



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 of the land on which we gather and pays respect to Elders both past and present. We extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here in attendance today.

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, wavy, curved shapes in various shades of blue, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

Webinar agenda

- WA's climate outlook

Meredith Guthrie. DPIRD senior research scientist

- Invertebrates to look out for in spring 2026 and autumn 2027

Svetlana Micic. DPIRD senior research scientist

- Spring diseases and preparing for next season

Andrea Hills. DPIRD senior research scientist

- PestFacts WA service

Cindy Webster. DPIRD research scientist

- Question and answer session
- 



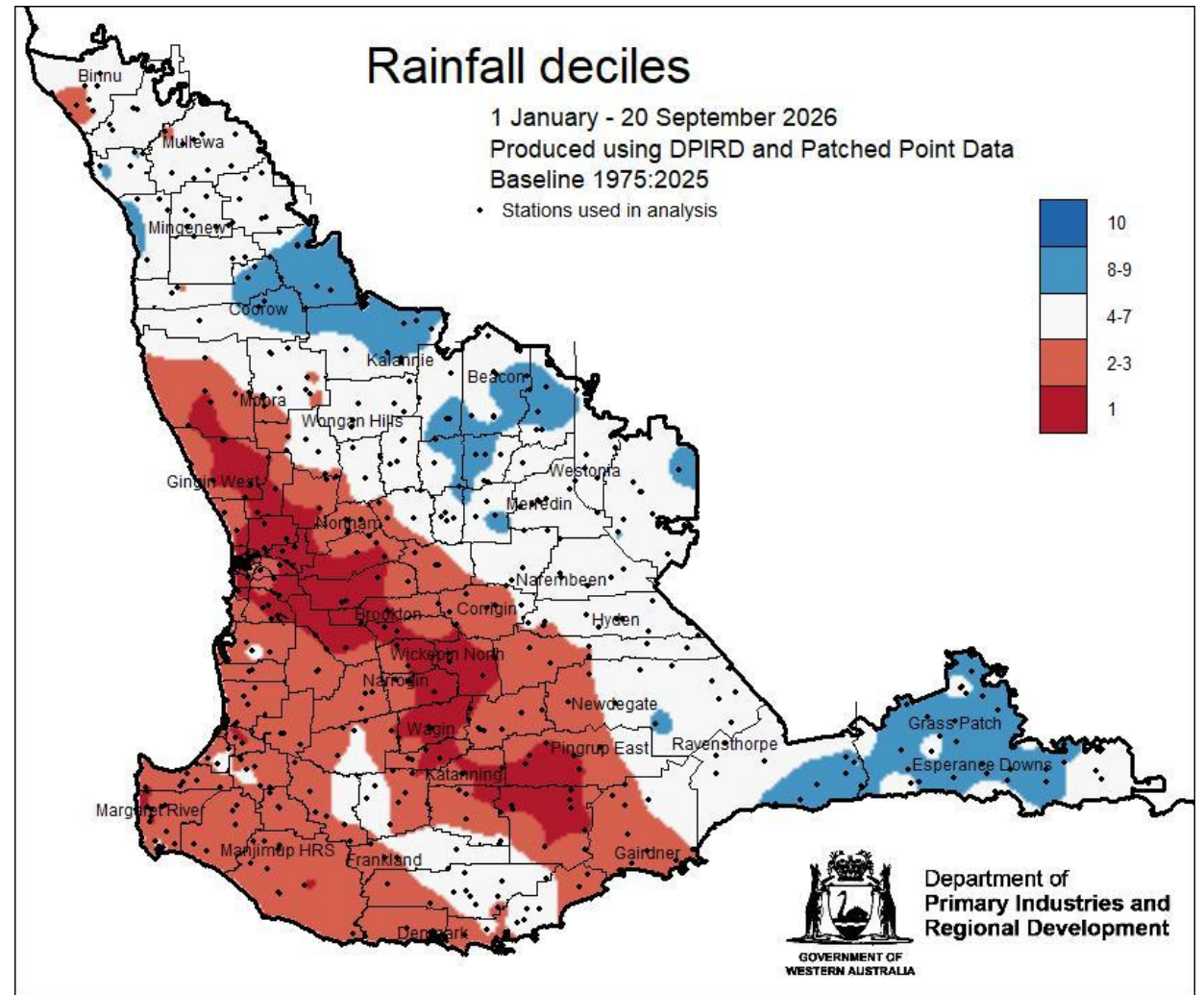
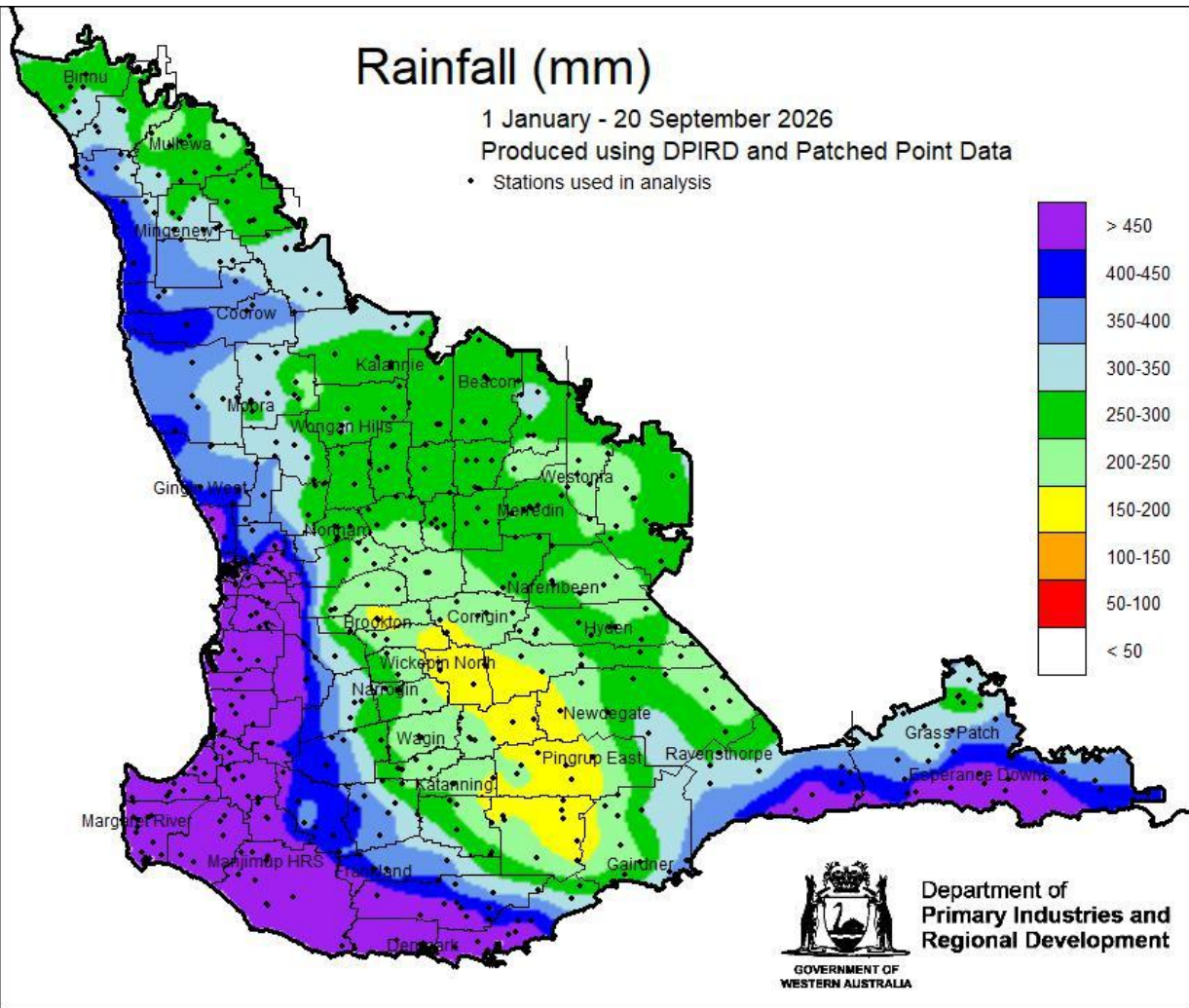
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Season so far and what's to come

Meredith Guthrie, DPIRD Perth

Year to date rainfall



Kukerin (Dumbleyung shire) 158 mm
Coomalbidgup (Esperance shire) 538 mm

Source: DPIRD

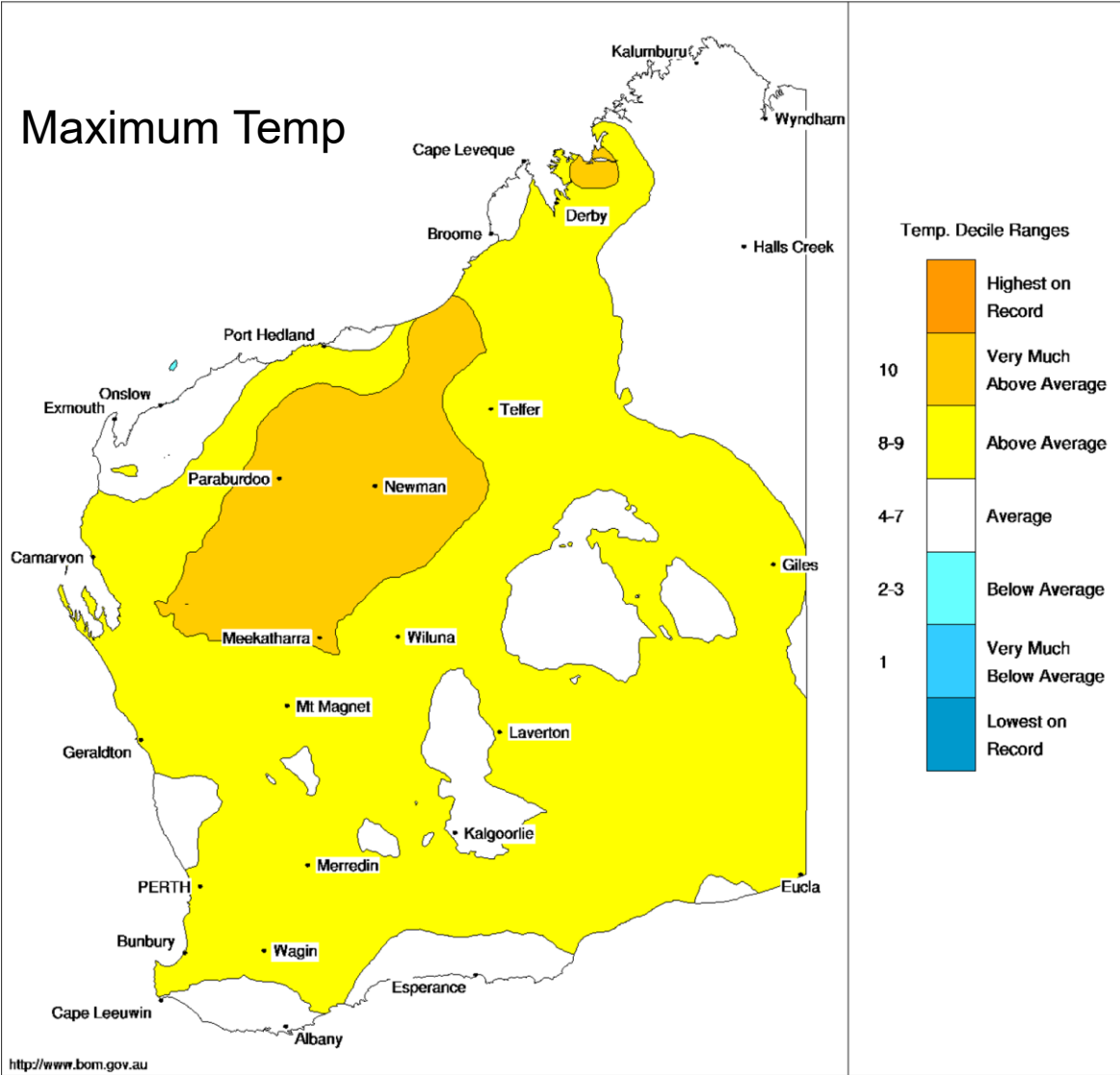
Contrasting seasons for the South West Land Division

