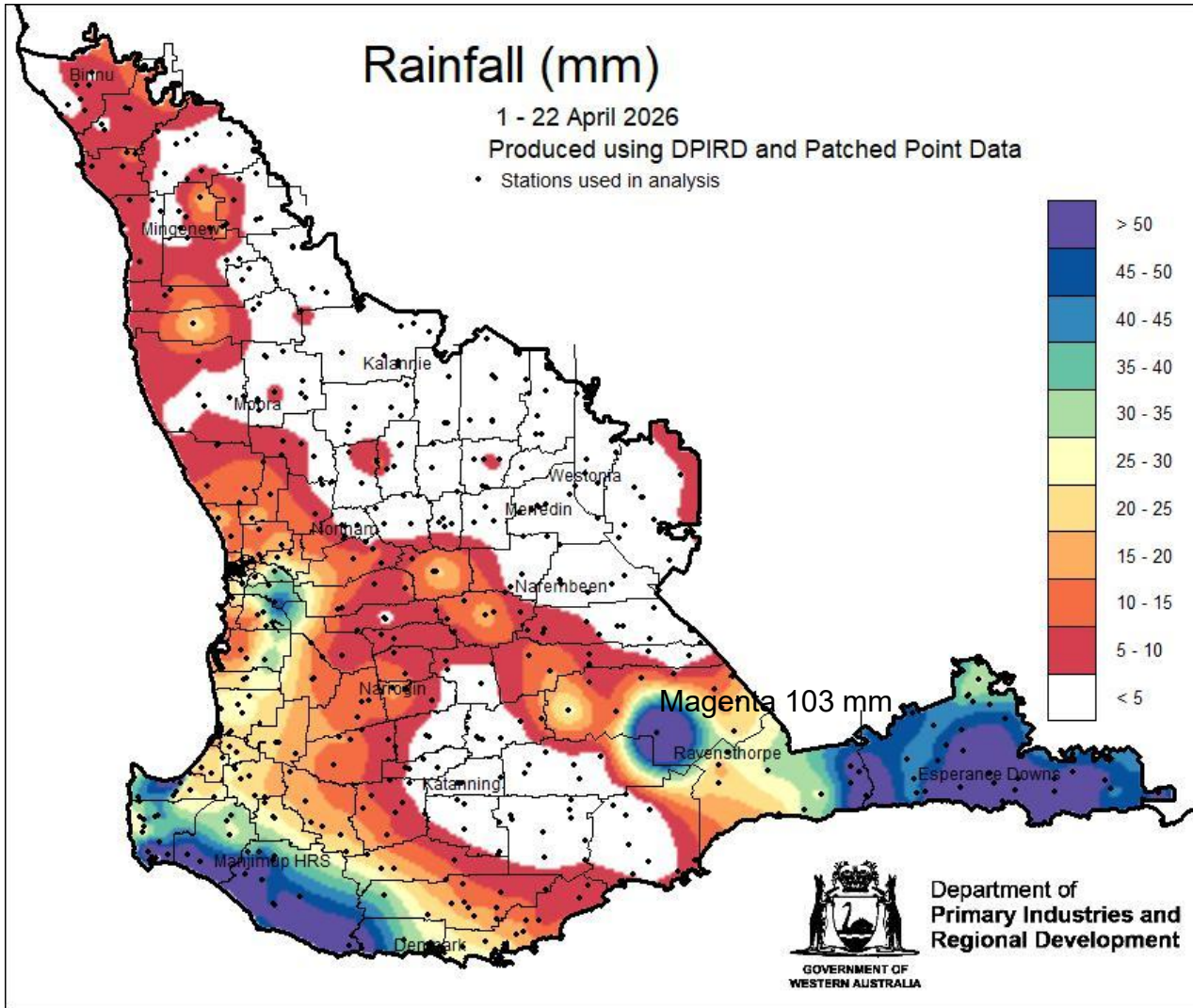


Thanks to TC Mitchell and Narelle

April rainfall and temperatures

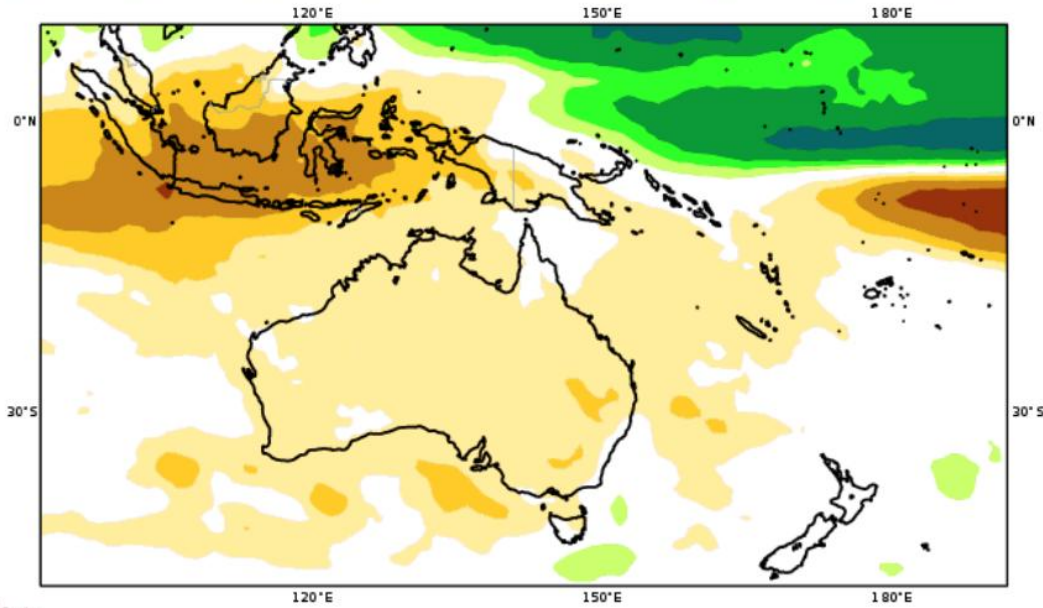
Patchy rain, near normal temperatures

Minimum Temperature Anomaly (°C) Week Ending 21st April 2026
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



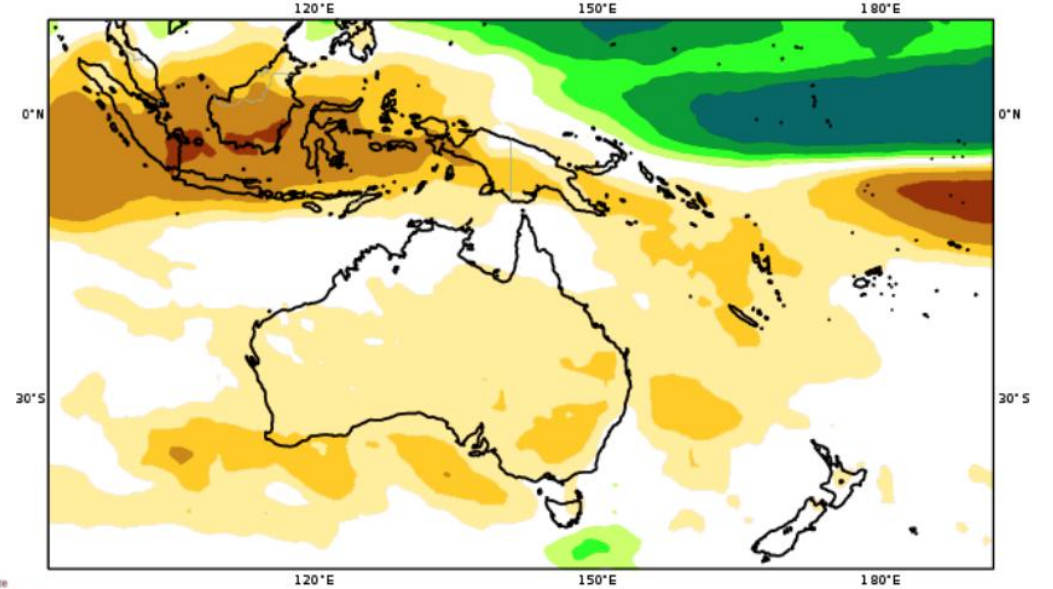
Rainfall outlook May- July, June-August

C3S multi-system seasonal forecast
Prob(precipitation > median)
Nominal forecast start: 01/03/26
Unweighted mean
ECMWF/Met Office/Météo-France/CMCC/DWD/NCEP/ECFC/BOM
MJJ 2026



May to July

C3S multi-system seasonal forecast
Prob(precipitation > median)
Nominal forecast start: 01/03/26
Unweighted mean
ECMWF/Met Office/Météo-France/CMCC/DWD/NCEP/ECFC/BOM
JJA 2026

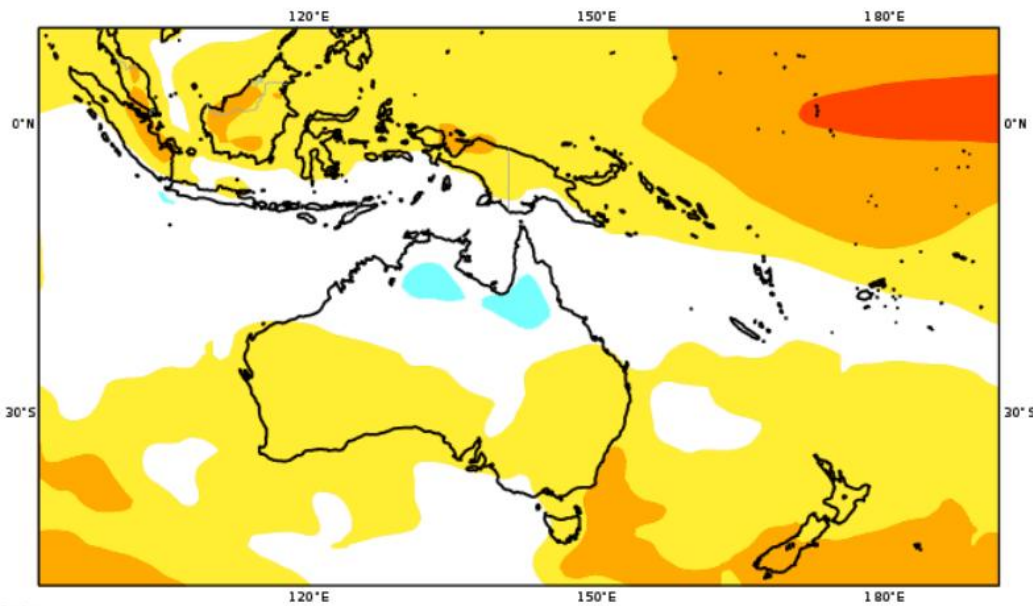
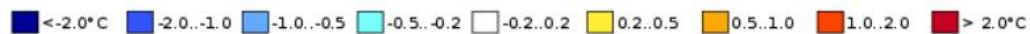


June to August

<https://climate.copernicus.eu/charts/> 8 climate models

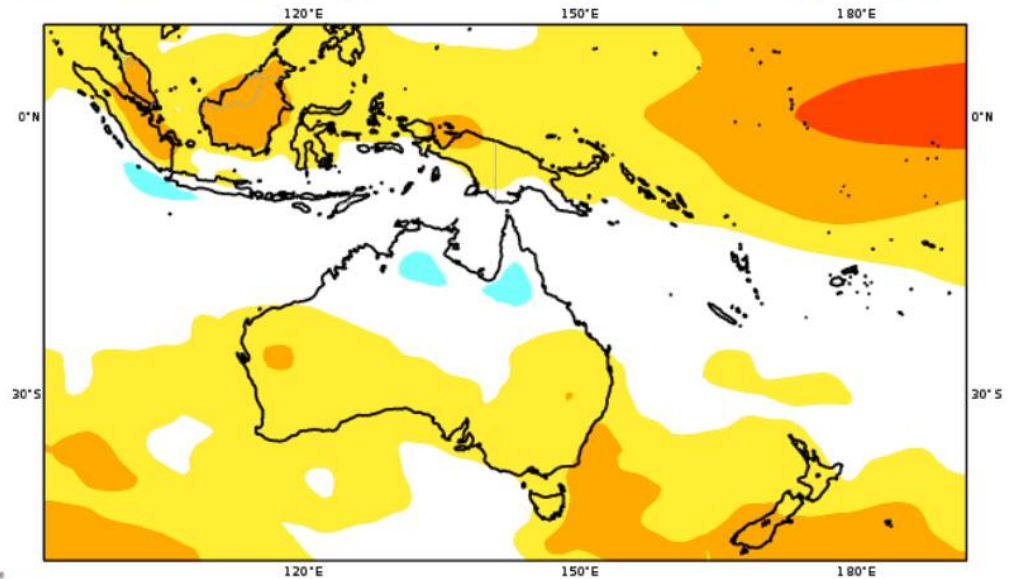
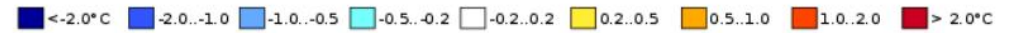
Maximum Temperature outlook

C3S multi-system seasonal forecast ECMWF/Met Office/Météo-France/CMCC/DWD/NCEP/ECCE/BOI
Mean 2m temperature anomaly MJJ 2026
Nominal forecast start: 01/03/26
Variance-standardized mean



