



Crop and Pasture Report South Australia

2021–22 Crop establishment

July 2021



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and Regions

Crop and Pasture Report South Australia

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Contents

State Summary	5
Weather	5
Crops	5
Pastures	5
Key links to other information	6
Notes on the calculation of crop estimates	6
Crop Estimates	7
District Reports	10
Western Eyre Peninsula.....	10
Weather.....	10
Crops	10
Pastures.....	10
Lower Eyre Peninsula	11
Weather.....	11
Crops	11
Pastures.....	11
Eastern Eyre Peninsula	12
Weather.....	12
Crops	12
Pastures.....	12
Upper North	13
Weather.....	13
Crops	13
Pastures.....	13
Mid North	14
Weather.....	14
Crops	14
Pastures.....	14

Yorke Peninsula.....	15
Weather.....	16
Crops	16
Pastures.....	16
Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu & Kangaroo Island	16
Weather.....	17
Crops	17
Pastures.....	17
Lower Murray.....	18
Weather.....	18
Crops	18
Pastures.....	18
Northern Murray Mallee	19
Weather.....	19
Crops	19
Pastures.....	19
Southern Murray Mallee.....	20
Weather.....	20
Crops	20
Pastures.....	20
Upper South East	21
Weather.....	21
Crops	21
Pastures.....	21
Lower South East	22
Weather.....	22
Crops	22
Pastures.....	22

State Summary

Weather

Rainfall

- May rainfall was generally below average across the agricultural districts with pockets of average rainfall on Lower Eyre Peninsula and the Mid-North and very much below average rainfall on eastern Kangaroo Island and parts of the Southern Mallee.
- Rainfall for June varied from above average in parts of Western Eyre Peninsula and around the Lower Lakes and northern Coorong to below average in the eastern part of the Southern Mallee.
- The northeast corner of the Pastoral Zone and the southern part of the North East Pastoral Zone had below average rainfall for May. The remainder of the pastoral areas received average rainfall.
- June rainfall was above average in an area northwest of Ceduna and north of Moomba with average rainfall in the remainder of the Pastoral Zone.

Temperatures

- Mean maximum temperatures for May were average on Upper Eyre Peninsula and the Upper North and above average in most other agricultural districts. The majority of the Pastoral Zone had average maximum temperatures with pockets of above average temperatures.
- June mean maximum temperatures varied from below average northwest of Minnipa to above average south of a line from Kadina to Yunta.

Crops

- Total crop area sown is estimated to be 3.9 million hectares, which is slightly above the long-term average.
- Later than optimal season opening rains have delayed crop emergence and slowed early growth. This has reduced yield potential, particularly in lower rainfall districts.
- An estimated 70% of the crop area was sown dry, before reasonable falls of rain in late May and early June.
- Many farmers continued seeding dry through May, particularly on lighter soil types, relying on soil applied herbicides for weed control. Some chose to only sow a portion of their crop dry and waited for rain to enable weed control before completing seeding.
- Most farmers across the State had completed seeding by mid-June, which is only two weeks later than normal.
- Strong winds in late May caused some deep burial of seed and damage to newly emerged crops on lighter soil types in some districts, with some small areas resown.
- Crop emergence has varied depending on the amount of rain received, with patchy emergence of dry sown crops particularly on non-wetting sands and heavier soil types, and generally good emergence where higher falls of rain were received in late May and early June.
- Soil-applied herbicide efficacy has been particularly good with low levels of grass weeds in crops sown into both dry and moist soil.
- Topsoil across most districts has adequate to good soil moisture, however deeper soil moisture varies from very low to good, depending on rainfall received in late May and June.
- With the late break to the season some farmers reduced the area sown to canola, while others maintained their area, due to the high prices being offered.
- Farmers in the Mallee districts have significantly reduced the area sown to pulse and canola crops, and there has also been some reduction in the area sown to wheat.
- The area sown to oaten hay has been reduced by 40% or more, due to lower market demand with most replaced by pulses and barley.
- The area sown to lentils has increased in several districts with increased market demand.