Meredith Guthrie
meredith.guthrie@dpird.wa.gov.au

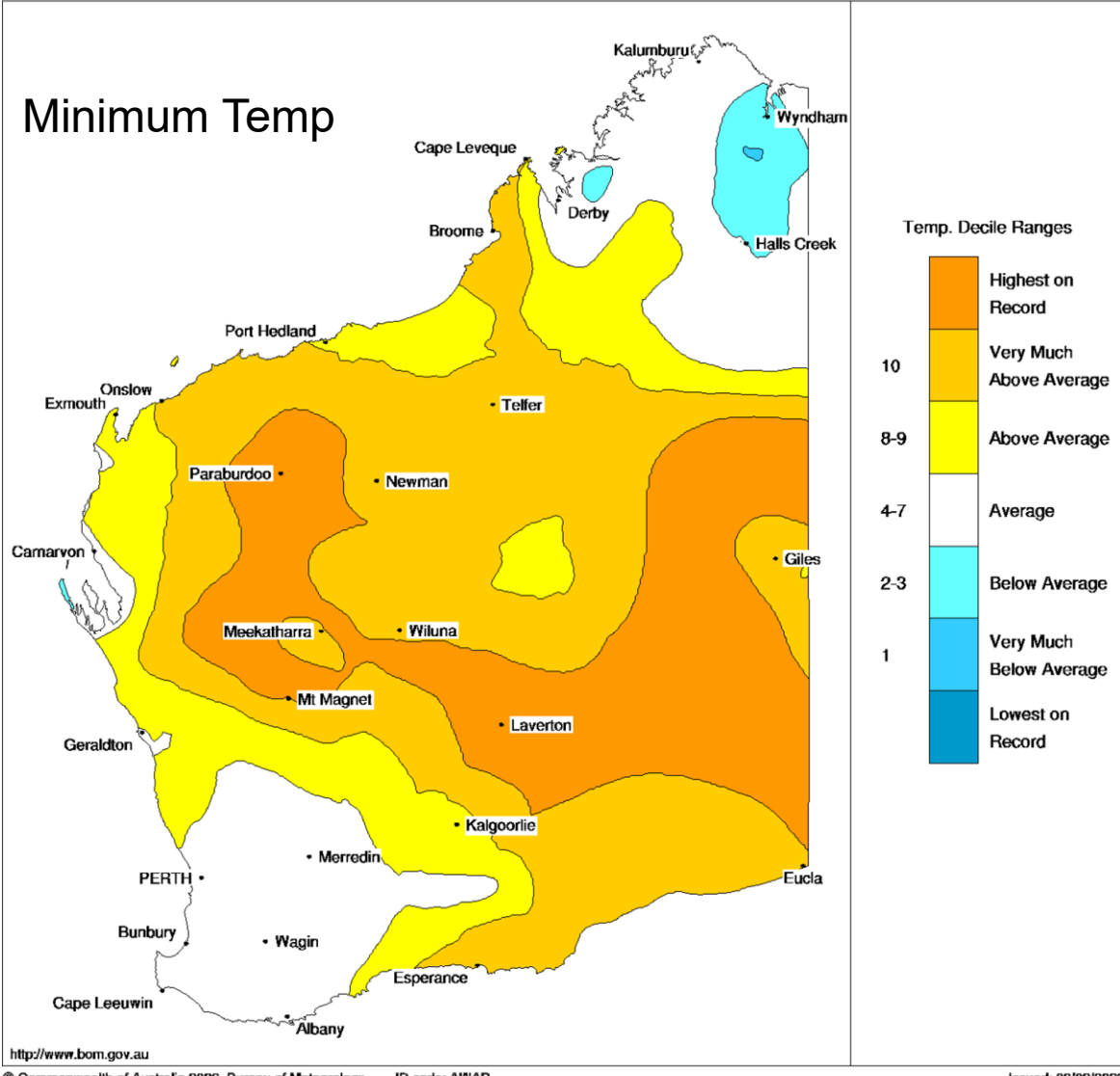
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Last 6 months temperature

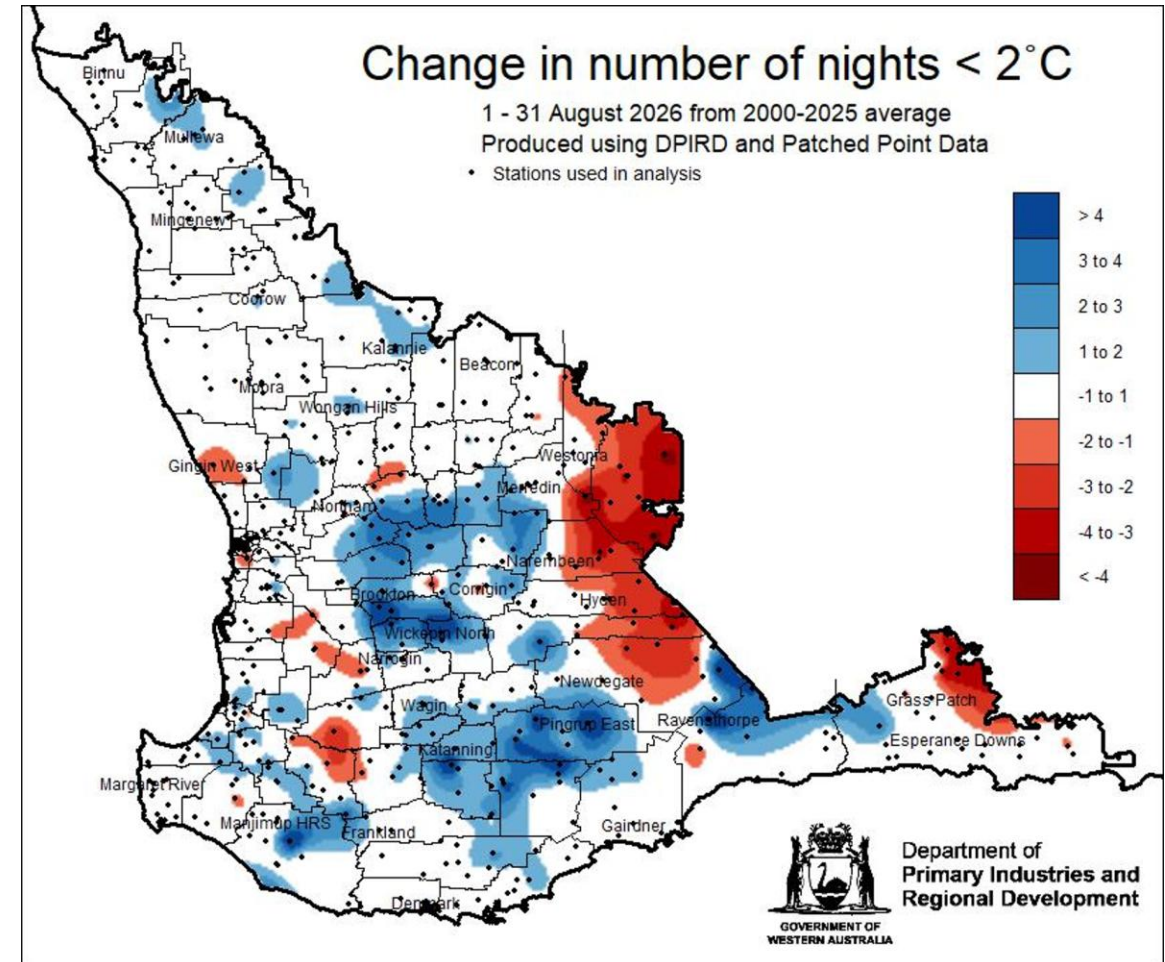
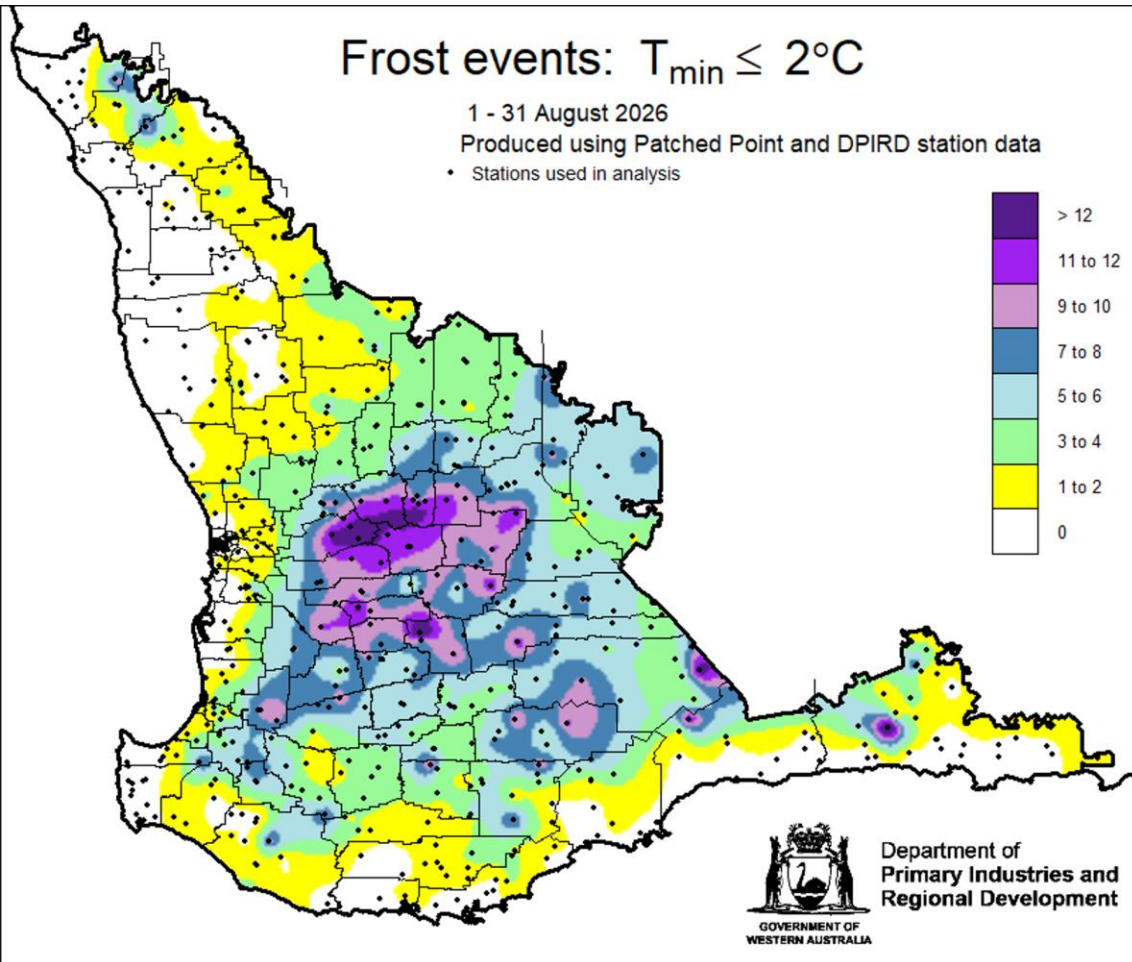
Maximum Temperature Deciles
1 March to 31 August 2026
Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