May to July

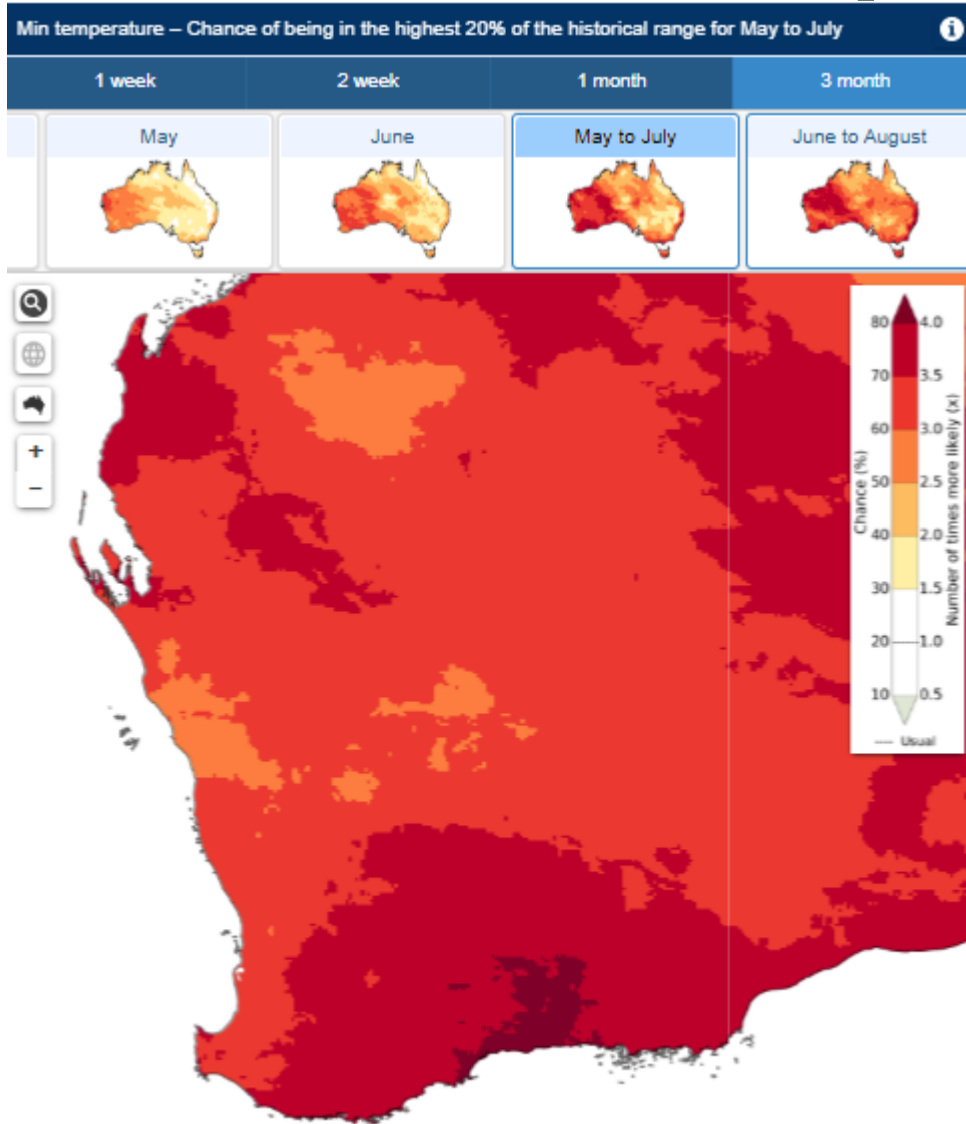
C3S multi-system seasonal forecast ECMWF/Met Office/Météo-France/CMCC/DWD/NCEP/ECCE/BOM
Mean 2m temperature anomaly JJA 2026
Nominal forecast start: 01/03/26
Variance-standardized mean



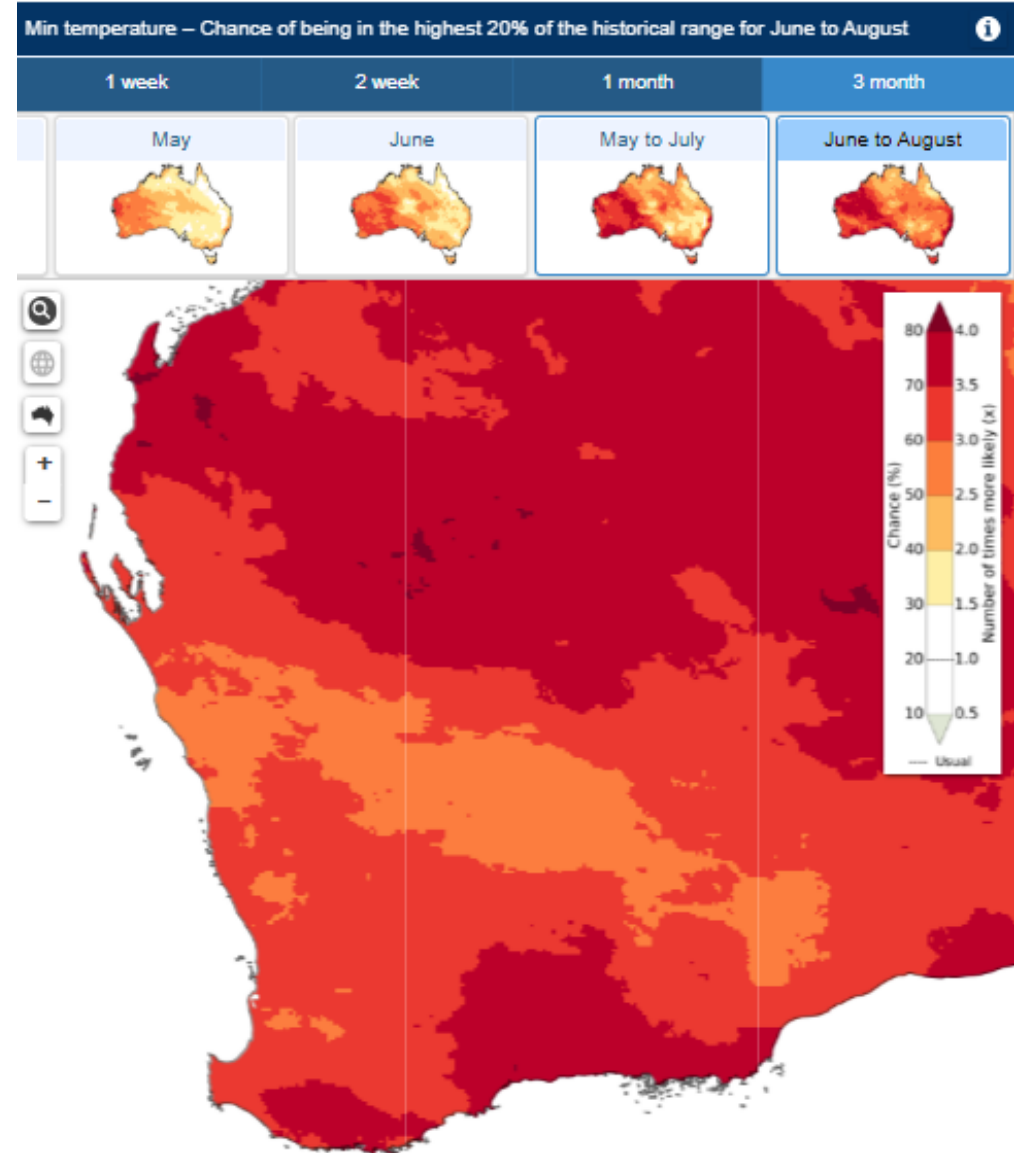
June to August

<https://climate.copernicus.eu/charts/> 8 climate models

Minimum temperature forecast



May to July



June to August

What's happening in the oceans?

C3S multi-system seasonal forecast

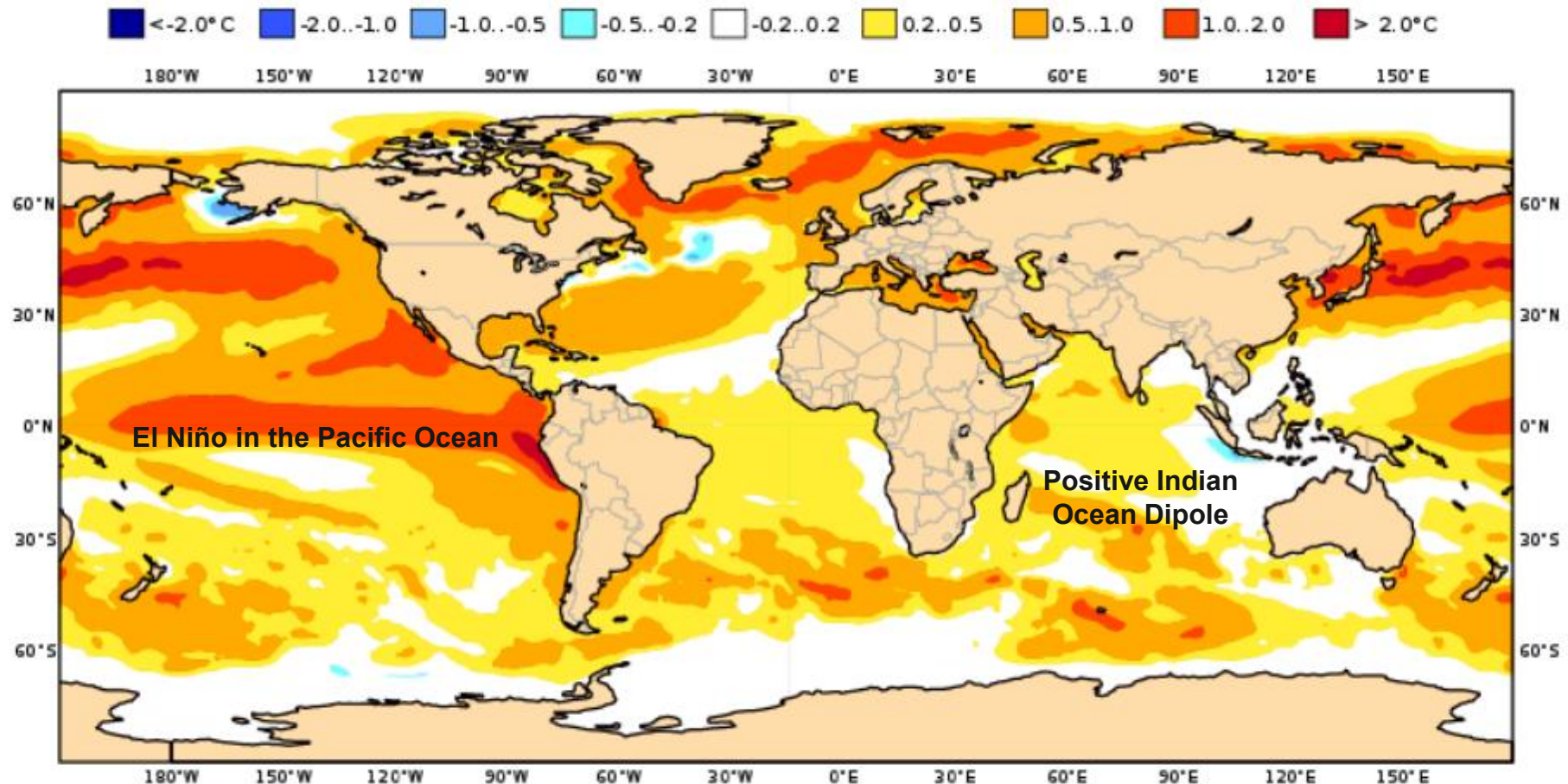
ECMWF/Met Office/Météo-France/CMCC/DWD/NCEP/ECCEC/BOM