- Many farmers in the medium and higher rainfall districts applied nitrogen fertilizer to crops before rainfall events in June and most will apply more given forecasts of above average winter and spring rainfall.
- Red legged earth mite and lucerne flea are becoming active in pulse and some canola crops.
- Increased mice numbers were reported in numerous districts prior to seeding, but strategic baiting in vulnerable paddocks has been effective in controlling them.

Pastures

- Except for Eyre Peninsula, all districts had insufficient rain to germinate pastures until late May and despite average to above average temperatures, growth was slow. Pastures on Eyre Peninsula germinated with rains in April but dry conditions in May slowed growth.
- Producers have continued supplementary feeding livestock with hay and grain in most districts through May and June.
- By the end of June, growth of both sown and regenerating pastures was sufficient for livestock to graze in the Lower Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula and the South East districts, but in other districts with nil or low growth, farmers continue supplementary feeding livestock.
- Many farmers have either exhausted on-farm hay and grain or have very low levels of reserves.
- There are limited supplies of hay still available in most districts, but grain supplies are difficult to source.

Key links to other information

[Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources - Soil and Land Condition monitoring](#)

[Bureau of Meteorology - Weather and rainfall observations](#)

Notes on the calculation of crop estimates

Crop estimates for the current year assume average rainfall and temperature conditions for the remainder of the growing season.

Grain estimates are for total grain production and include grain delivered for immediate sale and warehousing plus grain retained on-farm for seed, feed and future sale.

Hay estimates are for total hay production and include all pasture, cereal and other crops cut for hay, both dry-land and irrigated.

The estimates are based on information provided by Rural Solutions SA District Reporters from a variety of sources and are updated throughout the season as conditions change and further information becomes available. They are intended to provide an indication of crop potential at the time the report is prepared.

The estimates are updated using ABS census data as available.

Crop Estimates

TABLE 1 CROP ESTIMATES BY DISTRICT

		Western Eyre Peninsula	Lower Eyre Peninsula	Eastern Eyre Peninsula	Yorke Peninsula	Upper North	Mid North	Lower North	Kangaroo Island
Wheat	<i>ha</i>	437 000	142 000	366 000	168 000	245 000	255 600	70 000	4 600
	<i>t</i>	568 000	470 000	585 000	553 000	467 000	665 000	220 000	15 200
Durum	<i>ha</i>	0	0	0	13 500	6 000	5 000	4 200	0
	<i>t</i>	0	0	0	41 000	14 500	13 500	12 500	0
Barley	<i>ha</i>	96 000	71 000	81 000	158 000	91 500	103 500	28 000	3 000
	<i>t</i>	149 000	256 000	133 000	553 000	183 000	290 000	97 000	10 000
Oats	<i>ha</i>	14 000	3 500	4 600	3 800	4 800	4 500	2 500	1 600
	<i>t</i>	15 500	8 200	6 500	10 200	8 000	11 500	6 700	4 500
Rye	<i>ha</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<i>t</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Triticale	<i>ha</i>	400	500	500	1 000	1 200	1 700	400	100
	<i>t</i>	450	1 500	700	2 800	2 400	4 200	1 200	400
Peas	<i>ha</i>	2 500	2 200	4 200	12 700	15 300	14 300	6 100	400
	<i>t</i>	2 500	3 500	3 800	20 000	18 000	23 000	11 000	600
Lupins	<i>ha</i>	1 500	10 000	5 000	1 000	3 000	1 800	500	1 000
	<i>t</i>	1 350	14 000	4 500	1 200	3 200	2 200	700	1 600
Beans	<i>ha</i>	400	9 200	400	11 200	13 500	13 000	2 500	3 400
	<i>t</i>	500	18 400	300	20 000	17 500	19 300	4 800	6 100
Chickpeas	<i>ha</i>	0	400	200	4 000	3 200	2 000	300	0
	<i>t</i>	0	500	200	5 000	3 800	2 600	350	0
Lentils	<i>ha</i>	2 400	8 000	2 000	139 000	12 000	16 000	7 000	0
	<i>t</i>	2 400	14 000	1 800	264 000	14 500	21 000	10 500	0
Vetch	<i>ha</i>	2 400	3 600	2 000	2 600	5 600	4 300	300	0
	<i>t</i>	700	2 100	900	1 500	2 200	2 500	200	0
Canola	<i>ha</i>	5 700	74 000	7 500	12 000	22 000	24 500	4 300	5 200
	<i>t</i>	6 300	140 000	6 600	21 200	33 200	35 500	6 500	11 000
Hay (not in total)	<i>ha</i>	5 500	6 000	6 500	13 500	10 500	19 500	8 500	7 500
	<i>t</i>	13 000	27 000	15 000	60 000	31 000	74 000	30 000	35 500
Total	<i>ha</i>	559 900	324 400	473 400	526 800	423 100	446 200	126 100	19 300
	<i>t</i>	746 700	928 200	743 300	1 492 900	767 300	1 090 300	371 450	49 400