Minimum Temperature Deciles
1 March to 31 August 2026
Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



August nights below 2 °C



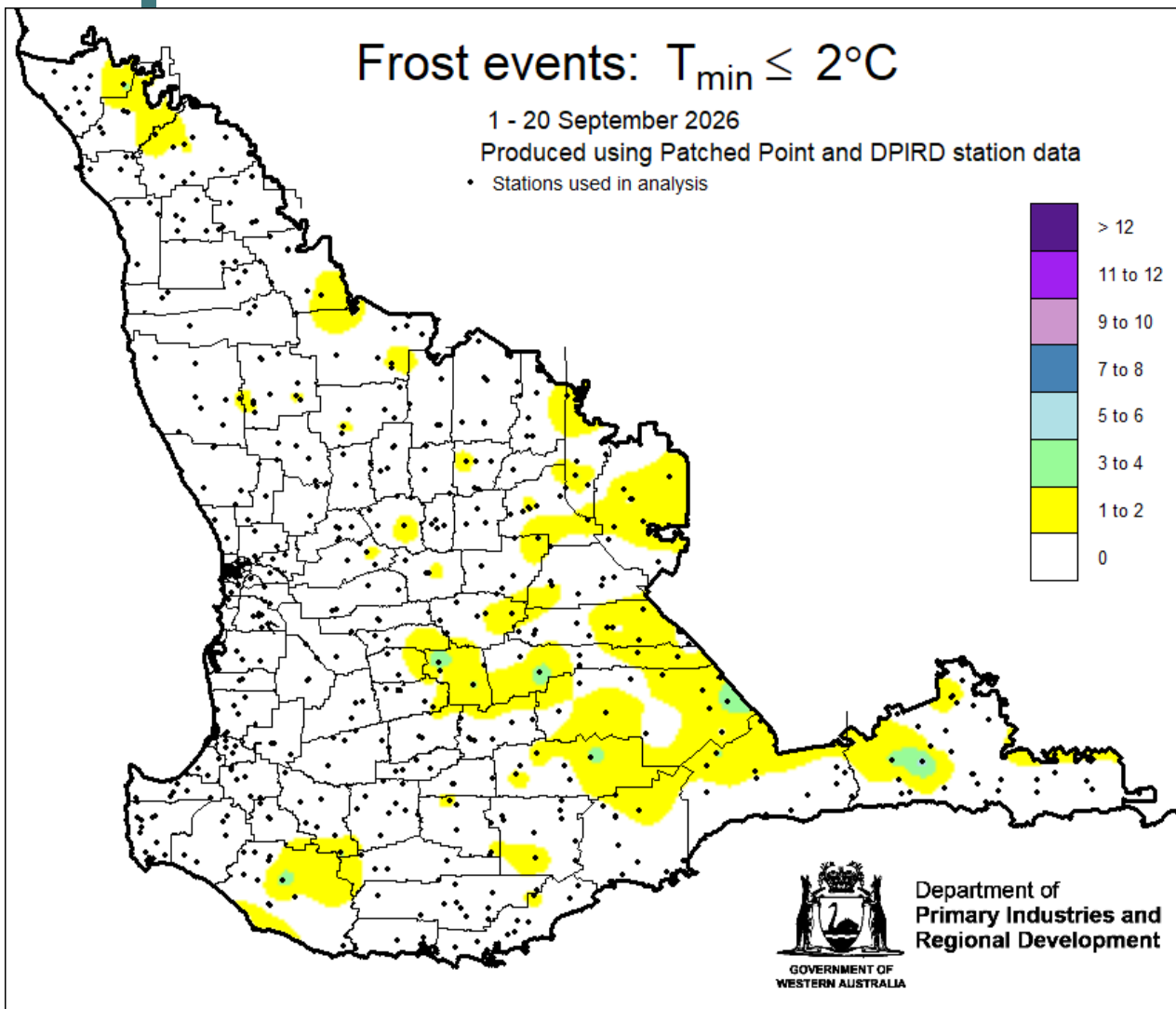
Source: DPIRD

Nights below 2 °C is an indicator of potential frost. August 2026 had more nights below 2 °C in central and southern grainbelt, less in far eastern grainbelt. Wickepin North, 18 nights, which is 9 more than the average

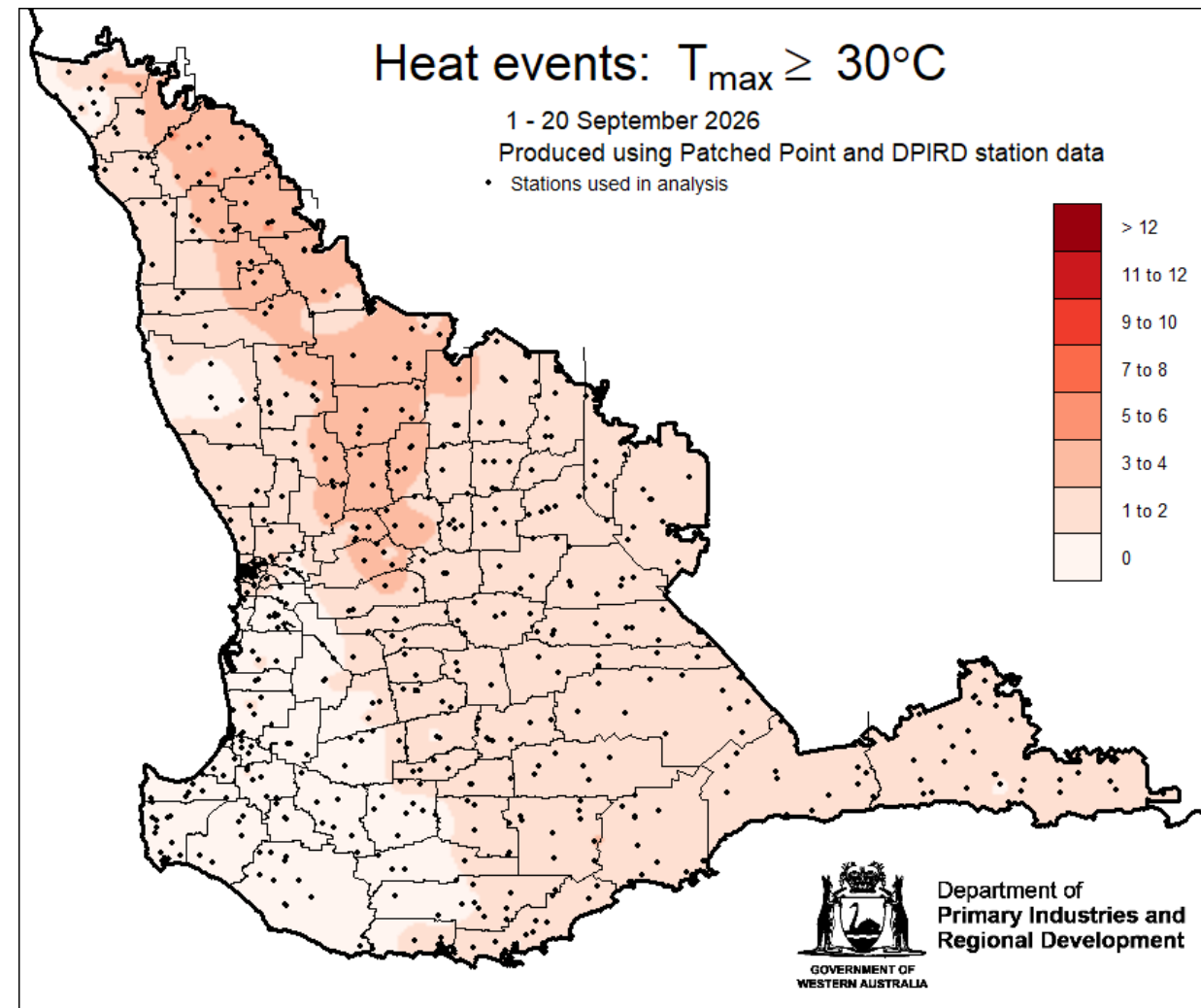
Meredith Guthrie
meredith.guthrie@dpiird.wa.gov.au