Mean forecast SST anomaly

MJJ 2026

Nominal forecast start: 01/03/26

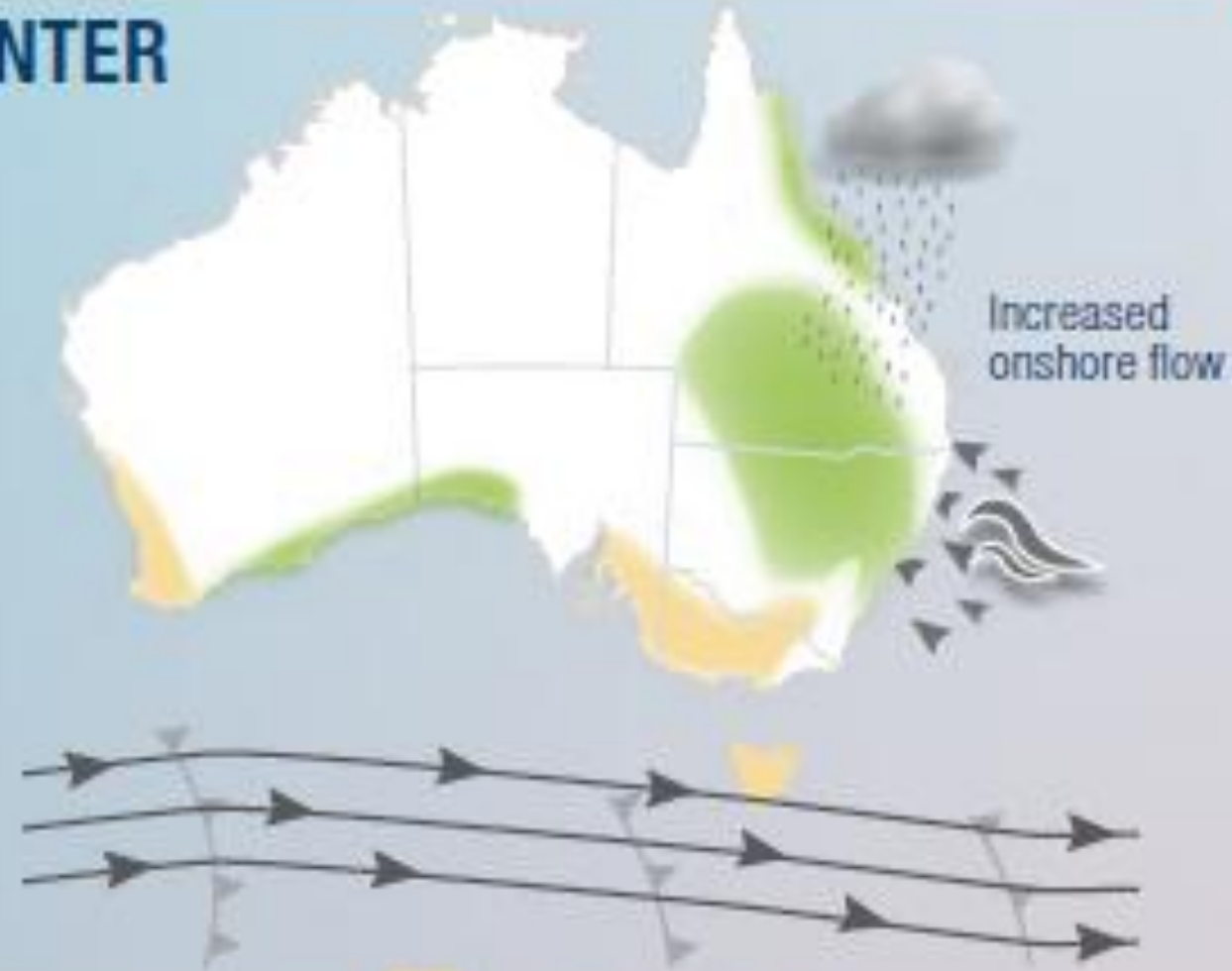
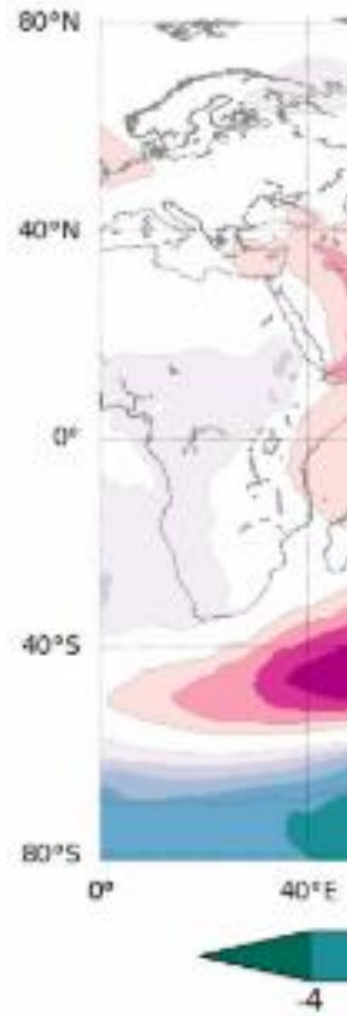
Variance-standardized mean



POSITIVE PHASE

- WINDS FURTHER SOUTH THAN NORMAL

WINTER



www.bom.gov.au/climate
© Commonwealth of Australia

 WETTER THAN NORMAL  DRIER THAN NORMAL

13/04/2026
16/04/2026

Summary

- Good rainfall in November to March
- Rainfall outlooks: drier May to July and June to August
- Temperature outlook: warmer than normal maximum and minimum temperatures
- Potentially: El Niño in the Pacific Ocean, Positive Indian Ocean Dipole, and positive Southern Annular Mode for winter (high pressure) – drier and warmer conditions expected

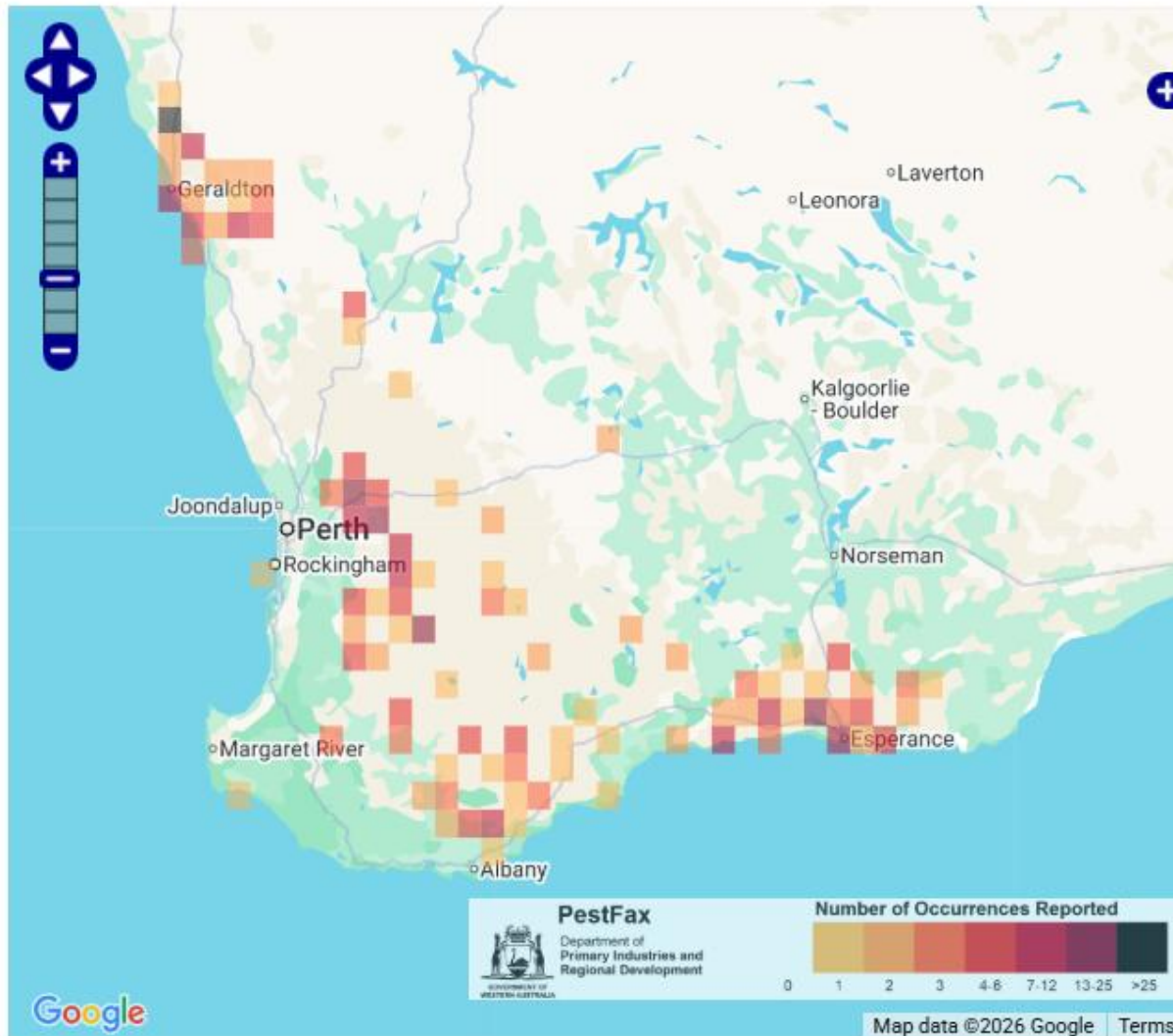
Seasonal Pest Update

- Planning for pests:
 - Residents
 - Fly-ins
- Plan for Integrated Pest Management (IPM)