TABLE 1 CROP ESTIMATES BY DISTRICT (CONT)

		Central Hills & Fleurieu	Lower Murray	Nth Murray Mallee	Sth Murray Mallee	Upper South East	Lower South East	State Total
Wheat	<i>ha</i>	6 700	50 500	220 000	100 000	79 000	23 000	2 167 400
	<i>t</i>	17 500	50 500	177 000	100 000	215 000	92 000	4 195 200
Durum	<i>ha</i>	300	500	0	0	7 500	0	37 000
	<i>t</i>	600	450	0	0	18 000	0	100 550
Barley	<i>ha</i>	13 000	75 000	62 000	120 500	40 000	7 000	949 500
	<i>t</i>	35 500	75 000	50 000	120 000	110 500	28 000	2 090 000
Oats	<i>ha</i>	2 100	2 000	2 200	4 000	21 000	4 700	75 300
	<i>t</i>	4 800	2 000	1 800	4 000	50 000	14 500	148 200
Rye	<i>ha</i>	0	1 000	3 000	1 000	1 600	0	6 600
	<i>t</i>	0	900	1 500	800	1 800	0	5 000
Triticale	<i>ha</i>	500	2 000	1 500	10 500	1 000	500	21 800
	<i>t</i>	1 200	2 000	900	10 500	2 300	1 900	32 450
Peas	<i>ha</i>	1 000	1 500	1 500	2 100	2 900	400	67 100
	<i>t</i>	1 600	1 200	750	1 700	4 300	800	92 750
Lupins	<i>ha</i>	1 600	800	3 000	3 100	11 000	2 700	46 000
	<i>t</i>	2 400	650	1 500	2 500	14 200	4 500	54 500
Beans	<i>ha</i>	300	0	0	2 000	28 000	13 800	97 700
	<i>t</i>	500	0	0	1 600	45 000	36 000	170 000
Chickpeas	<i>ha</i>	200	800	1 000	1 000	600	200	13 900
	<i>t</i>	200	650	500	800	800	300	15 700
Lentils	<i>ha</i>	300	1 100	300	3 000	3 000	200	194 300
	<i>t</i>	400	900	150	2 400	4 000	300	336 350
Vetch	<i>ha</i>	0	3 100	4 200	5 100	1 200	0	34 400
	<i>t</i>	0	1 500	1 900	2 500	1 200	0	17 200
Canola	<i>ha</i>	2 800	1 000	2 200	3 000	23 500	15 500	203 200
	<i>t</i>	4 200	800	1 100	2 400	45 000	34 000	347 800
Hay (not in total)	<i>ha</i>	27 000	10 000	2 500	25 000	46 000	27 000	215 000
	<i>t</i>	115 000	25 000	2 000	63 000	230 000	140 000	860 500
Total	<i>ha</i>	28 800	139 300	300 900	255 300	220 300	68 000	3 914 200
	<i>t</i>	68 900	136 550	237 100	249 200	512 100	212 300	7 605 700