September frost and heat events

OFFICIAL



Wickepin North had 5 nights at -1.5°C

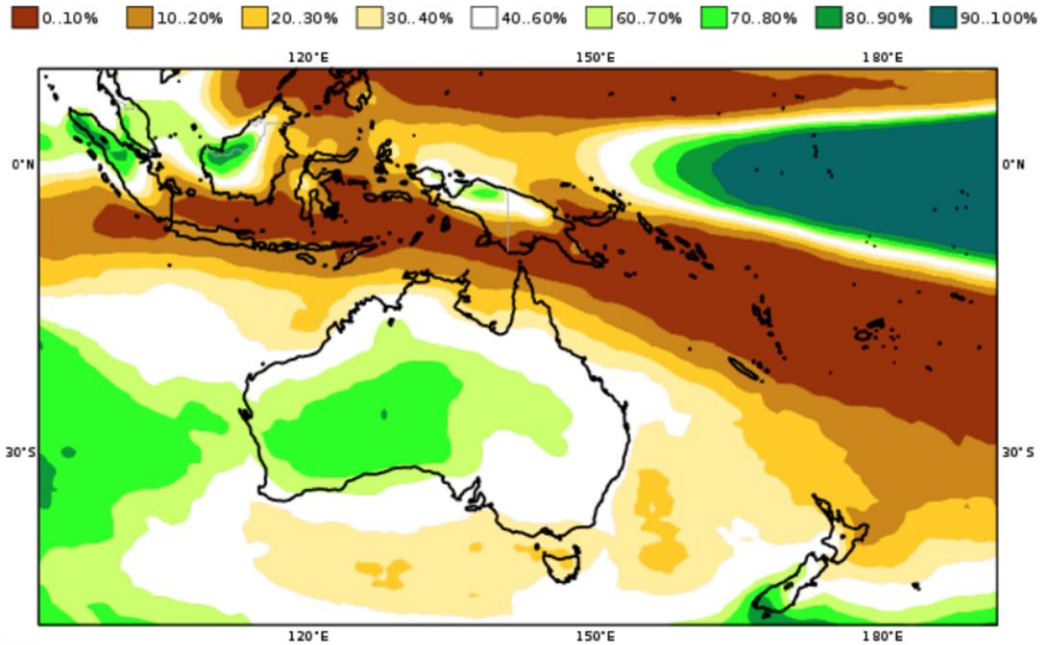


Morawa 35.5°C

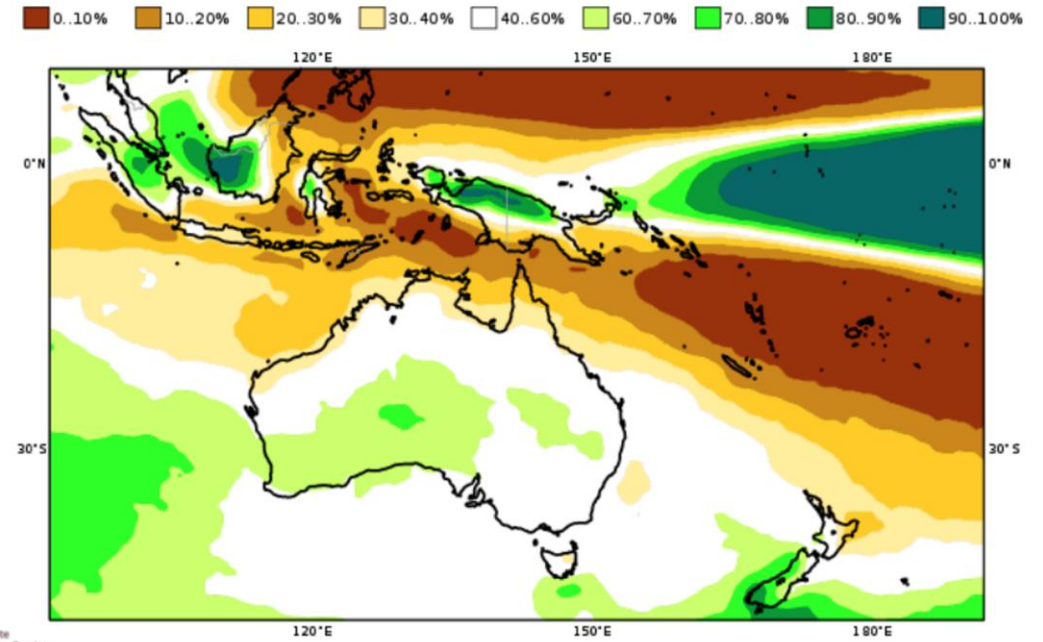
Source: DPIRD

Rainfall outlook Oct-Dec, Nov-Jan

C3S multi-system seasonal forecast ECMWF/Met Office/Météo-France/CMCC/DWD/NCEP/JMA/ECCC/BOM
 Prob(precipitation > median) OND 2026
 Nominal forecast start: 01/09/26
 Unweighted mean



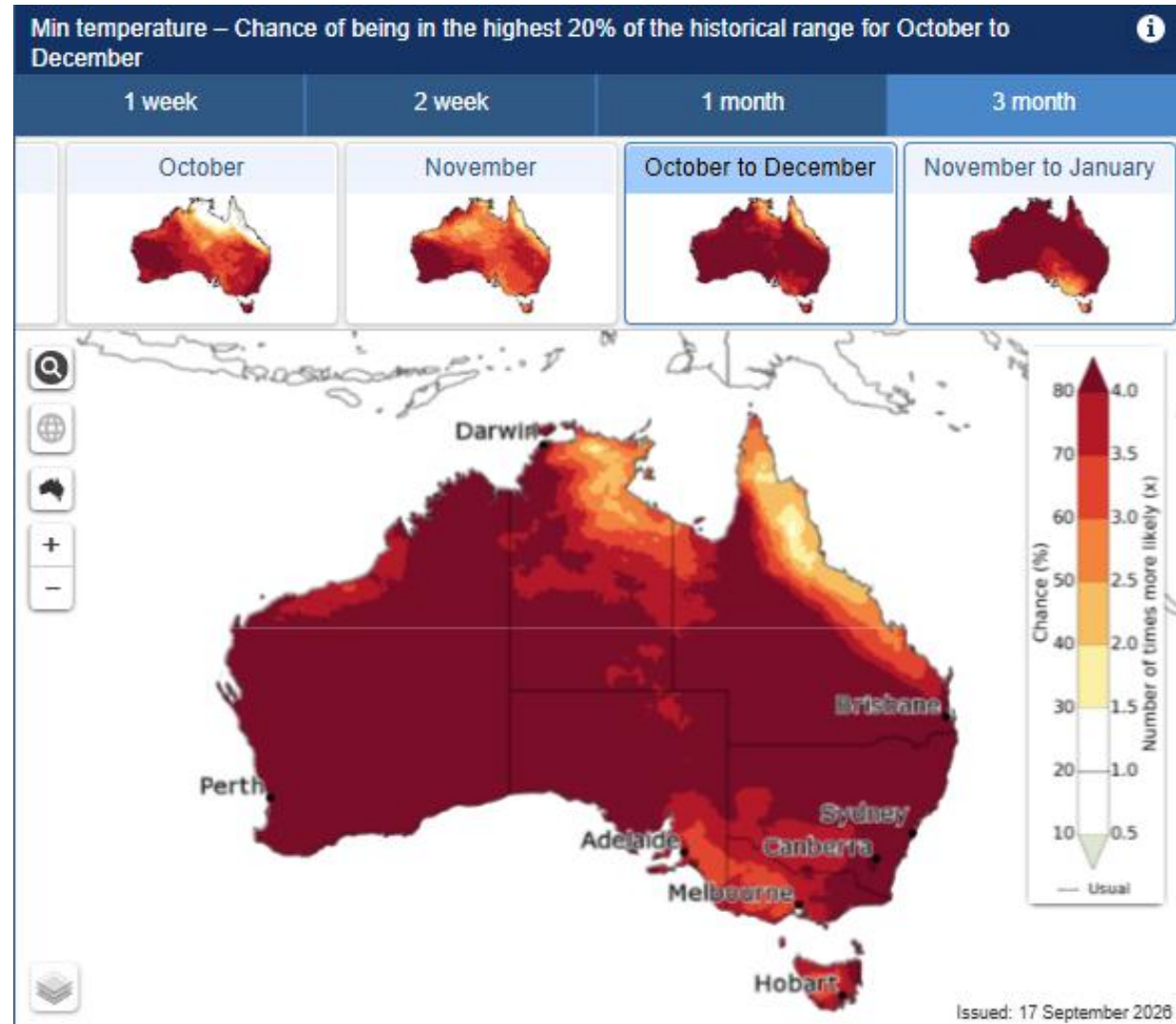
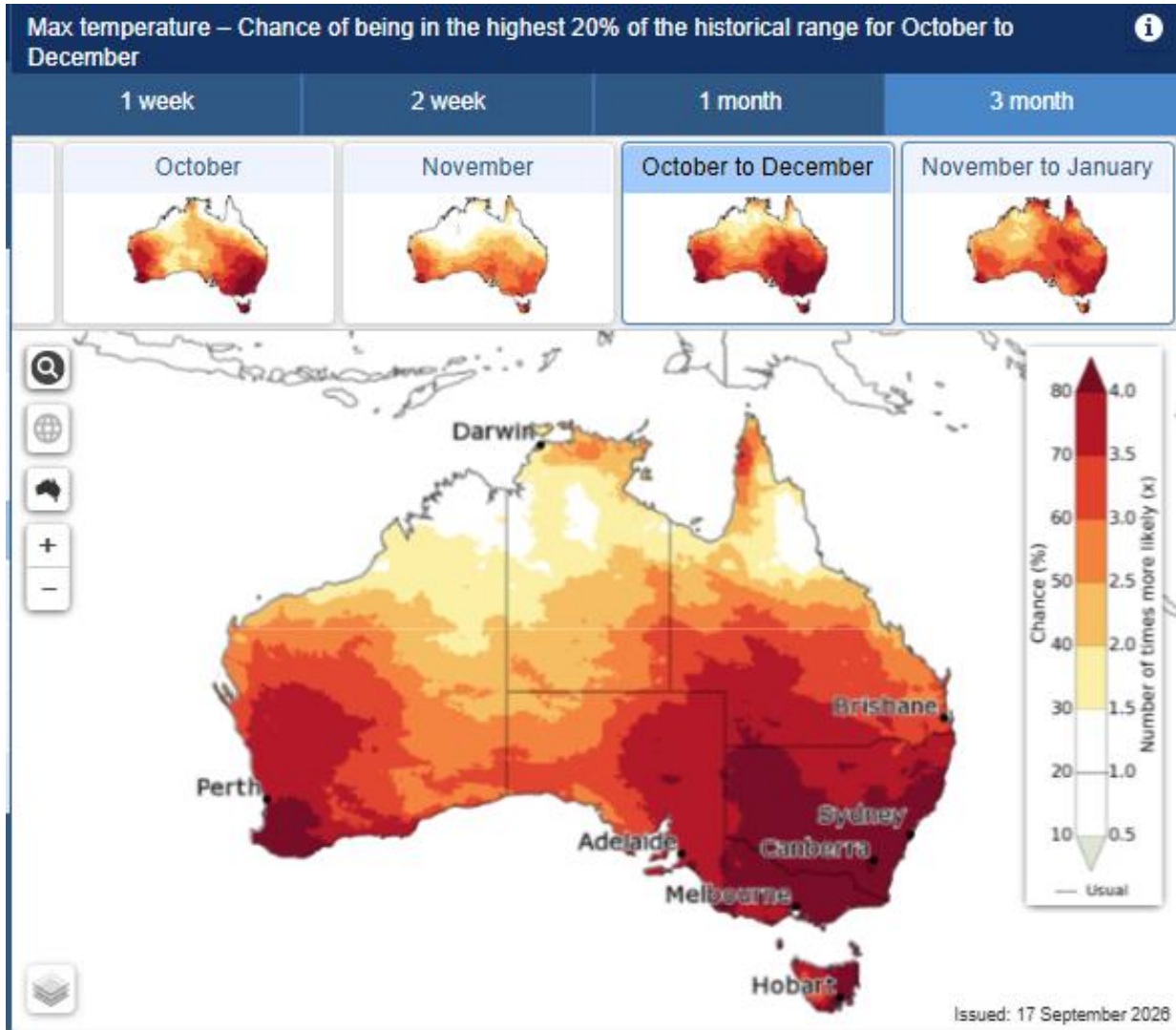
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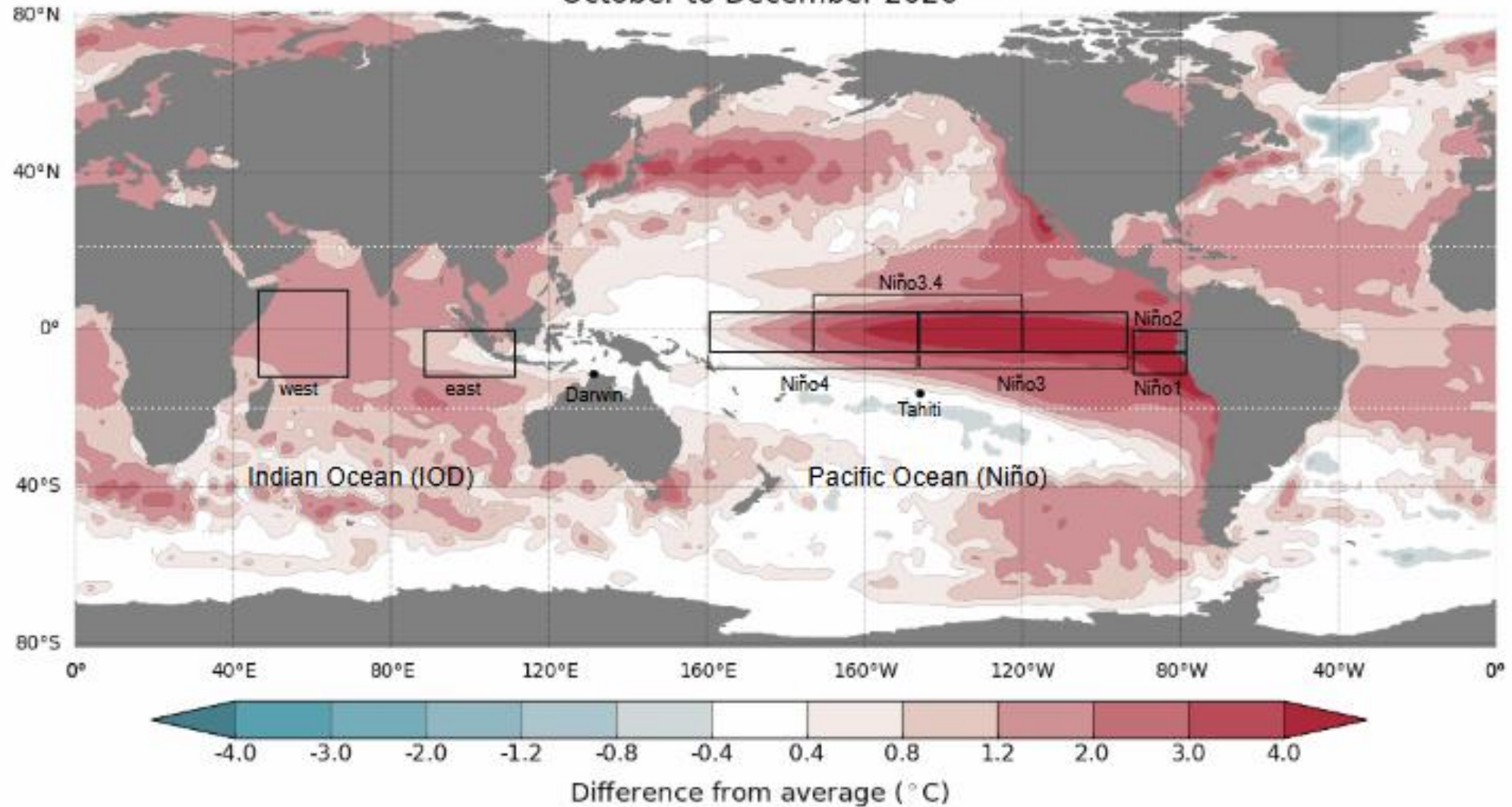
Source: Climate Copernicus