Canola seedling

Similar outlook to 2023



PestFax Newsletter Home View Feedback Share

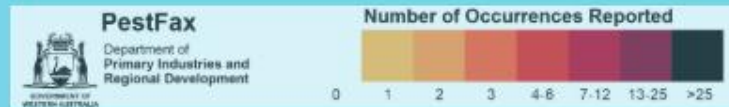
Disorder Shown

Host: ALL
Variety: ALL
Category: Plant pest
Sub Category: ALL
Disorder: ALL

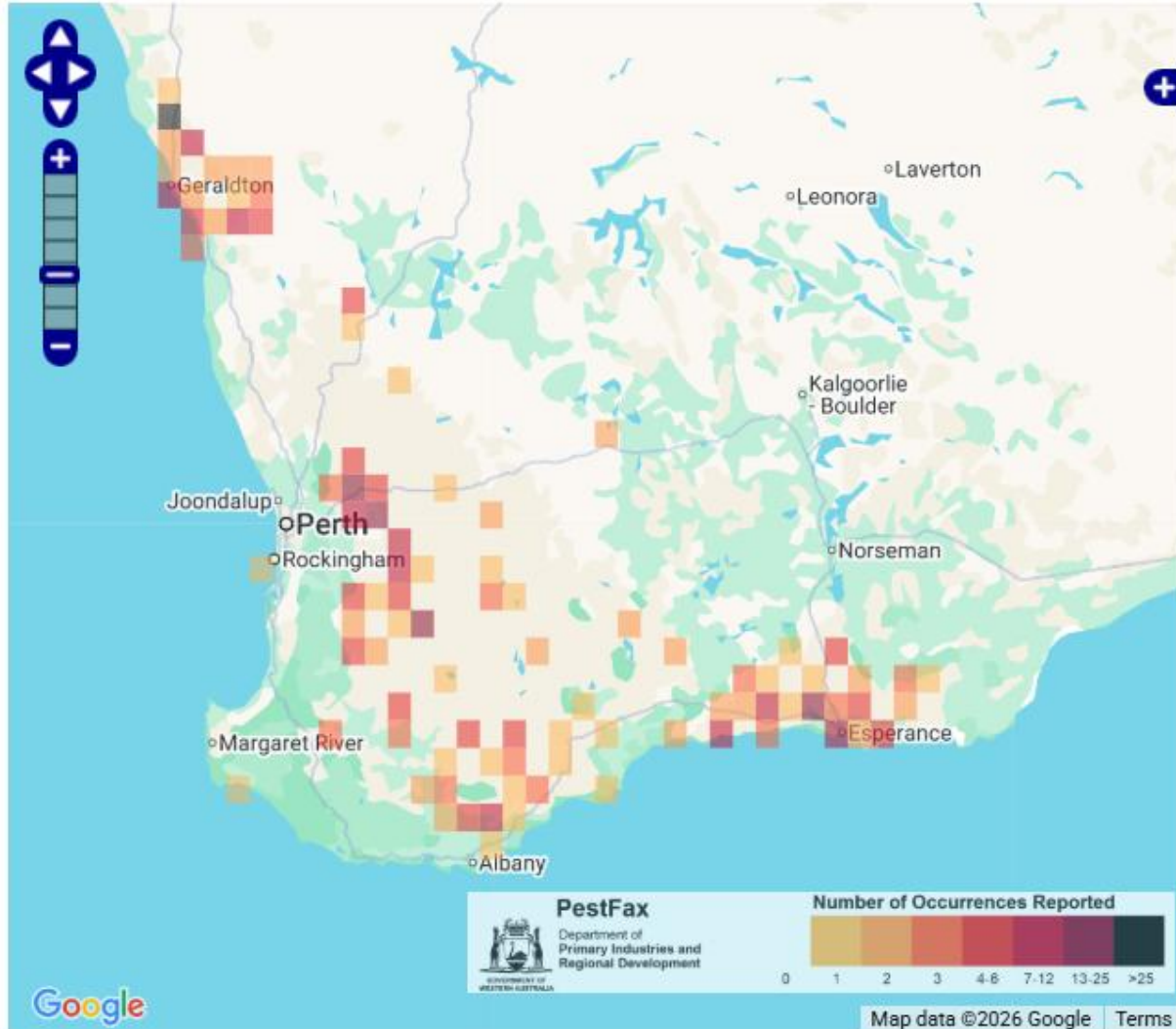
Time Period

6 Months
End Date: 22 July 2023

Click on a map cell to list occurrences



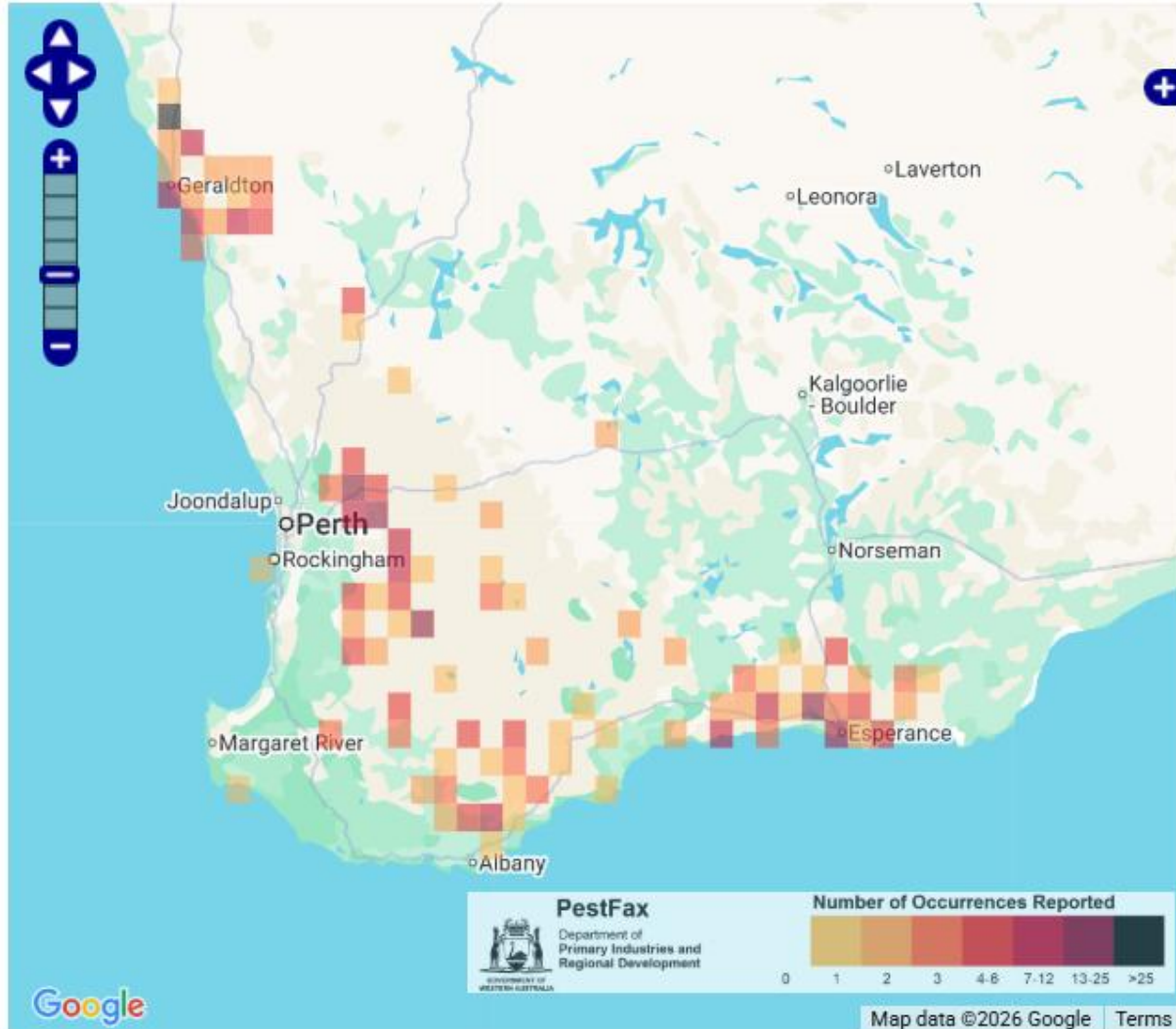
Similar outlook to 2023



Resident pests:

- Mites
- Weevils
- Slugs & snails
- European earwigs & slaters
- Lucerne flea

Similar outlook to 2023



Resident pests:

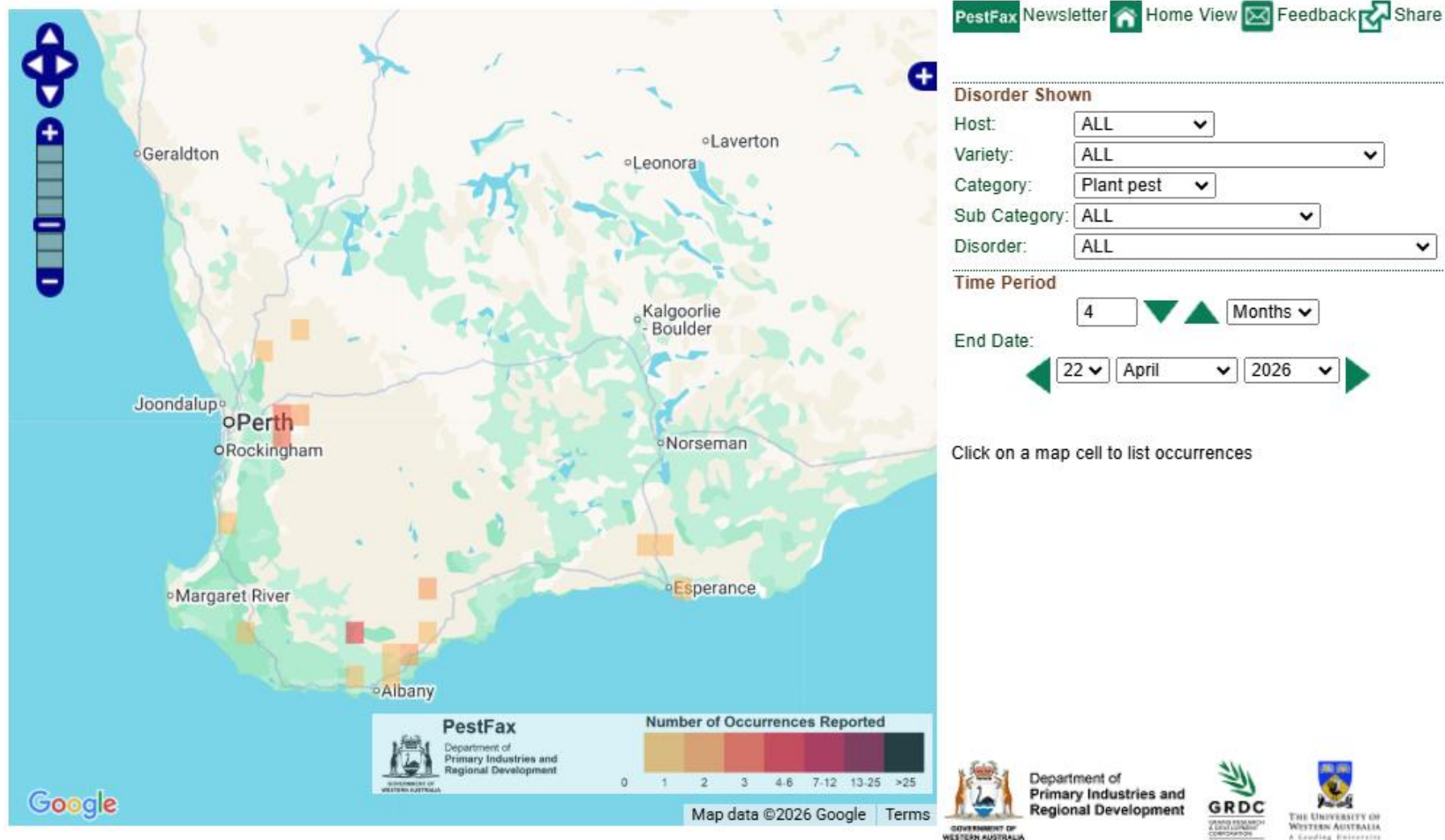
- Weevils
- Slugs & snails
- European earwigs & slaters
- Lucerne flea
- Mites

Fly ins:

- Aphids
- Native budworm
- Diamondback moth

So far in 2026

<https://www.dpird.wa.gov.au/online-tools/pestfacts-wa/pestfacts-wa-map/>



Predicting hatching dates for Redlegged earth mites (RLEM)



<https://cesaraustralia.shinyapps.io/RLEM-hatch>

Cesar Australia:
RLEM hatch
timing tool.

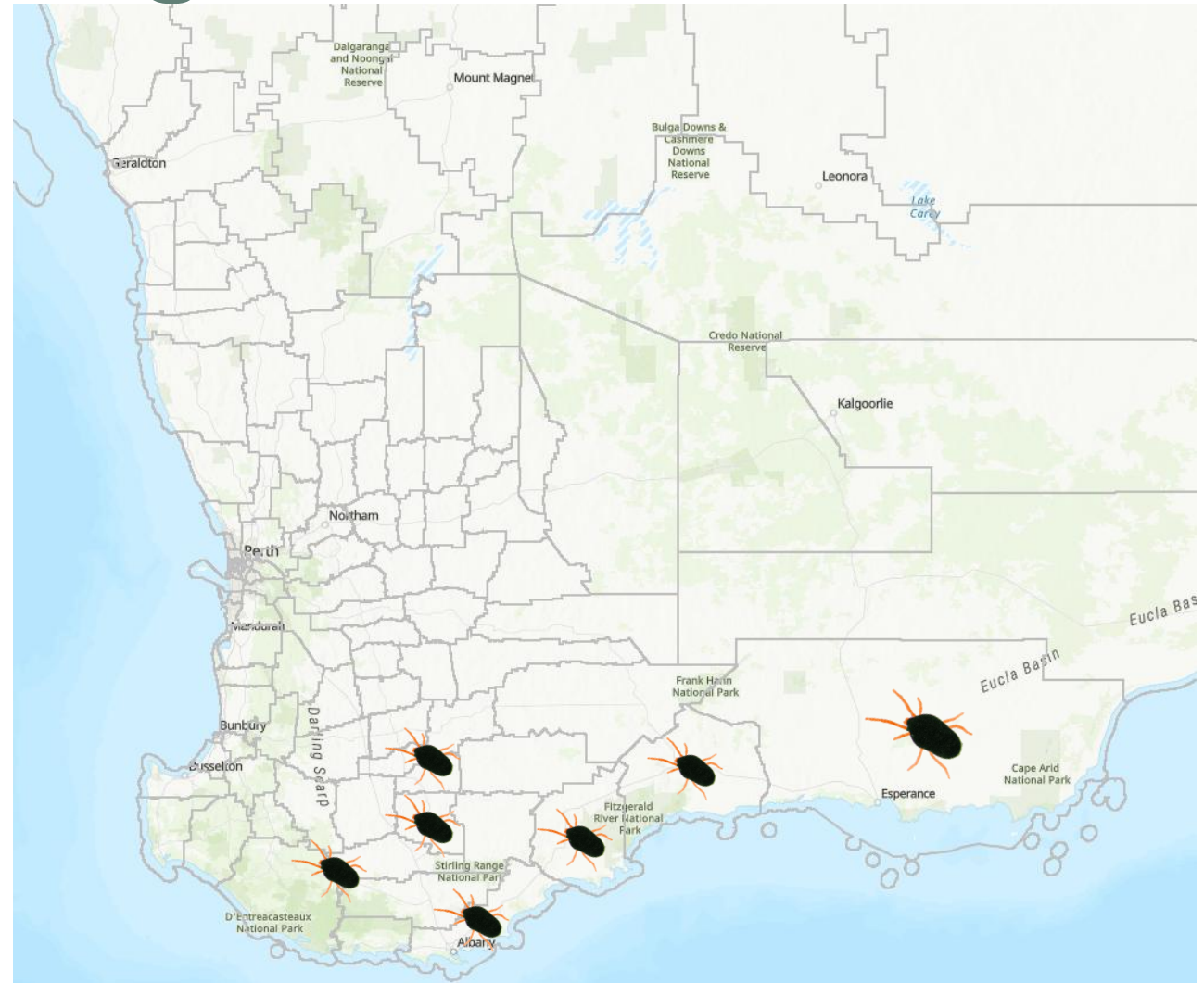


Predicting hatching dates for RLEM



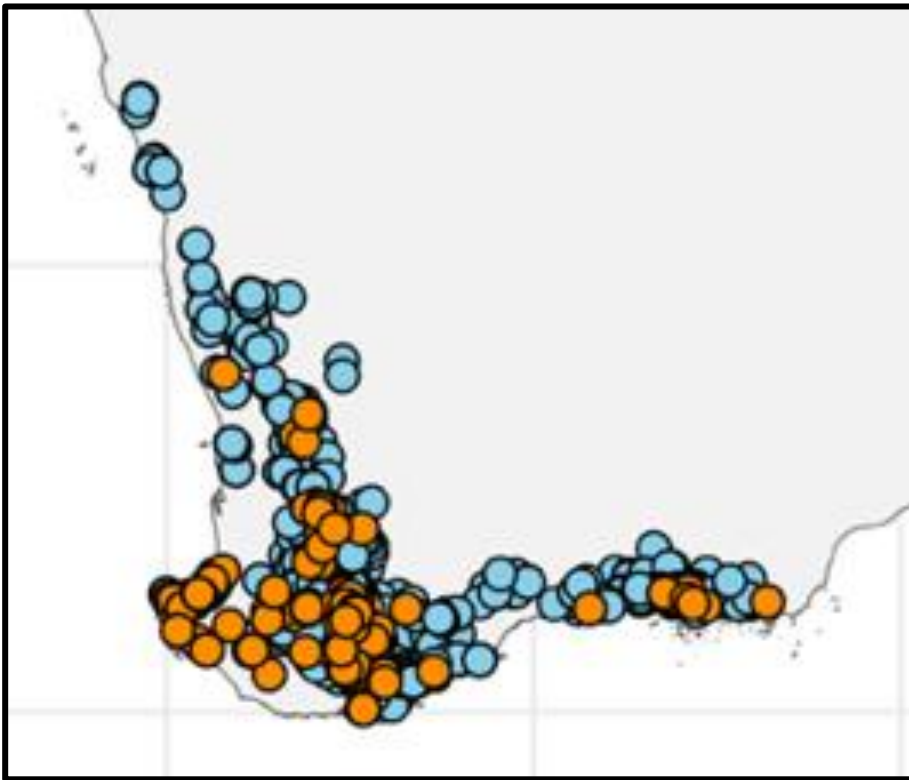
<https://cesaraustralia.shinyapps.io/RLEM-hatch>

Cesar Australia:
RLEM hatch
timing tool.