TABLE 2 CROP ESTIMATES AGAINST FIVE YEAR AVERAGE

		2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	5 year ave	2021/22
Wheat	<i>ha</i>	2 237 700	2 024 100	2 000 400	2 112 100	2 201 600	2 115 200	2 167 400
	<i>t</i>	6 460 500	4 122 500	3 156 000	3 251 500	4 923 000	4 382 700	4 195 200
Durum	<i>ha</i>	55 200	55 700	42 000	42 900	37 800	46 700	37 000
	<i>t</i>	209 700	139 400	75 220	82 560	114 870	124 400	100 550
Barley	<i>ha</i>	799 300	714 600	818 600	990 000	953 500	855 200	949 500
	<i>t</i>	2 774 800	1 640 700	1 725 800	2 091 000	2 560 000	2 158 500	2 090 000
Oats	<i>ha</i>	94 600	77 000	75 700	72 800	77 700	79 600	75 300
	<i>t</i>	258 700	149 300	121 500	120 450	173 700	164 700	148 200
Rye	<i>ha</i>	10 500	6 500	5 300	5 700	8 600	7 300	6 600
	<i>t</i>	15 700	5 100	3 150	4 250	11 100	7 900	5 000
Triticale	<i>ha</i>	21 500	19 900	29 400	32 300	28 800	26 400	21 800
	<i>t</i>	58 130	35 050	33 500	42 250	70 750	47 900	32 450
Peas	<i>ha</i>	97 300	90 200	65 700	65 300	70 000	77 700	67 100
	<i>t</i>	176 100	113 750	53 600	70 100	113 700	105 500	92 750
Lupins	<i>ha</i>	76 800	62 800	61 000	51 100	50 600	60 500	46 000
	<i>t</i>	134 800	53 400	59 950	53 800	75 650	75 500	54 500
Beans	<i>ha</i>	75 500	67 400	63 100	98 400	100 600	81 000	97 700
	<i>t</i>	166 530	101 660	79 680	156 650	212 700	143 400	170 000
Chickpeas	<i>ha</i>	20 500	29 700	33 600	22 200	29 500	27 100	13 900
	<i>t</i>	34 360	33 580	23 870	17 000	44 050	30 600	15 700
Lentils	<i>ha</i>	169 600	184 700	149 800	164 300	184 700	170 600	194 300
	<i>t</i>	447 680	260 200	177 870	220 400	345 950	290 400	336 350
Vetch	<i>ha</i>	32 200	32 400	28 400	34 000	36 400	32 700	34 400
	<i>t</i>	34 800	15 350	5 760	9 420	27 750	18 600	17 200
Canola	<i>ha</i>	203 000	200 200	200 100	206 600	220 800	206 100	203 200
	<i>t</i>	372 900	261 400	278 900	347 400	461 800	344 500	347 800
Hay (not in total)	<i>ha</i>	258 800	202 900	370 000	320 600	258 000	282 100	215 000
	<i>t</i>	1 454 300	948 600	1 104 000	1 258 900	1 195 000	1 192 200	860 500
Total	<i>ha</i>	3 893 700	3 565 200	3 572 100	3 897 700	4 000 600	3 785 900	3 914 200
	<i>t</i>	11 144 700	6 931 400	5 794 900	6 466 800	9 135 000	7 894 600	7 605 700

District Reports

Western Eyre Peninsula

Weather

- Rainfall for May was generally below average with an area around Ceduna receiving average rainfall.
- June rainfall was above average with an area around Kyancutta and Wudinna receiving very much above average rainfall.
- Mean maximum temperatures were average for May and average to below average for June. Mean minimum temperatures were average for May and average to above average for June.
- Strong winds were recorded on 24 May.