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

Temperature outlook Oct-Dec



Difference from average sea surface temperature forecast for October to December 2026



www.bom.gov.au/climate
© Commonwealth of Australia 2026, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Model: ACCESS-52
Base period: 1981-2018

Model run: 19/09/2026
Issued: 21/09/2026

Summary

- Rainfall outlooks: wetter October – December (average rainfall is 50 mm across the SWLD).
- Temperature outlook: warmer than normal maximum and minimum temperatures.
- Potential green bridge if it stays wet over summer.
- El Niño over summer: warmer temperatures, higher chance of heatwaves and elevated bushfire risk.



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Invertebrates to look out for in spring 2026 and autumn 2027

Spring Pests



Caterpillars



Aphids

Native budworm flight movement



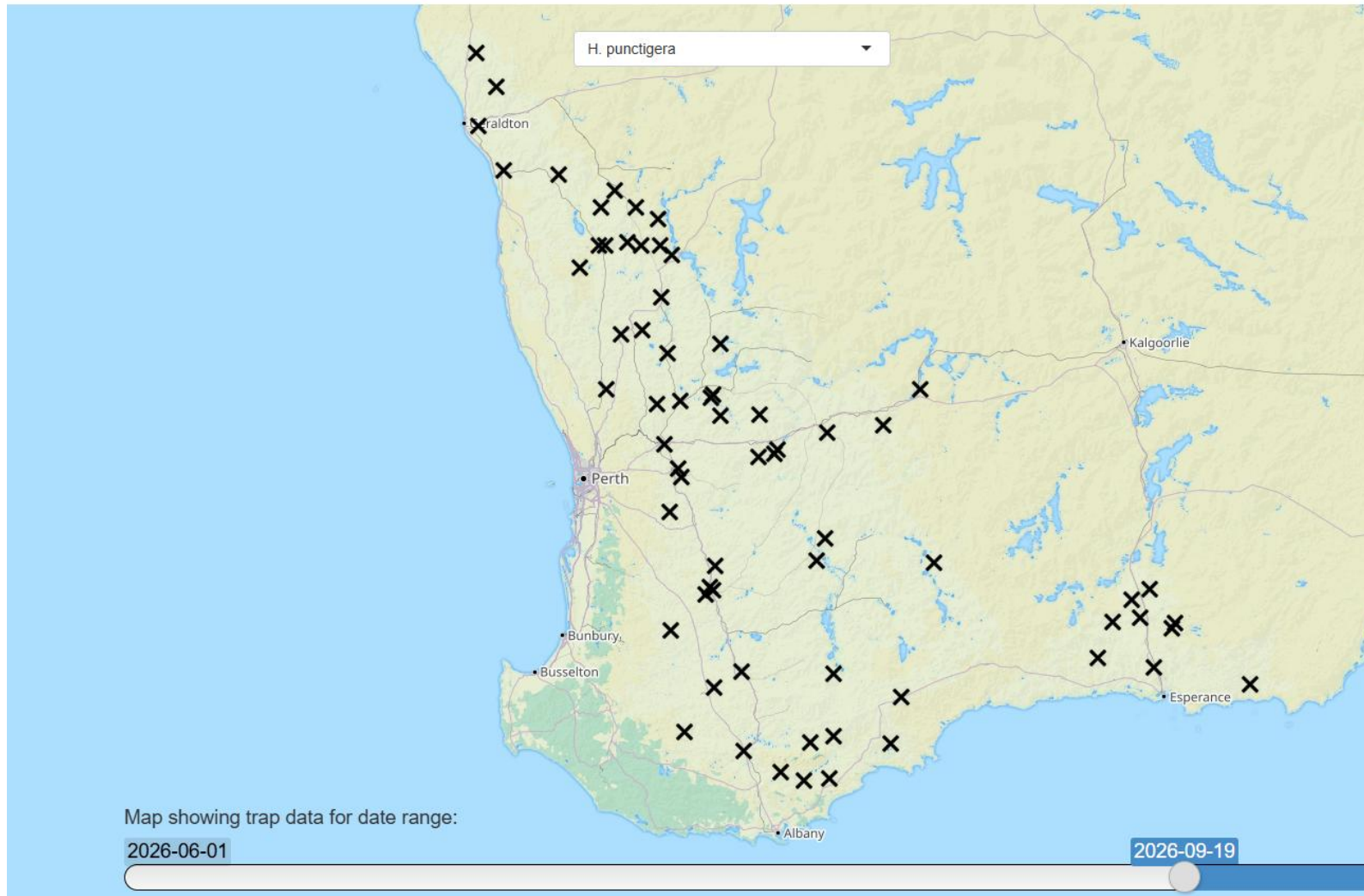
Native budworm
moth



Native budworm
caterpillar

Trapping network for native budworm

<https://cesaraustralia.shinyapps.io/MothTrapVisWA/>

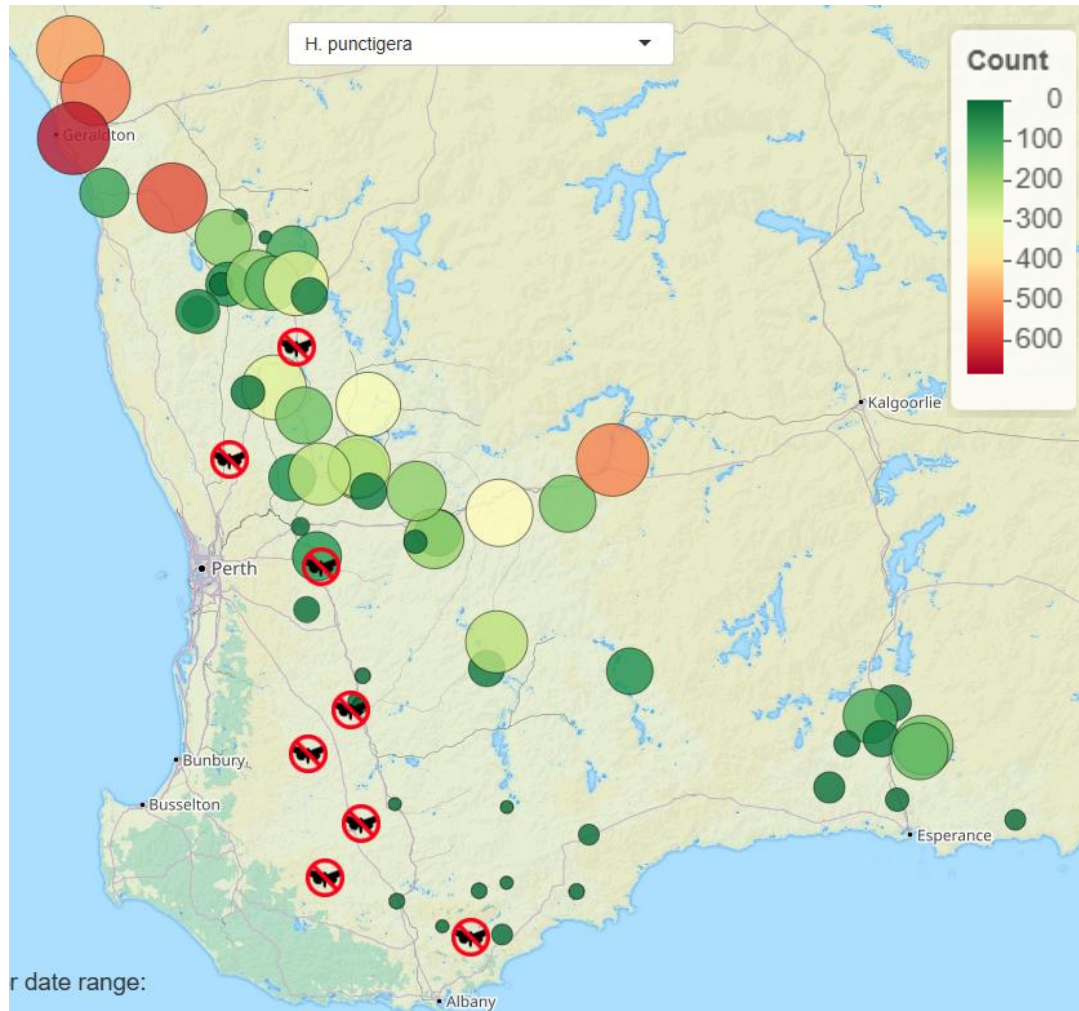


 Pheromone trap



Native budworm flights from June to September 2026

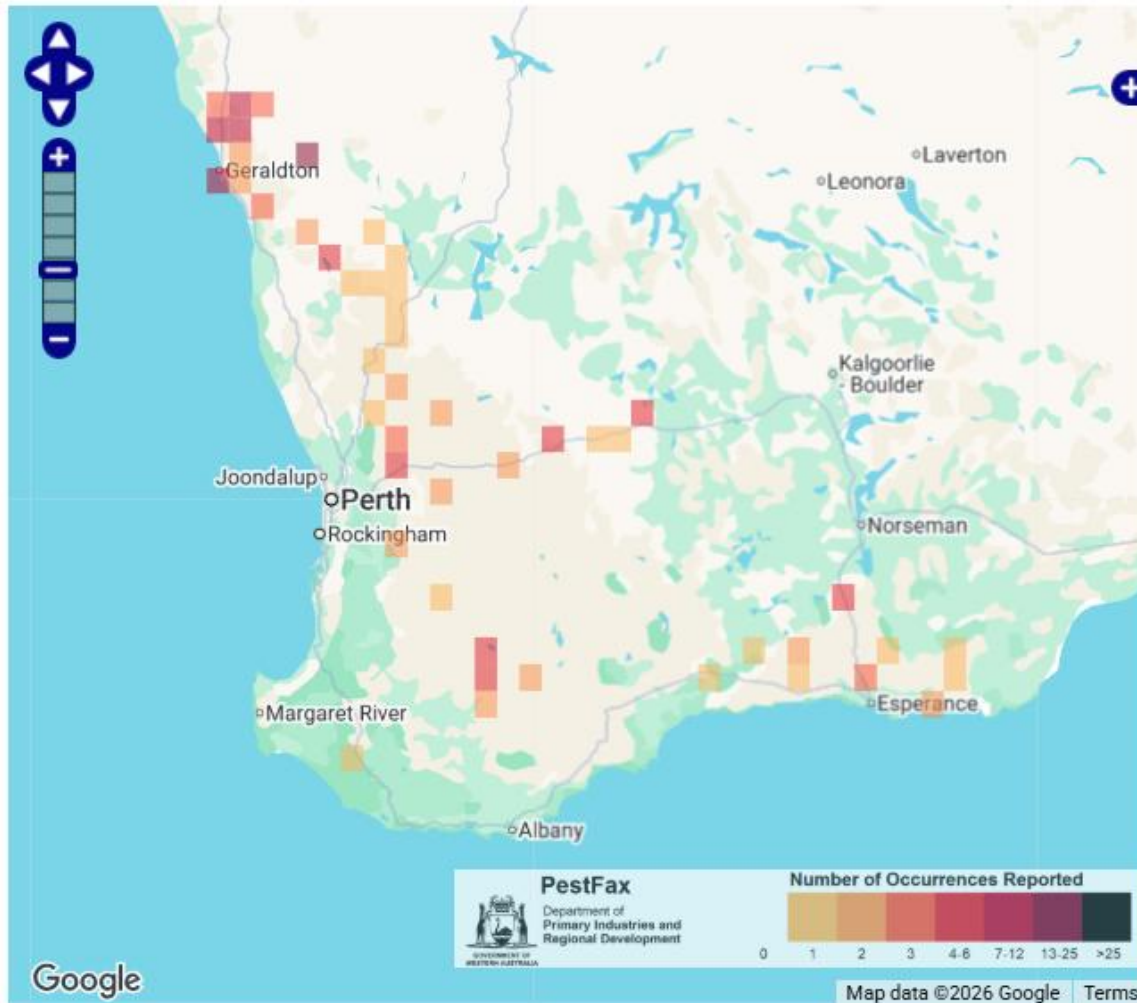
<https://cesaraustralia.shinyapps.io/MothTrapVisWA/>



 indicates no moths in trap.