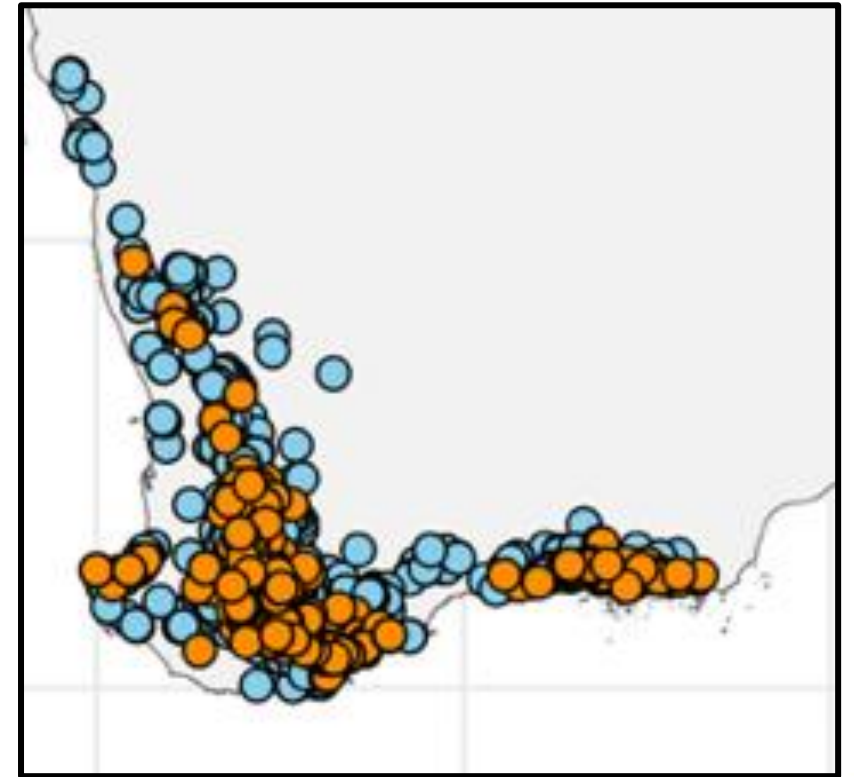


Redlegged earth mite resistance status in WA (to 2025)

Organophosphate Resistance



Synthetic Pyrethroid Resistance



● Susceptible ● Resistant

Resistance testing of RLEM

Contact PestFacts WA team:

pestfactswa@dpiird.wa.gov.au



Other mites to look out for



Bryobia mite



Brown wheat mite



Balaustium mite

Predicting where the lucerne flea is

- Already hatched
- Monitor crops
- Preference for clay soils
- Where is the clay?
- Seed dressings



Damage to crop by lucerne flea

Resident pests – weevils

Desiantha weevil



Small lucerne weevil



Vegetable weevil



Resident pests – European earwigs & slaters



European earwig female with eggs



Slaters

Resident pests – weevils

Desiantha weevil



Small lucerne weevil



Vegetable weevil



Resident pests – slugs

- Survive hot, dry summers
- Active now in the south
- Can bait straight after seeding for slugs



Black keeled slug

Resident pests – snails



Vineyard snail



White Italian snail



Small conical snail

Most common



Pointed snail

Fly-ins - aphids

- Virus risk is low - dry summer
- Green bridge present?
- Cannot survive without plant hosts
- Migration into crops?
- Warmer winter growing conditions = faster life cycles
- Green peach aphid- resistance
- Surveillance in WA grain growing areas
- Reports in PestFacts WA



Russian wheat aphids



Green peach aphids

Fly-ins - Diamondback moth (DBM)

- Can't survive without host plants
- Warmer winter = shorter lifecycle
- Monitor
- Surveillance occurring, findings will be reported in PestFacts WA



Diamondback moth
-Adult (above), larva (right)



Fly-ins - Native budworm

- Migrates into broadacre regions
- Influenced by rainfall in pastoral areas
- Expect earlier flight patterns
- Surveillance – reports in PestFacts WA
- Thresholds!



Native budworm: adult (top) and larvae (above) occurring in a range of colours

Unknowables

- Warmer autumn and winters, combined with moisture stressed crops, can lead to different pests
- Identify what you're finding



Ryegrass mealybug

Conserving what we have



IN-SEASON

Proactive

3 MONITOR ACROSS FARM

- Know the correct monitoring methods for key pests in your area
- Plan monitoring for the correct pest life cycle stages and crop development stages
- Keep an eye out for beneficials responding to pest presence

Reactive

5 ASSESS DAMAGE

- Determine the life stage of the pest causing damage, and whether impact will increase or decrease with pest development
- Consider whether the crop can compensate from current and predicted damage
- Work to pest thresholds when available, not all pest damage has economic impacts

4 LOOK BEYOND THE FENCE

- Keep track of potential incursions via regional and local surveillance
- Share knowledge of pest presence with neighbours
- Use area-wide management approaches where possible

6 KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

- Avoid insurance sprays and seed treatments in low-risk paddocks
- If a spray is warranted, choose selective chemicals with low impact on beneficials, and use the correct application techniques and rates
- Know the risk of resistance, rotate modes of action and report control failures



Key messages

- Expecting similar autumn/winter conditions to 2025, but with a finish similar to 2023 ie a sharp finish
- Target monitoring
- Warmer winter temperatures = faster lifecycles in pests
- Report to PestFacts WA



Foliar disease outlook

Andrea Hills

Geoff Thomas

Kithsiri Jayasena

Jason Bradley

Ciara Beard

Zia Hoque

Key points

- Control the green bridge
- Apply early disease risk measures where appropriate (wheat powdery mildew, barley scald)
- Prevent smuts with a seed treatment – slow the auger down!



Foliar disease issues

- Barley disease strain changes
 - scald (all varieties) & powdery mildew (Combat & Maximus CL)
- Wheat powdery mildew – ‘gateway’ mutation is spreading
- Crop monitoring is very important

Scald

- Multiple strains in WA, the unexpected could occur
- Very common in Albany region
- Central region – continuous barley (Maximus/Spartacus) at highest risk

Variety	Variety guide 2026
	Ranking
La Trobe	MR
Maximus CL	MR
RGT Atlantis	MR
RGT Planet	MR
Spartacus CL	MR
Zena CL	MR
Cyclops	MRMS
Neo CL	MRMS
Spinnaker	MRMS
Buff	MS
Compass	MS
Granite CL	MS
PegasusAX	MS
Scope CL	MS
Commodus CL	MSS
Rosalind	MSS
Beast	S
Bigfoot CL	S
Combat	S
Laperouse	S
Titan AX	S
Litmus	SVS
Minotaur	VS

Variety	Variety guide 2026	2025 Crops
	Ranking	
La Trobe	MR	✓
Maximus CL	MR	✓
RGT Atlantis	MR	
RGT Planet	MR	
Spartacus CL	MR	✓
Zena CL	MR	✓
Cyclops	MRMS	✓
Neo CL	MRMS	✓
Spinnaker	MRMS	
Buff	MS	
Compass	MS	
Granite CL	MS	
PegasusAX	MS	
Scope CL	MS	
Commodus CL	MSS	
Rosalind	MSS	
Beast	S	
Bigfoot CL	S	
Combat	S	
Laperouse	S	
Titan AX	S	
Litmus	SVS	
Minotaur	VS	

Variety	Variety guide 2026	2025 Crops	2025 Trials*	
	Ranking		Merredin	Perth
La Trobe	MR	✓	Red	Red
Maximus CL	MR	✓	Red	Red
RGT Atlantis	MR		White	White
RGT Planet	MR		White	White
Spartacus CL	MR	✓	Red	Red
Zena CL	MR	✓	White	Yellow
Cyclops	MRMS	✓	Red	Red
Neo CL	MRMS	✓	White	Red
Spinnaker	MRMS		White	White
Buff	MS		Red	White
Compass	MS		Red	Red
Granite CL	MS		Red	Red
PegasusAX	MS		White	White
Scope CL	MS		Red	White
Commodus CL	MSS		Red	White
Rosalind	MSS		White	White
Beast	S		White	White
Bigfoot CL	S		White	White
Combat	S		White	White
Laperouse	S		White	White
Titan AX	S		White	White
Litmus	SVS		White	White
Minotaur	VS		White	White