Crops

- Generally dry conditions resulted in seeding delays in the western part of the district, particularly on higher risk soils such as non-wetting sands or dry-saline land.
- Most farmers had finished seeding by mid-June.
- There have been no significant changes in the area sown to most crops.
- The high price of canola has resulted in a 5% increase in canola area sown, with a corresponding decrease in wheat and pulses.
- Significant winds in late May caused some deep burial of seed and damage to newly emerged crops resulting in small areas requiring resowing.
- Crop emergence was patchy in dry sown paddocks and crop maturity is variable. Most crops sown following opening rains are at two to four leaf stage and the small areas of dry sown cereals are at mid-tillering.
- Good rainfall and warm soil temperatures in June allowed rapid germination of crops and pastures with most paddocks containing adequate cover for erosion protection by the end of June. Despite strong winds on June 24 there was not the same amount of raised dust observed during windy days in May.
- Soils in most areas now contain some stored moisture throughout the profile.
- Some farmers have applied urea to early sown crops ahead of rainfall events during the last month and more will spread nitrogen if forecast good winter and spring rainfall eventuates.
- Good pre-emergent herbicide efficacy and low soil moisture has resulted in low grass weed numbers in crops.
- Limited opportunities for pre-seeding herbicide applications has resulted in high broadleaf weed pressure in many early sown cereals and in-crop herbicides will be applied to control them.
- Red legged earth mite and lucerne flea are becoming active in pulse crops and pastures but have been well controlled in canola crops by seeding insecticide applications.
- Increased mice numbers were reported prior to seeding, but strategic baiting in vulnerable paddocks has been effective in controlling them.
- The number of cereal paddocks sown for hay has increased to replenish on-farm supplies depleted by extended supplementary feeding of livestock over summer and autumn.

Pastures

- Early germination of pastures was excellent. However, dry conditions in May slowed growth, with many producers needing to continue supplementary feeding throughout June to give pasture paddocks time to accumulate biomass.
- To help maximise pasture biomass most farmers will spray top pasture paddocks later in the season to control seed set rather than removing the grass weeds during winter.
- Lambing percentages have generally been good due to increased supplementary feeding of pregnant ewes to maintain condition during autumn.

Lower Eyre Peninsula

Weather

- May rainfall was average to below average. June rainfall was average to above average.
- Mean maximum temperatures were above average for May and average for June.
- Mean minimum temperatures were average for May and above average for June.

Crops

- Some stubble burning conducted around Cummins in early May to manage herbicide resistant weeds.
- Dry conditions delayed seeding so landholders continued lime spreading and soil modification operations well into May.
- Very strong winds on May 24 saw some raised dust coming from other parts of the region, however most paddocks had sufficient surface cover to adequately protect against wind erosion.
- Dry conditions in May resulted in minor seeding delays, and most of the crop was sown dry with seeding completed by the middle of June.
- In most areas, mild temperatures and warm soils resulted in rapid germination of crops and pastures. Cold nights at the end of June slowed crop and pasture growth.
- All farmers sowed their entire winter cropping program, with reports of an increased area sown to canola of 15% compared to last year. There was a corresponding reduction in the area sown to pulse crops.
- Pre-emergent herbicide applications were effective at controlling grass weeds in cereals. Broadleaf weed numbers in early sown cereals are high and farmers will need to control them with in-crop sprays.
- Soil profiles contain high amounts of soil moisture. There has been minor, temporary waterlogging observed on some paddocks south of Edillillie toward the end of June.
- Crops are healthy but maturity is around a fortnight behind normal due to dry conditions in autumn.
- Large amounts of nitrogen were applied to crops ahead of rainfall events in June, and most farmers are preparing to apply more given the forecasts of good winter and spring rainfall.
- Crop disease and insect pest levels are generally low.

Pastures

- Livestock are generally in excellent condition.
- Despite good pasture germination, dry autumn conditions slowed growth and paddock biomass is generally low. Most producers continued supplementary feeding or feeding in containment areas to the end of June.
- Most livestock producers intend to cut a paddock or two for hay to replenish on-farm supplies depleted by continued supplementary feeding in summer and autumn.

Eastern Eyre Peninsula

Weather

- Rainfall for May was below average. Rainfall for June was average to above average.
- Mean maximum temperatures were average for both May and June.
- Mean minimum temperatures were average for May and above average for June.
- Strong winds were recorded on May 24.