Does this mean more caterpillars?

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



Monitor for native budworm

- Sweep netting.
- Feeding damage can still occur to crops after desiccation or swathing.



Thresholds for budworm

MyPestGuide CropScout app



Thresholds for native budworm

https://library.dpird.wa.gov.au/fc_factsheets/57/

Thresholds at pod ripening, based on \$10/ha control

Commodity	No. caterpillars per 10 sweeps	Based on grain price per tonne
Field peas	1	\$300
Chickpeas	1	\$420
Faba beans	1	\$280
Lentils	1	\$520
Canola	2-3	\$700
Lupins	4	\$350



Spraying for native budworm

- Consider withholding periods.
- Beneficials chemical toxicity table.
<https://cesaraustralia.com/resources/beneficials-toxicity-table/>



Diamondback moth flight movement

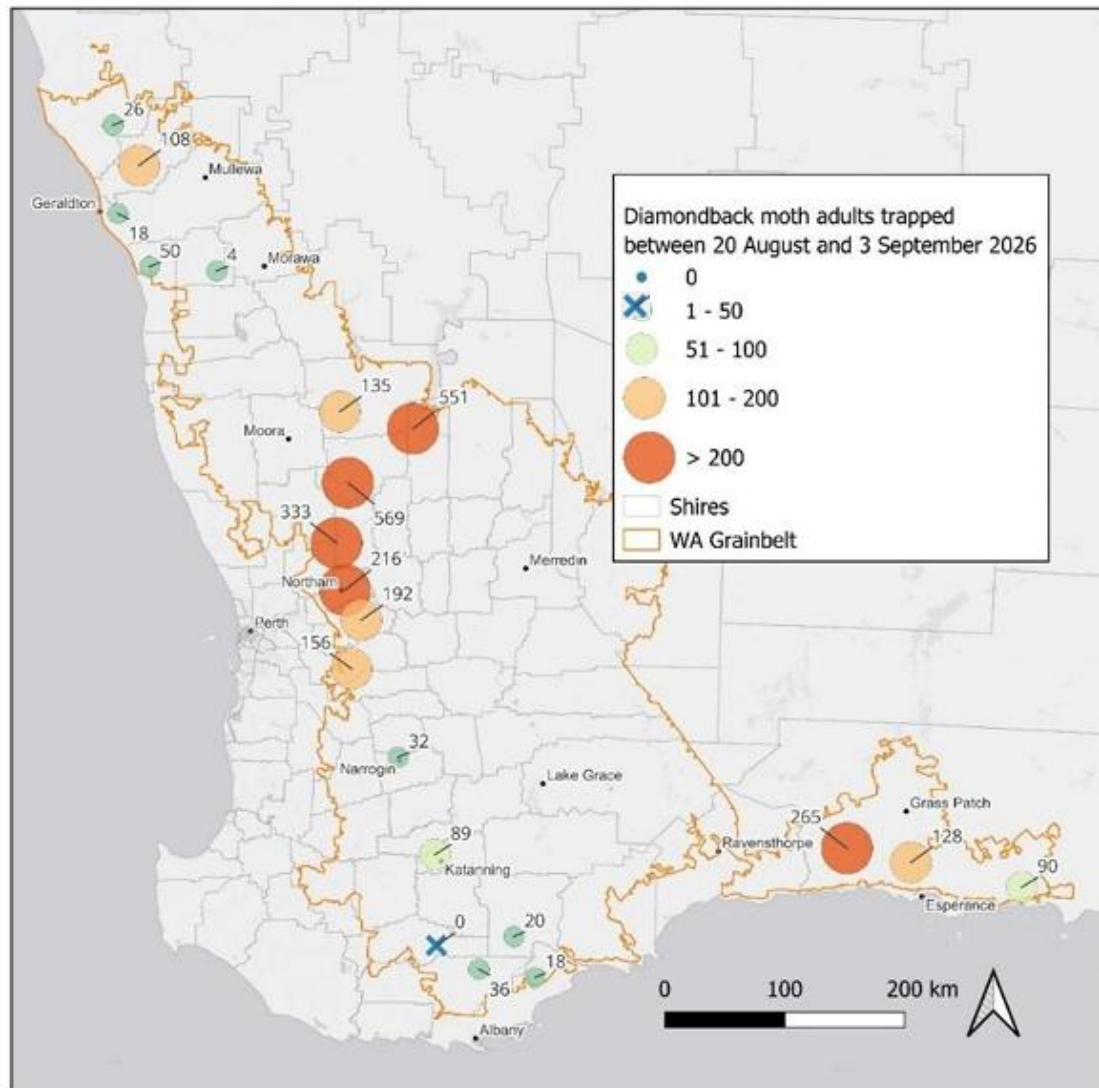


Diamondback moth



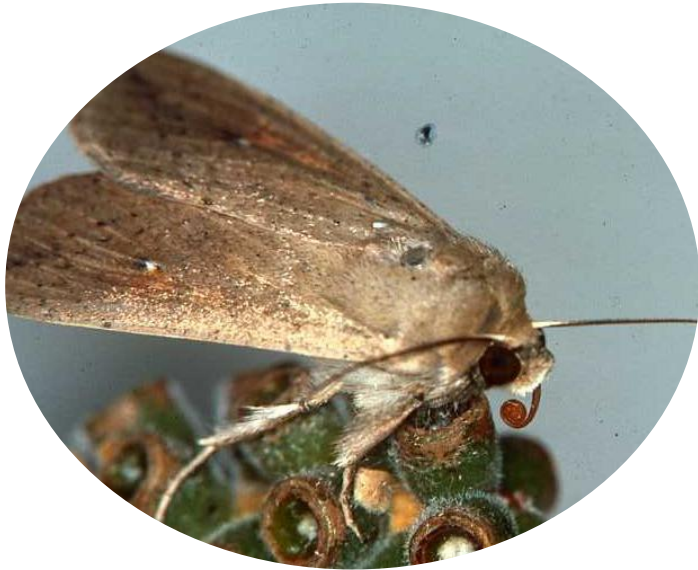
Diamondback moth
caterpillar

Trap catches: 20 August- 3 September 2026

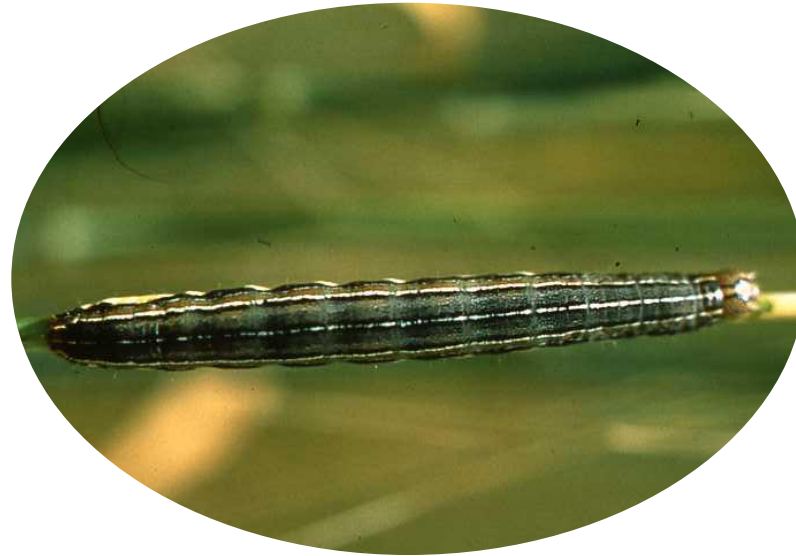


Delta trap

Armyworm moth flight movement



Armyworm moth



Armyworm caterpillar

Identifying armyworm



Armyworm (left) have 3 white stripes on collar, budworm (right) do not

Finding armyworm

- Physically uncover and sift through plant material, such as fallen leaf litter, in inter-row spaces.
- Look for frass (faeces) on ground.