*Red shading means performed worse than variety guide ranking

New virulence

Laperouse



Neo CL

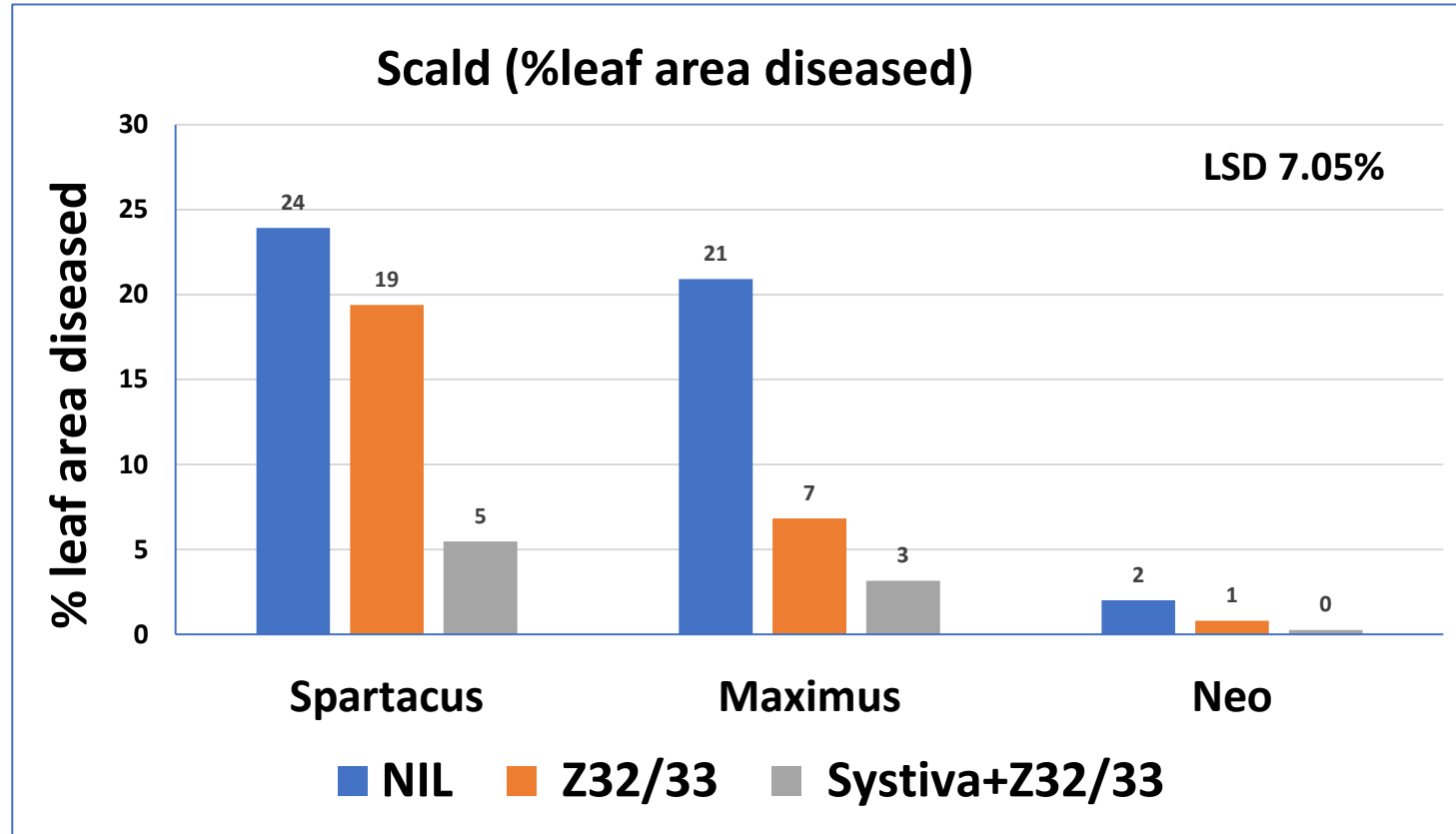


Maximus CL



Lower Great Southern region - 2025

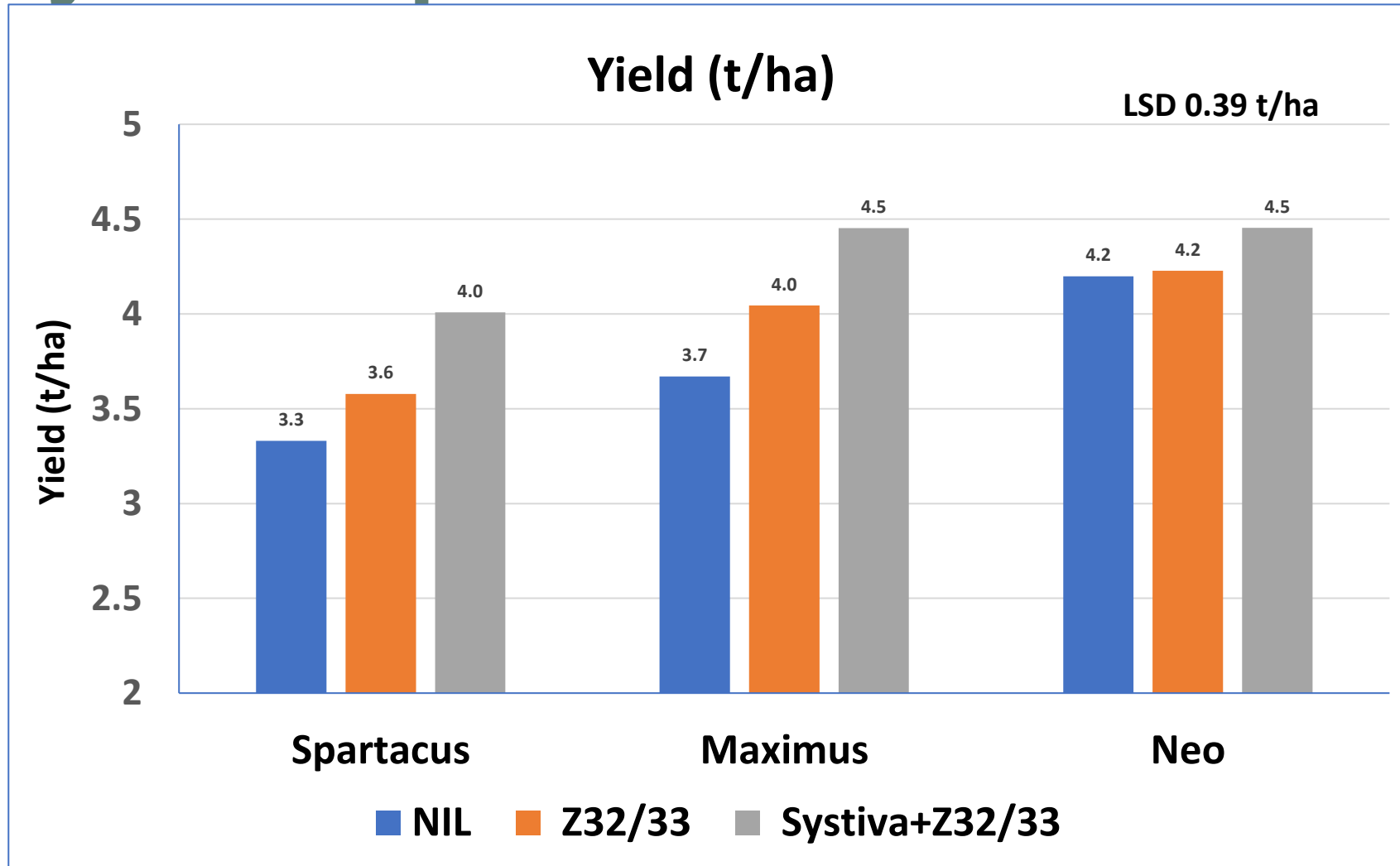
Scald can be severe: Lake Grace 2024



Maxentis (azoxystrobin + prothioconazole) @ 300ml/ha at 2-3 nodes

Systiva seed dressing @ 1.5L/t

Scald yield impact: Lake Grace 2024



Scald

- Stubble and seed borne
- Grey-green lesions that look water-soaked
Later, pale oval patches on the leaves, with a dark brown border
- Often starts as 'hot spots'
- Monitoring important to identify situations where newer strains are present



Scald management

- Paddock rotation
- Variety choice (beware changing virulence)
- Fungicide application:
 - At seeding (in-furrow or some seed dressings)
 - Z31 and/or stand alone Z39
- Monitor!

Barley powdery mildew – virulence change

Barley powdery mildew – virulence change

- 2023: First reports mildew in Combat & Maximus CL
- 2025: More widespread infections
- Reduces Combat & Maximus resistance from RMR to MSS
- Fungicide resistance to DMIs – only ever use in mixes with SDHI or QoI



Maximus CL, Dalyup 2025

Wheat powdery mildew fungicide resistance

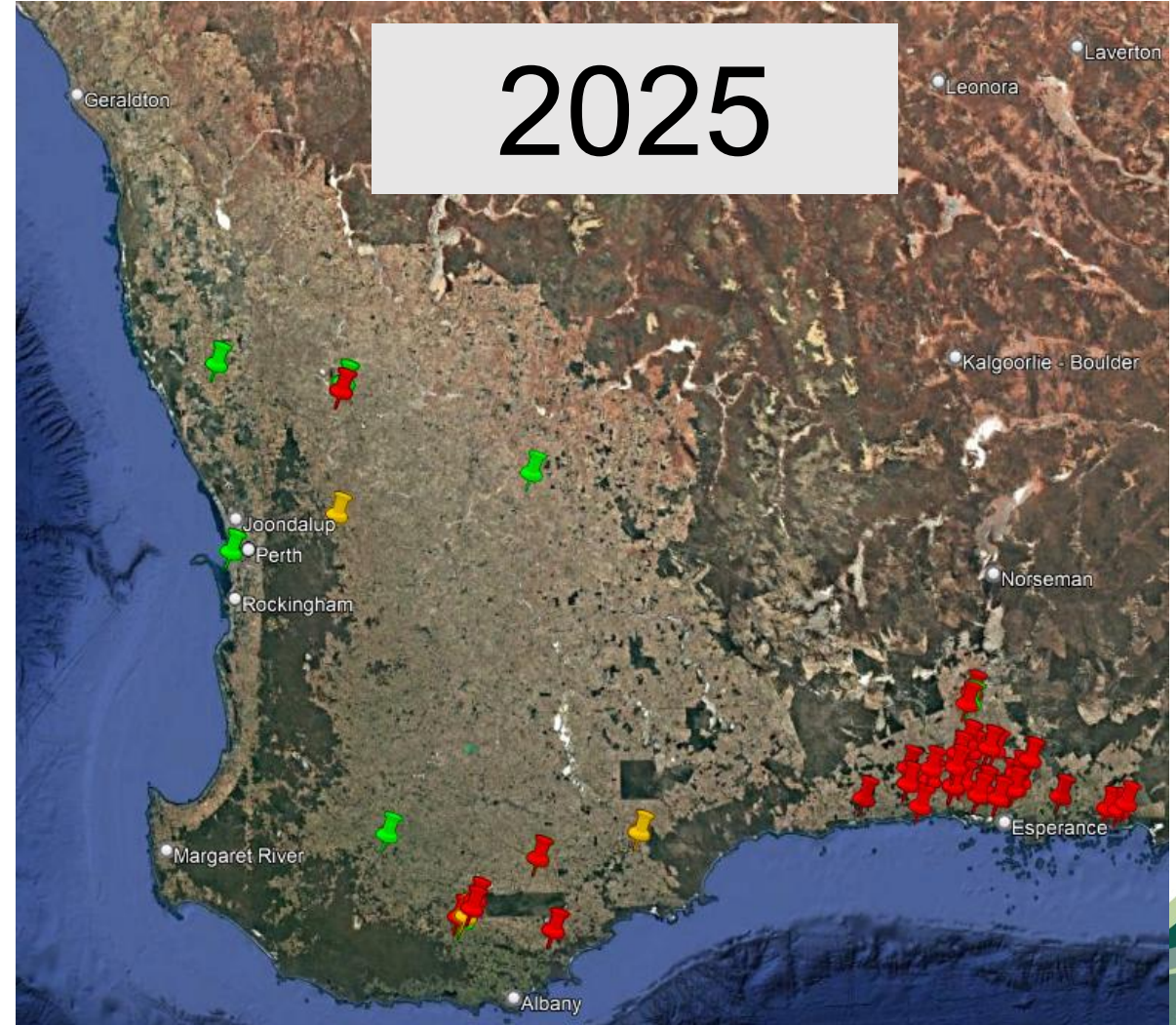
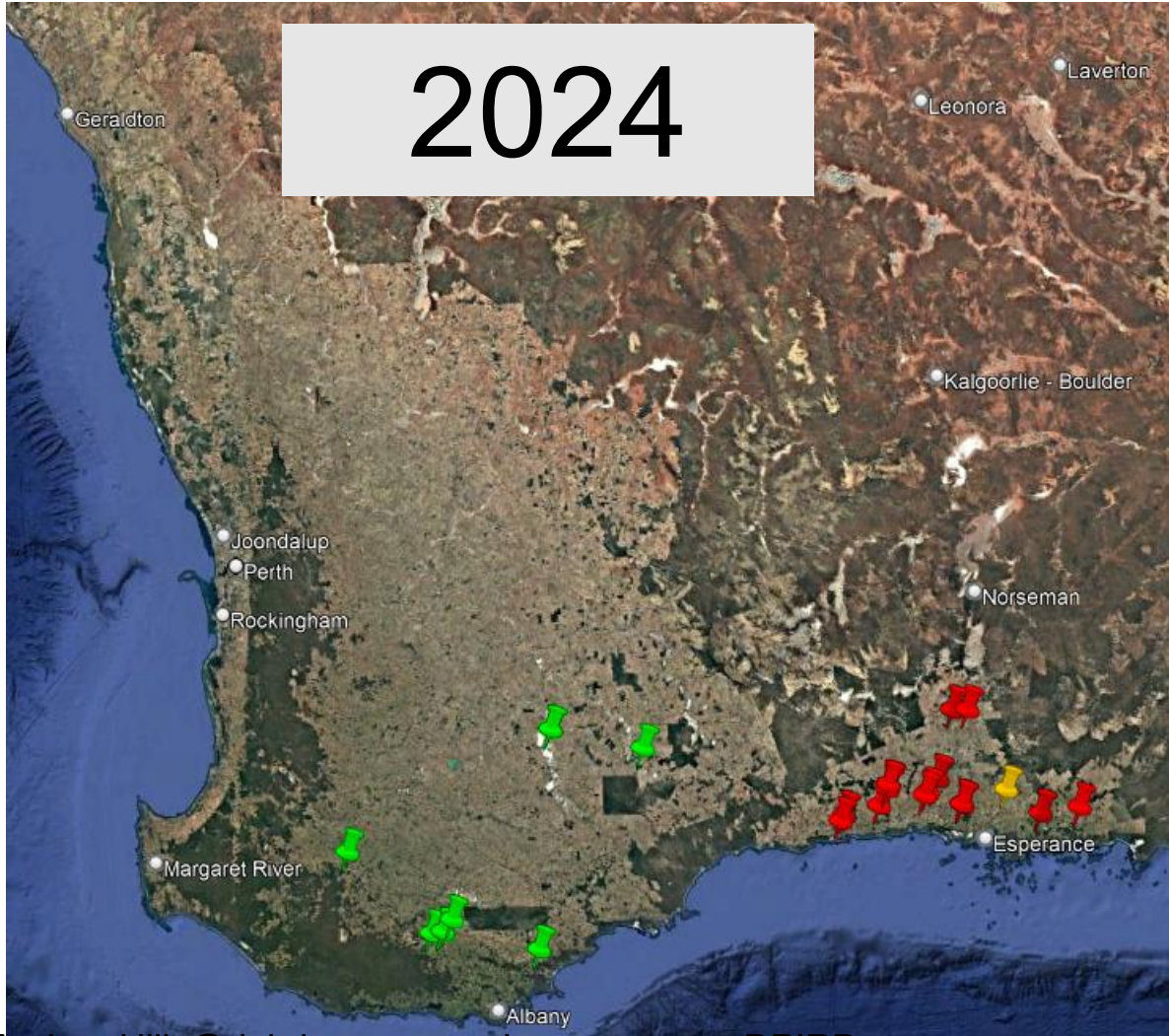
Wheat powdery mildew fungicide resistance

- ‘Gateway’ mutation for Group 3 / DMI
 - field effects?
 - DMI effectiveness reduced (rate responsive resistance)

Wheat powdery mildew: resistance tests

Proportion of mildew population with 'gateway' mutation

- None / negligible
- Moderate
- High



Slow wheat mildew fungicide resistance

- Variety, rotation (non-chemical methods)
- Only use fungicides in mixtures (and rotate mixes)
- Avoid unnecessary applications (NO broadleaf herbicide fungicides)
- High disease pressure: NO GAP between final and previous fungicide.

Key points

Key points

- Control the green bridge
- Apply early disease risk measures where appropriate (wheat powdery mildew, barley scald)
- Prevent smuts with a seed treatment – slow the auger down!



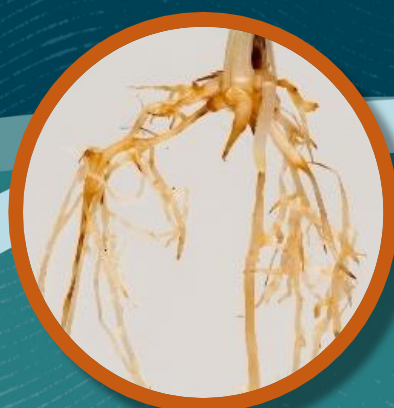


Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Protect
Grow
Innovate

Soilborne diseases and nematode pests. What to look out for 2026?