Armyworm caterpillar on ground
with frass

Armyworm - thresholds

- 1 – 3 caterpillars per square metre in barley.
- 5 per square metre in oats and wheat.



Armyworm caterpillar damage on wheat (top),
barley heads (bottom)

Spring aphids

Canola aphids



Turnip aphid
(*Lipaphis erysimi*)



Cabbage aphid
(*Brevicoryne brassicae*)



Green peach aphid
(*Myzus persicae*)

Pulse aphids



Cowpea aphid
(*Aphis craccivora*)



Blue green aphid
(*Acyrtosiphon kondoi*)



Green peach aphid
(*Myzus persicae*)

Cereal aphids



Corn aphid
(*Rhopalosiphum maidis*)



Russian wheat aphid
(*Diuraphis noxia*)



Oat aphid
(*Rhopalosiphum padi*)

Aphid thresholds

- Is the aphid colony growing?
- Hot, dry conditions? Aphids on the wing.
- Crop senescence?
- Feeding damage due to sustained feeding by aphids.
- Consider withholding periods.
- Beneficials chemical toxicity table.

<https://cesaraustralia.com/resources/beneficials-toxicity-table/>



Pea aphid

Plan for 2027

- Look at what is in the paddock now and during harvest.

Plan for 2027



Black keeled slug



Lucerne flea



Redlegged earth mite



Small conical snail



Desiantha weevil

Green bridge?

- Weeds are a host for next year's flying pests.



Take home messages

- Size matters: caterpillar size & aphid colony.
- Numbers game.
- Consider chemical choice.



Diamondback moth pheromone trap.



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Spring diseases and preparing for next season

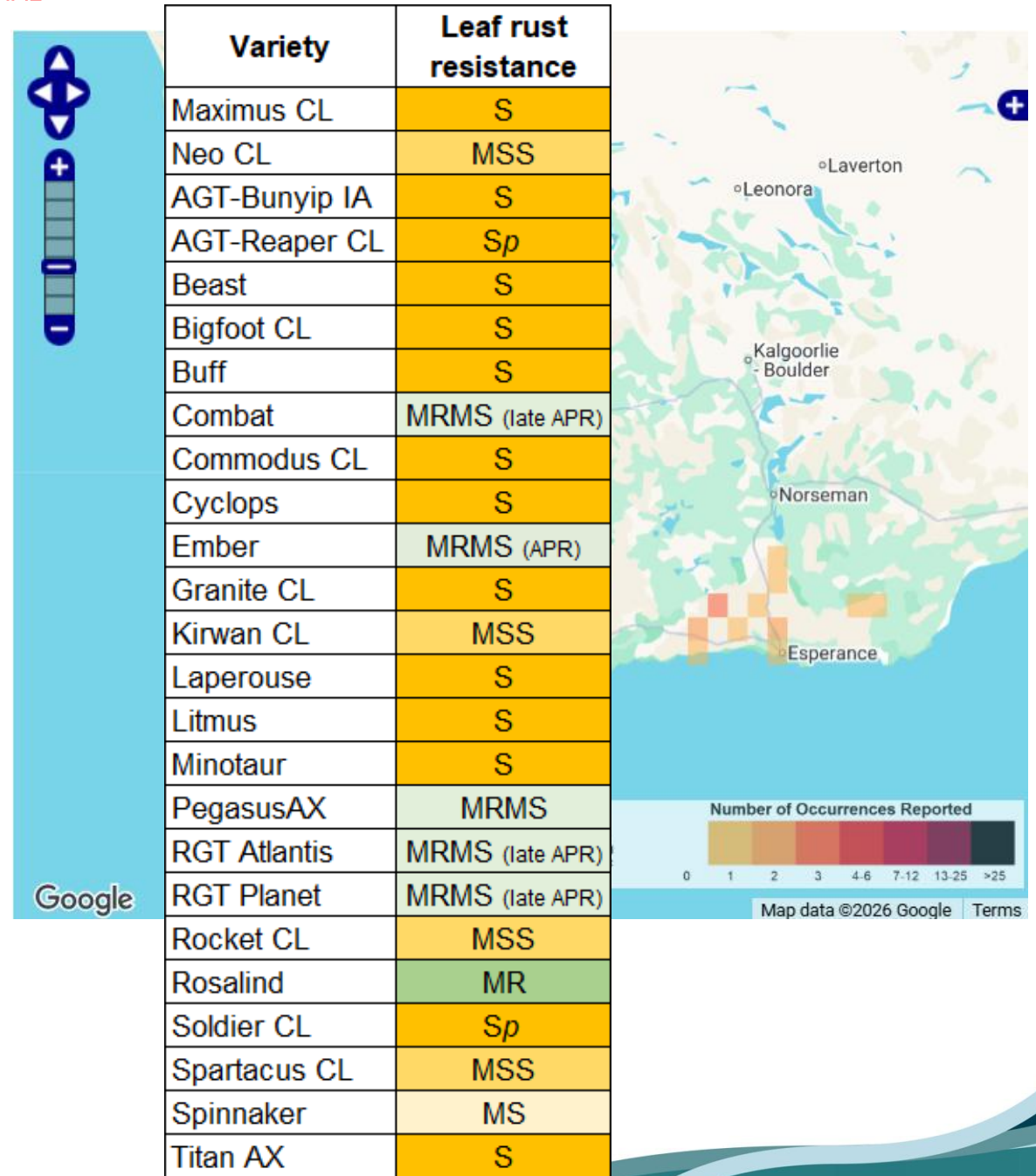
Andrea Hills, DPIRD Esperance

Foliar diseases - key points

- Hot, dry conditions should curtail disease from now on
- Check your withholding period (WHP), especially before cutting oats
- Consider a seed treatment for loose smut. Try a Group 3 if Group 7 is ineffective
- A green bridge will significantly increase the risk of leaf rust in 2027

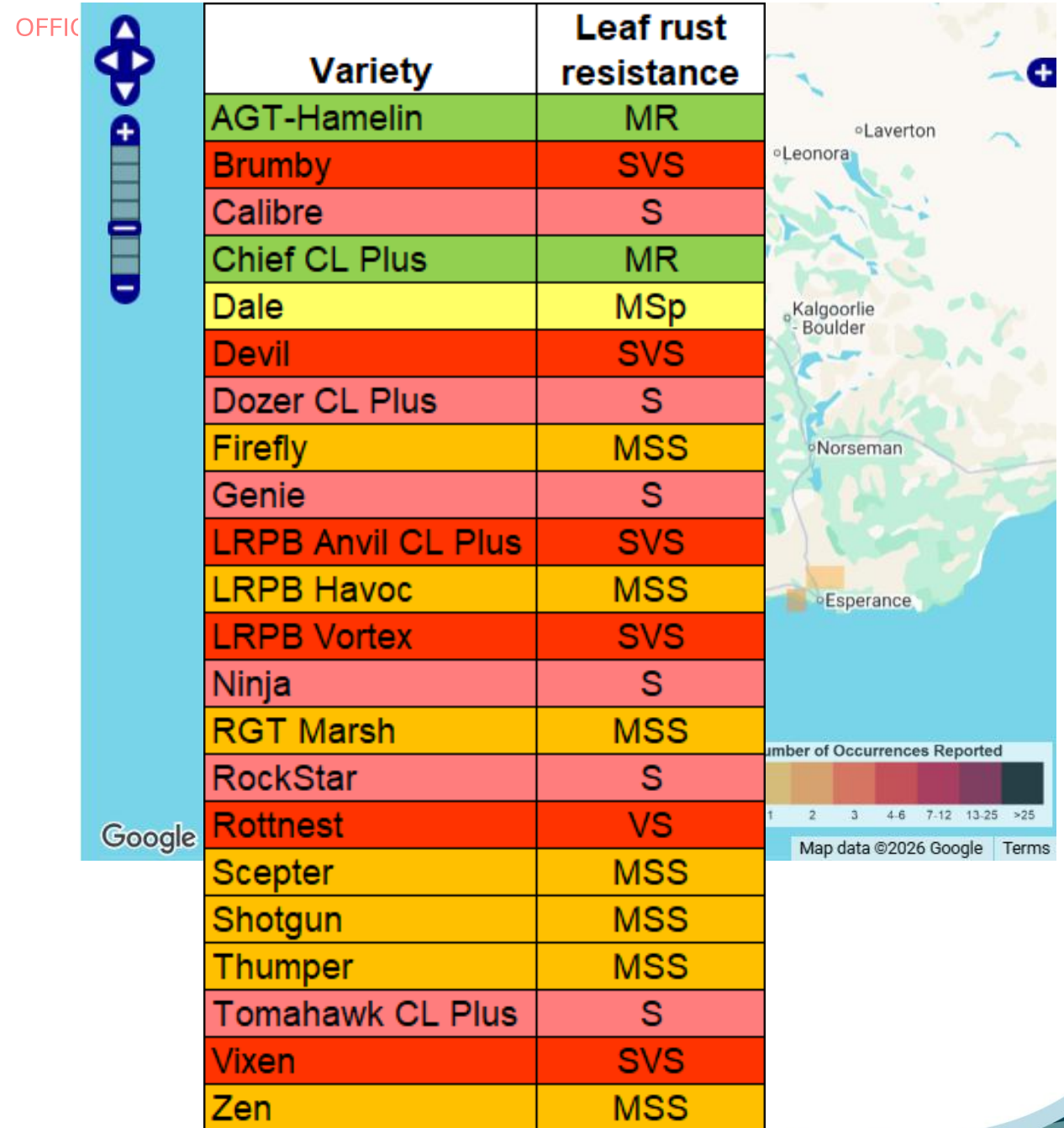
Barley leaf rust

- Southern areas, Narrogin & Geraldton
- Many varieties are susceptible
- Green bridge increases 2027 risk
- Leaf rust impact can be severe



Wheat leaf rust

- Esperance & Geraldton
- Check variety resistance
- Control any green bridge



Nodorum blotch

- Upper leaves and heads (glume blotch)
- Glume blotch rating may differ to leaf rating
- Can be confused with Pseudo Black Chaff (false black chaff)

Variety	SNB rating	Glume blotch
AGT Hamelin	MRp	MRMSp
Brumby	MRMS	MS
Calibre	MS	MSS
Chief CL Plus	MS	MRMS
Dale		
Devil	MRMS	MS
Dozer CL Plus	MRMS	MSS
Firefly	MRMS	S
Genie	MRMS	S
LRPB Anvil CL Plus	MSS	S
LRPB Havoc	MS	MS
LRPB Vortex	MRMS	MSS
Ninja	MRMS	MS
RFT Marsh	MS	MS
RockStar	MRMS	MRMS
Rottnest	MRMS	MRMSp
Scepter	MRMS	MSS
Shotgun	MRMS	MS
Thumper	MS	S
Tomahawk CL Plus	MRMS	MSS
Vixen	MS	MSS
Zen	MS	MRMS

Glume blotch OR Pseudo (false) black chaff?

- melanisation

Photos: DPIRD



Glume blotch OR Pseudo (false) black chaff?

- PBC goes onto peduncle below head, glume blotch doesn't
- Glume blotch – should be leaf symptoms too
- Look closely – often vertical lines in PBC heads
- Glume blotch – dark brown, then turns grey

Photos: DPIRD



Glume blotch OR Pseudo (false) black chaff?

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Photos & Table: DPIRD



Variety	SNB rating	Glume blotch	Pseudo black chaff (Sr2)
AGT Hamelin	MRp	MRMSp	?
Brumby	MRMS	MS	X
Calibre	MS	MSS	X
Chief CL Plus	MS	MRMS	X
Dale			?
Devil	MRMS	MS	X
Dozer CL Plus	MRMS	MSS	X
Firefly	MRMS	S	X
Genie	MRMS	S	X
LRPB Anvil CL Plus	MSS	S	X
LRPB Havoc	MS	MS	X
LRPB Vortex	MRMS	MSS	X
Ninja	MRMS	MS	X
RFT Marsh	MS	MS	?
RockStar	MRMS	MRMS	X
Rottnest	MRMS	MRMSp	?
Scepter	MRMS	MSS	Yes
Shotgun	MRMS	MS	X
Thumper	MS	S	X
Tomahawk CL Plus	MRMS	MSS	X
Vixen	MS	MSS	X
Zen	MS	MRMS	X

Scald

- Common in Albany region
 - Central region in continuous barley crops
 - avoid barley on barley if scald is present this season
 - Dr Kith Jayasena's trials indicate 2 fungicides are effective:
 - Seed treatment + foliar fungicide during elongation/booting
- OR
- Two foliar fungicides



Barley loose smut

- Neo CL is more susceptible than Hindmarsh
- Varieties rated Susceptible (S) or worse need a seed dressing annually in medium to high rainfall areas.

Variety	Resistance rating
Beast	MS
Bigfoot CL	MRMS
Buff	MR
Combat	MRMS
Commodus CL	MR
Cyclops	S
Granite CL	MRMS
Hindmarsh	S
Laperouse	MRMS
Maximus CL	MRMS
Minotaur	MR
Neo CL	SVS
PegasusAX	S
RGT Atlantis	MRMS
Rosalind	S
Spartacus CL	MSS
Spinnaker	MR
Titan AX	MRMS

Barley loose smut

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- Group 7 seed dressings – trials show there is reduced efficacy from fungicide resistance

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Barley loose smut

- Neo CL is more susceptible than Hindmarsh
- Varieties rated Susceptible (S) or worse need a seed dressing annually in medium to high rainfall areas.
- Group 7 seed dressings – trials show there is reduced efficacy from fungicide resistance.
- Want to test your smut? Post head samples to Curtin Centre Crop & Disease Management (CCDM) or contact Andrea (0488 575 091) or Jason Bradley (0447 864 707).

Variety	Resistance rating
Beast	MS
Bigfoot CL	MRMS
Buff	MR
Combat	MRMS
Commodus CL	MR
Cyclops	S
Granite CL	MRMS
Hindmarsh	S
Laperouse	MRMS
Maximus CL	MRMS
Minotaur	MR
Neo CL	SVS
PegasusAX	S
RGT Atlantis	MRMS
Rosalind	S
Spartacus CL	MSS
Spinnaker	MR
Titan AX	MRMS

Oat leaf and stem rust

- Stem rust occurs on all parts of the plant, including leaves.
- Leaf rust – leaves.

Stem rust



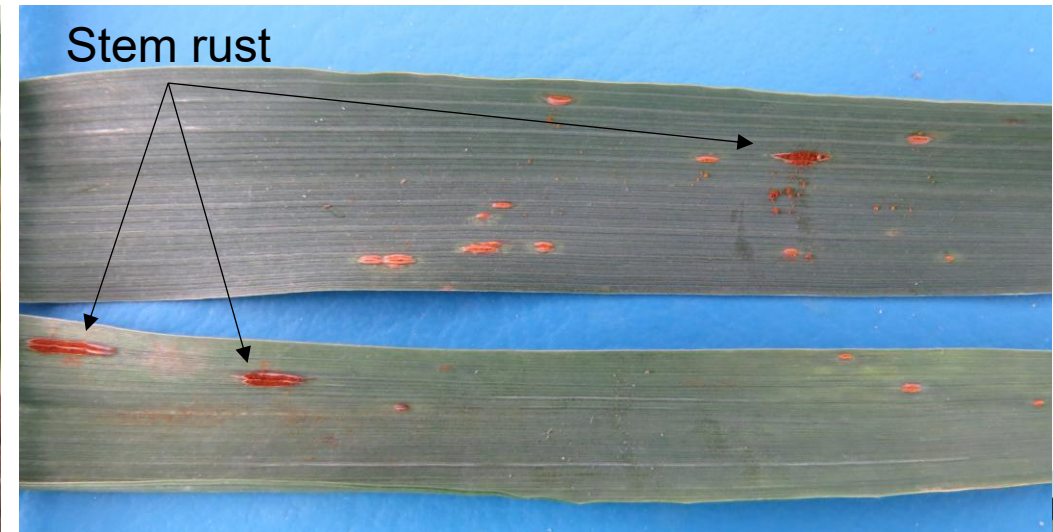
Leaf rust



Leaf rust



Stem rust



Stem rust

Canola: Upper Canopy Infection by Blackleg & Alternaria

Blackleg on pods – look for pepper spots inside lesions



Alternaria on pods – a range of black symptoms



Canola Upper Canopy Infection (UCI) Blackleg

Blackleg – check for dark branches



UCI stem lesion in pith



Check canker levels



BlacklegCM 4+
Blackleg Canola Management
Western Australian Agriculture Authority
Designed for iPad
Free

Summary

- Hot, dry conditions should curtail disease from now on
- Check your withholding period (WHP), especially before cutting oats
- Consider a seed treatment for loose smut. Try a Group 3 if Group 7 is ineffective
- A green bridge will significantly increase the risk of leaf rust in 2027

Could annual ryegrass toxicity (ARGT) be affecting your farm?

- Help build a clearer picture of ARGT across WA by taking part in a new research project to modernise ARGT detection, risk prediction and management.
- Complete the 10-min survey and register for a FREE test kit (limited numbers available). All responses are anonymous.

<https://www.dpir.wa.gov.au/businesses/pests-weeds-and-diseases/animal-pests-diseases/annual-ryegrass-toxicity/>



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PestFacts WA Service

Cindy Webster, DPIRD Narrogin

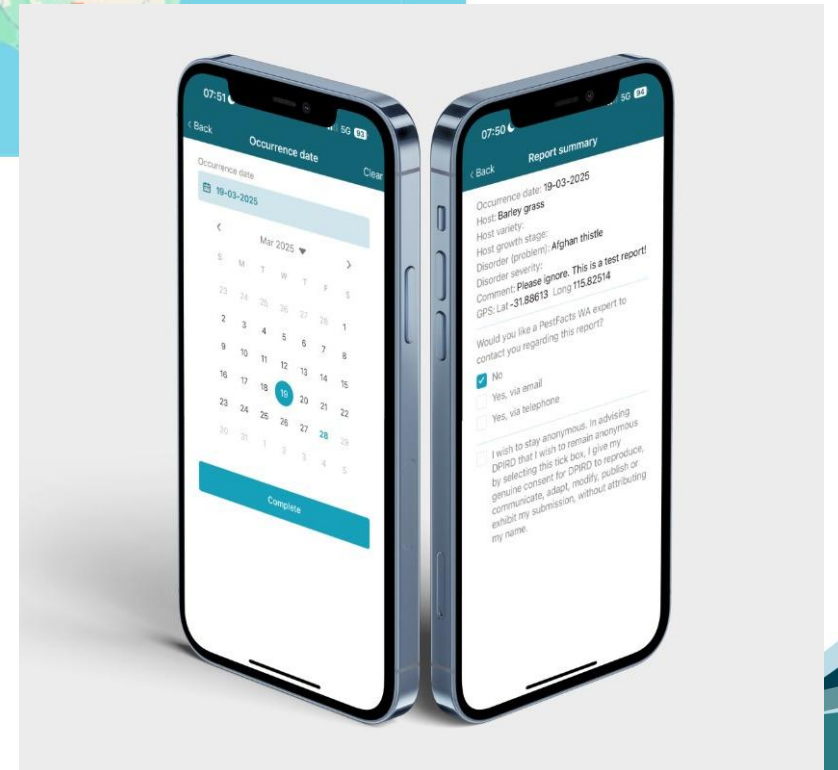
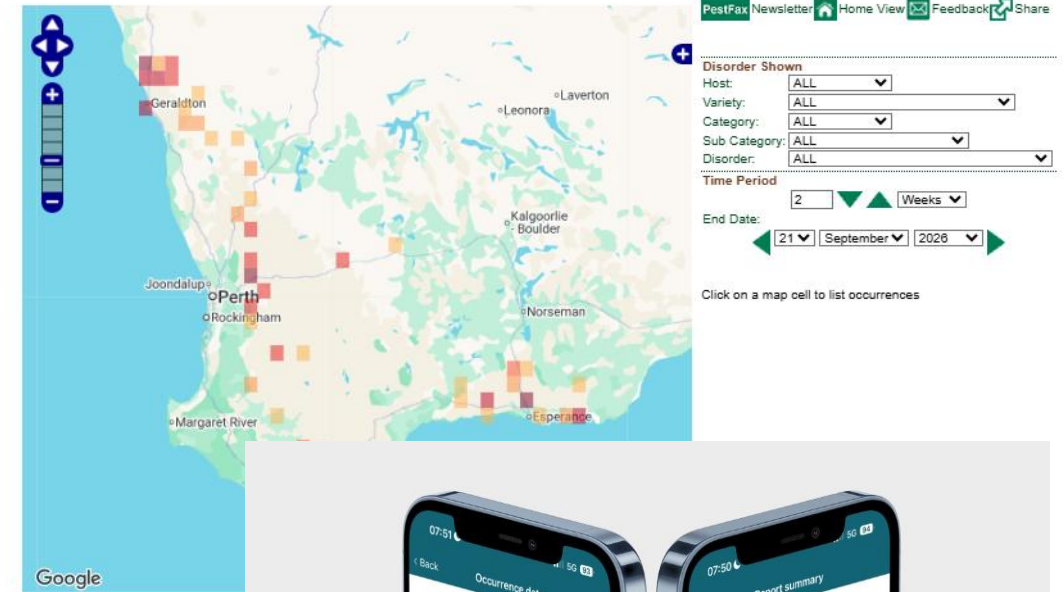
PestFacts WA service

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

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



Question & answer session

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



Thank you

dpird.wa.gov.au



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