Sarah Collins, Daniel Hüberli, Ahmed Saad



Most common soilborne issues for WA broadacre cropping



Root lesion nematodes

Pratylenchus neglectus
Pratylenchus quasitereoides



Rhizoctonia bare patch

Rhizoctonia solani



Crown rot

Fusarium pseudograminearum
Fusarium culmorum (higher rainfall zones)



Take-all

Gaeumannomyces graminis var.
tritici (Ggt)

What is disease?

sarah.collins@dpiird.wa.gov.au

2025

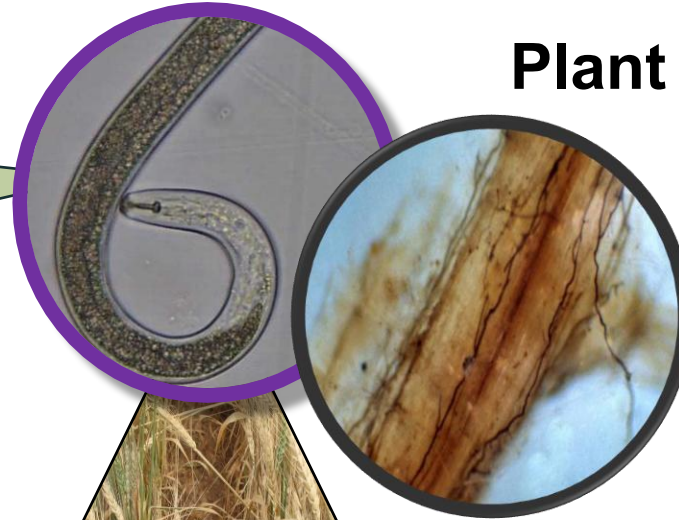
Was BIG year for symptoms
& yield loss for soilborne
issues generally

Plant pathogen or pest

2025/26
PREDICTA B

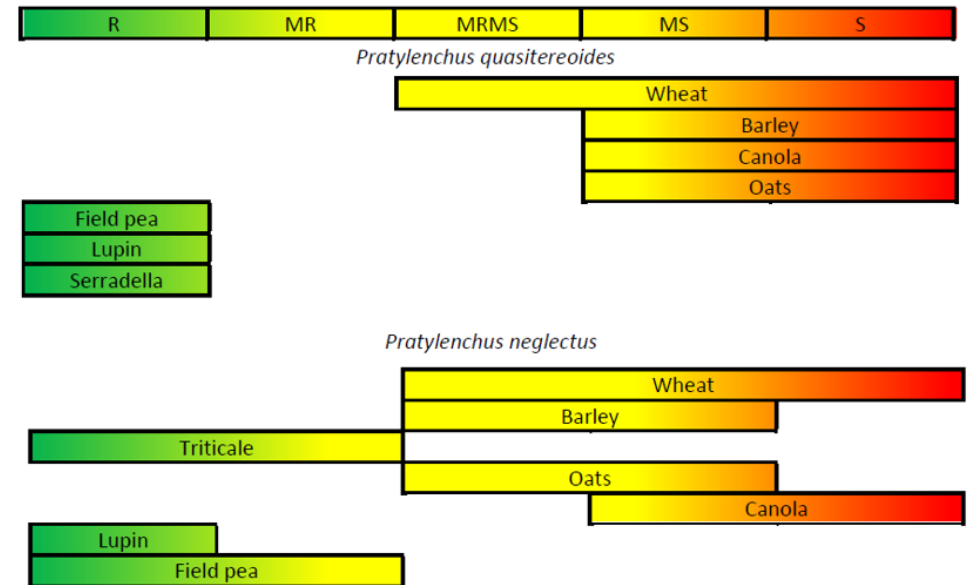
Disease

Plant host





Comparative resistance ratings of cereals, canola and pulses in the Western Region



(link: <https://grdc.com.au/resources-and-publications/all-publications/factsheets/2019/root-lesion-nematode-western>)

Root lesion nematode disease expression- patchy poor crop

Pratylenchus neglectus

Pratylenchus quasitereoides

2025 seasonal map

Western Australia

Western Australia

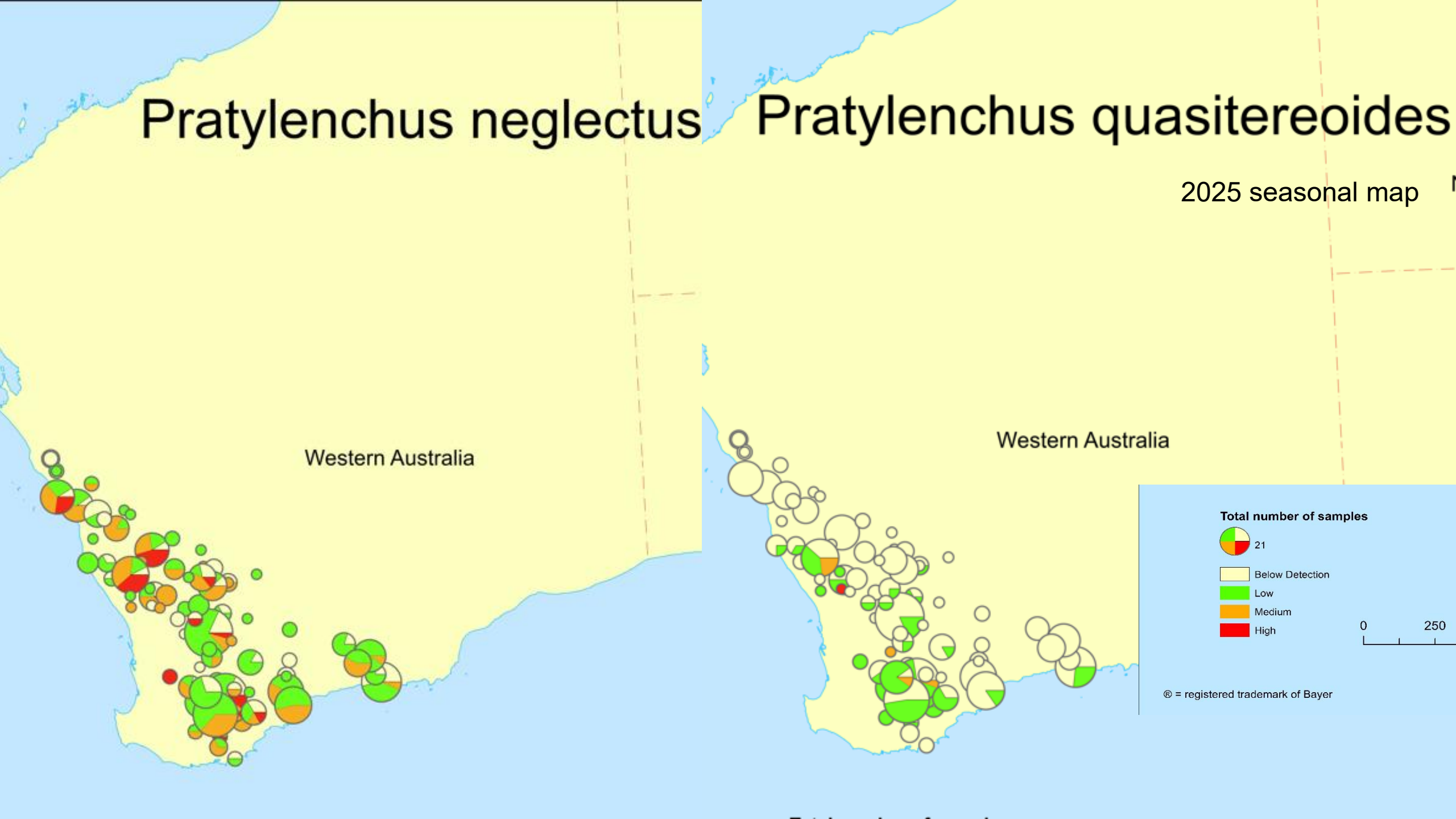
Total number of samples



- Below Detection
- Low
- Medium
- High



© = registered trademark of Bayer

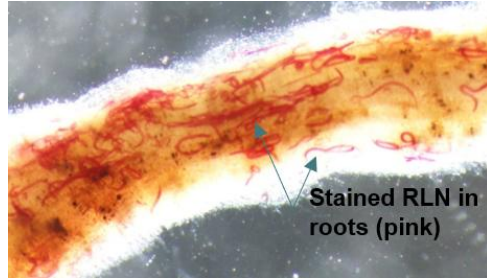


Season 2026 – root lesion nematode (RLN) conducive?

- 2025 = conducive. Late break caused increase in symptoms expression & moist warm season produced large biomass crops



root biomass =



environment for nematode multiplication

- 2026 if drier/late start = conducive to expression
- Less N inputs in 2026? = conducive to disease expression
- Sharp/dry finish = expect greater yield loss
- Potential Inoculum carryover to 2027 – lower if lower root biomass

Crown rot disease expression - Scattered whiteheads



All winter cereals: **barley, wheat, oats**, durum, triticale, and rye

Grass weeds: barley grass, brome grass, ryegrass, wild oats, summer grass

Crown rot disease risk PREDICTA[®] B/NVT 2025

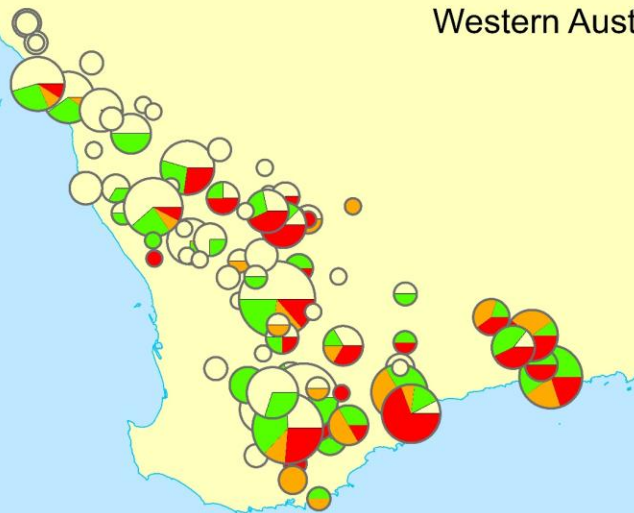
Fusarium pseudograminearum & *F.culmorum/graminearum*

Season 2026 – crown rot conducive?

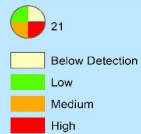
- 2025 = conducive so high inoculum carry over in cereal stubble
- Moisture activates inoculum so drier start/season could mean less inoculum buildup/symptoms BUT
- Sharp/dry finish creates whitehead expression = high yield loss
- Inoculum carryover potential to 2027 – lack of breakdown



Western Aust



Total number of samples



0 250

Daniel.huberli@DPIRD.wa.gov.au



Crop symptoms – Rhizoctonia bare patch



Rhizoctonia - Hosts

Disease	Cereals	Pulses	Lupins	Canola
Bare patch ZG 1 (AG8)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hypocotyl ZG 3, 4 & root ZG6		✓	✓	
Hypocotyl ZG 5				✓
Eradu TBR	Barley?		✓ But not Yellow or Albus	

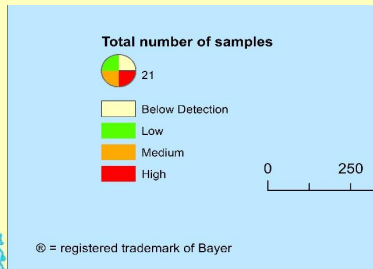
Rhizoctonia root rot disease risk PREDICTA[®]

Rhizoctonia solani AG8 2025 map

Season 2026 – Rhizoctonia bare patch conducive?

- 2025 = conducive due to late break & moist warm season BUT rainfall masked symptoms so less disease expression
- 2026 if drier late start = conducive to disease expression
- Less N inputs? = conducive to disease expression
- Sharp/dry finish = expect greater yield loss
- Potential Inoculum carryover to 2027 – lower if lower root biomass

Daniel.huberli@DPIRD.wa.gov.au



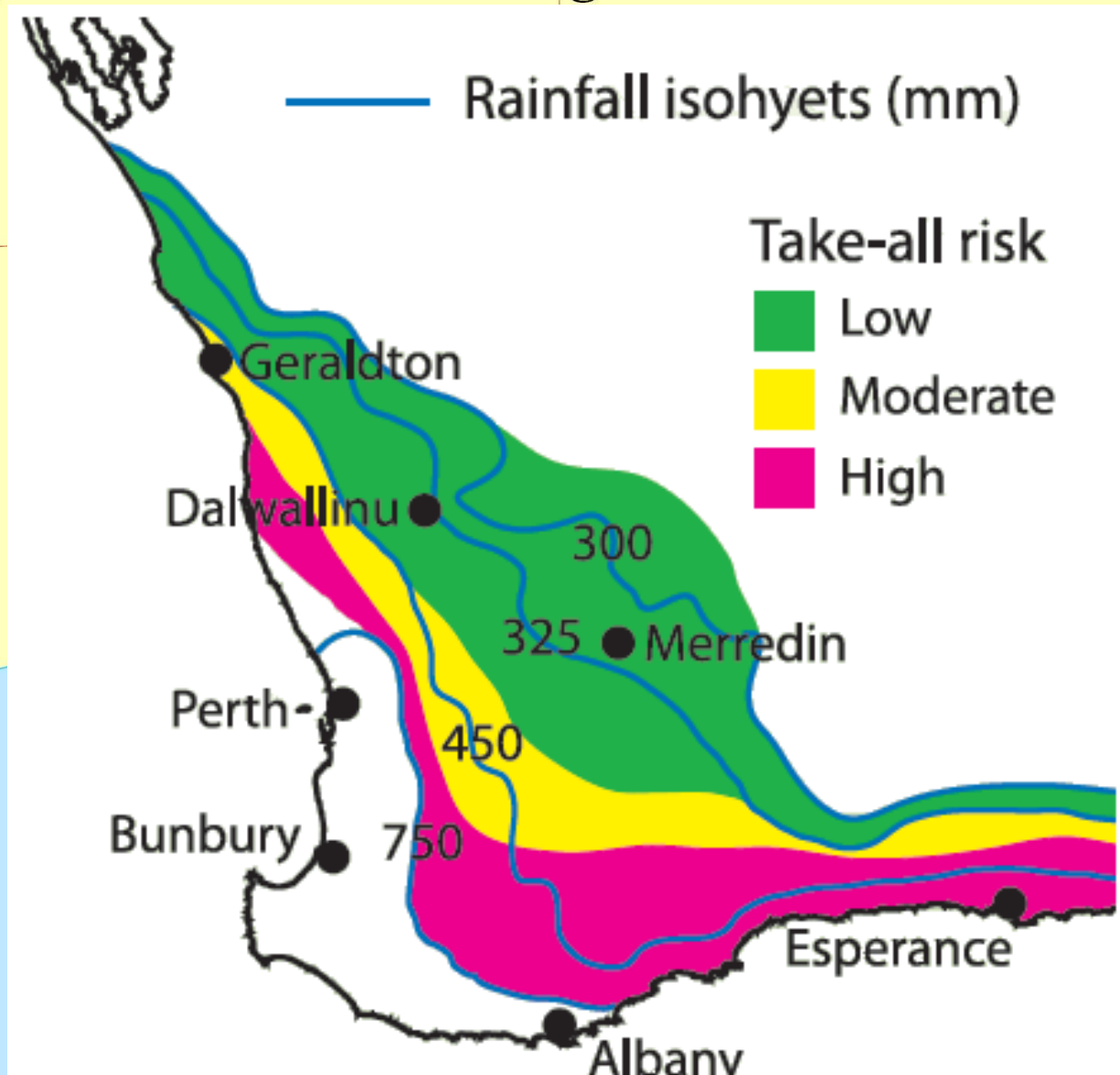
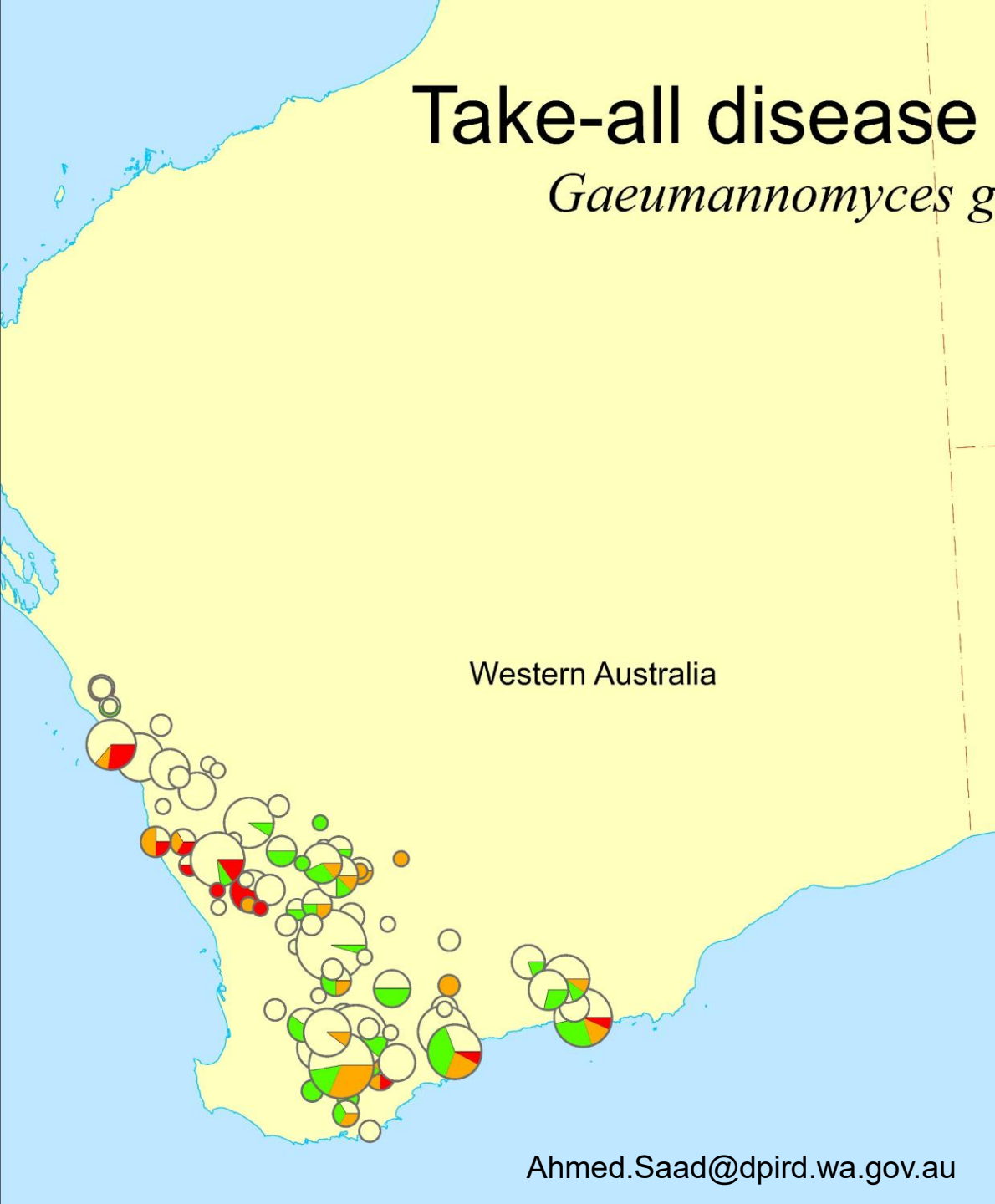
Take-all disease expression - Scattered whiteheads



Impacted crops: barley, wheat and then oats

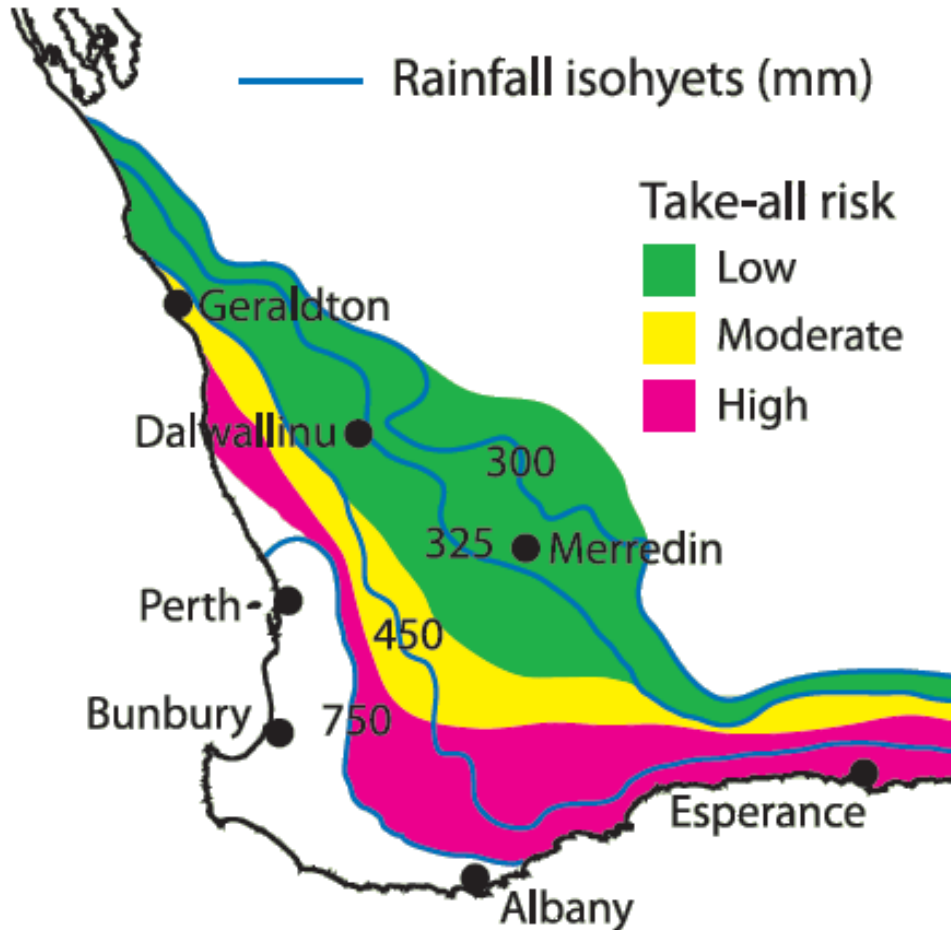
Take-all disease risk PREDICTA[®] B/NVT 2025

Gaeumannomyces graminis var. *tritici* + *G.g.* var. *avenae*



Season 2026 – Take all?

Risk areas



2025 = Greater prevalence than usual particularly after waterlogging in risk areas

2026 if low rainfall = lower disease expression

Sharp/dry finish = expect greater whitehead expression

In summary

A late start could exacerbate in crop symptoms for soilbornes

IF dry season 2026: may reduce inoculum build up for 2027 as smaller for soilborne fungal and plant parasitic nematode issues

IF dry season 2026: Crown rot & Take-all inoculum already present will not breakdown unless break crop = carryover to 2027

Confirm diagnosis during season and proportion of issue to **plan ahead** for 2027



Soilborne Disease Initiative

Free crown rot stubble survey testing



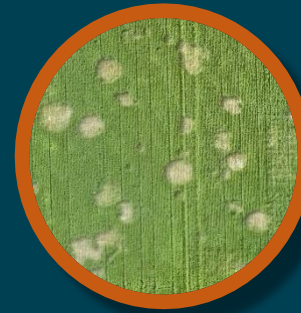
Ahmed Saad
0477 150 079

ahmed.saad@dpird.wa.gov.au



Thank you

dpird.wa.gov.au



Important disclaimer

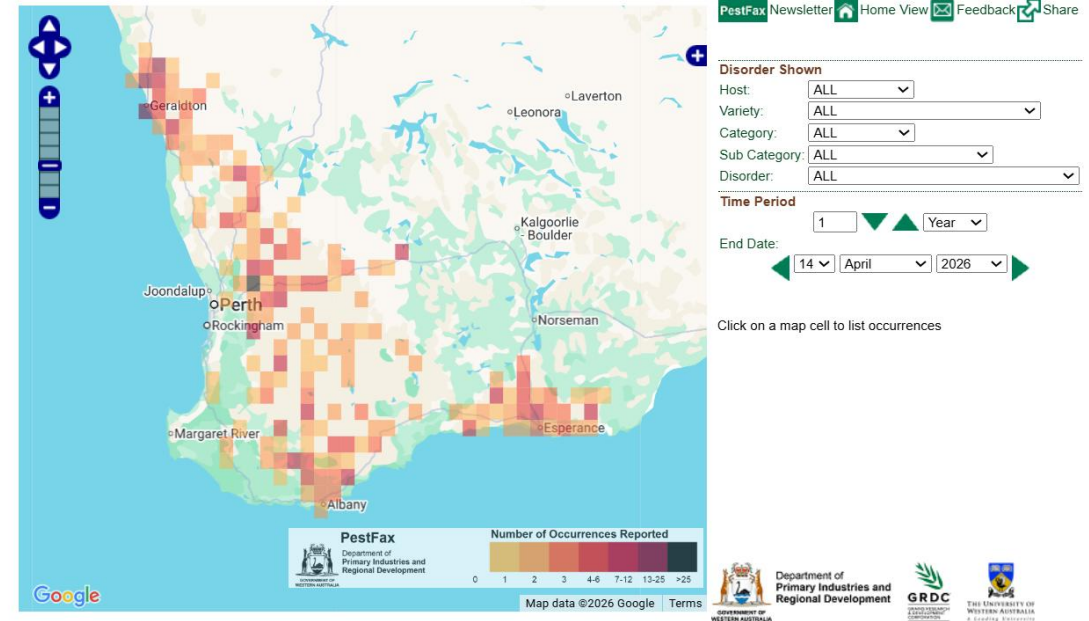
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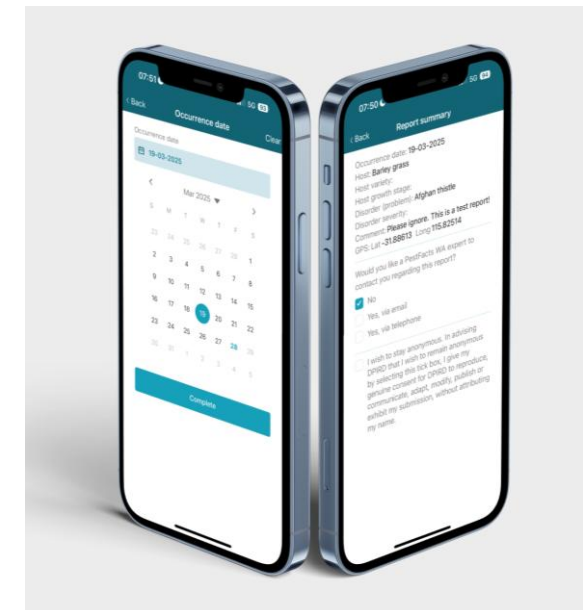
PestFacts WA service

- See what is being reported in your area on the PestFacts WA map:

<https://www.dpir.wa.gov.au/online-tools/pestfacts-wa/pestfacts-wa-map/>



- Use the PestFacts WA Reporter app to report insects and diseases or request a free diagnosis:
<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/apps/pestfacts-wa-reporter-app>



PestFacts WA service

Subscribe to receive the PestFacts WA newsletter:

<https://www.dpird.wa.gov.au/about-us/newsletters/PestFacts-WA-newsletter/>

- Volunteer to host a native budworm moth trap in 2026:

<https://www.dpird.wa.gov.au/businesses/pests-weeds-and-diseases/animal-pests-diseases/pest-insects/native-budworm/native-budworm-trapping/>



PestFacts WA

Issue: 1
Date: April 2026

Contents

Green bridge, pest and disease management to protect emerging



Other resources

- 2026 autumn winter insecticide spray guide.
2026 winter spring insecticide spray guide (to be published soon)
<https://www.dpird.wa.gov.au/businesses/pests-weeds-and-diseases/control-methods/chemicals/insecticides/>

- Annual 3-day insect and plant disease training course. 2026 dates to be confirmed.

Email expressions of interest to:
Cindy.Webster@dpird.wa.gov.au



Question & answer session



- Use the Q&A tool to ask your question
- You can email us after today's session at:
pestfactswa@dpiird.wa.gov.au
- Webinar recording will be published on DPIIRD's YouTube channel
- Follow @DPIIRDbroadacre on X (formerly Twitter) for #PestFactsWA posts.

Thank you

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