Crops

- Dry conditions in May caused seeding delays.
- Despite a delayed start, seeding was mostly finished by the middle of June.
- Warm soils resulted in rapid crop germination following rains.
- Hot, dry winds on May 24 saw significant drift on paddocks with poor surface cover.
- Some small areas required resowing due to wind damage. Farmers on vulnerable soils, such as non-wetting sands, delayed seeding until good rainfall was received in June and this minimised wind damage to a large extent.
- Despite dry autumn conditions, crop areas did not change significantly from the average, with most farmers sowing their entire winter cropping program.
- Good rainfall in June promoted crop germination and growth and most paddocks now contain adequate surface cover for erosion protection.
- The small areas of dry sown cereals are at mid-tillering and, if sufficient winter and spring rainfall is received, generally have good yield potential. Most crops sown following opening rains are at the two to four leaf stage.
- Good pre-emergent herbicide efficacy resulted in low grass weed numbers in crop. However, limited opportunities for knockdown sprays prior to seeding has resulted in pressure from broadleaf weeds with many farmers applying in-crop herbicides in late June.
- Soils in most districts now contain some stored moisture throughout the profile.
- Most farmers applied nitrogen fertilizer ahead of rainfall events in late June given the forecast for good winter and spring rainfall.
- Insect pests have generally been low in numbers and little crop disease has been reported.
- The number of cereal paddocks sown for hay has been increased to replenish on-farm supplies depleted by extended supplementary feeding of livestock over summer and autumn.

Pastures

- Early germination of pastures was excellent. However, dry autumn conditions checked growth.
- Many producers needed to continue supplementary feeding throughout June to give pasture paddocks time to accumulate biomass.
- Many farmers will delay spraying out grass weeds in pastures to maximise pasture biomass and will spraytop pastures in spring to manage grass weed seed set.
- Sheep are in excellent condition with reports of good lambing percentages despite the dry conditions over summer. Farmers have increased supplementary feeding to maintain the condition of pregnant ewes.
- Good June rainfall resulted in runoff, filling dams in the Cleve Hills and allowing farmers in this part of the district to discontinue carting water for livestock.

Upper North

Weather

- Rainfall for May was average in the northwest and below average in the remainder of the district.
- June rainfall was average across most of the district with an area of above average rainfall around Georgetown and Yacka.
- Mean maximum temperatures were average for both May and June. Mean minimum temperatures were average for May and above average to very much above average for June.

Crops

- Most farmers continued dry seeding through May, sowing paddocks with lower weed risk first.
- Some farmers stopped seeding in mid-May waiting for rain to germinate weeds, while others continued and completed their sowing program.
- Many farmers had finished or were close to finished seeding by the time the first reasonable rains of 10 to 20mm were received in late May and early June.
- Some farmers only sowed pasture feed dry and waited for the rain, before commencing their seeding program. These farmers did not complete seeding until late June.
- In the southern part of the district many farmers sowed pulses and wheat dry but waited for rain to get a weed germination in wheat stubbles, before sowing barley. In the northern part of the district farmers dry sowed wheat or pulse crops into wheat stubbles to manage self-sown wheat.
- The area sown to canola was reduced slightly, due to the late break, and many farmers sowed canola dry.
- The area sown to oaten hay has been reduced by 40% or more, due to reduced market options.
- Most farmers maintained their area sown to pulse crops, despite the later break to the season.
- Soil applied herbicides have been activated by the rainfall events in late May and June and most are providing good early weed control.
- Mice numbers were high in the Gladstone to Gulnare area and some paddocks were baited four times to get numbers down. A few crops that were severely damaged by mice were resown. In the remainder of the district there have been isolated paddocks with moderate mice numbers and some farmers have baited to control them.
- Most crops have emerged well.
- In the northern part of the district, soil moisture is adequate in the topsoil but limited at depth, while in the southern areas there is reasonable moisture at depth.
- Red legged earth mite and lucerne flea numbers have begun to increase in some pulse and canola crops, requiring control.

Pastures

- Emergence and growth of sown and regenerating pastures has been slow and most still do not have sufficient growth to be grazed.
- Pastures in the more marginal cropping areas north of Orroroo have had minimal germination and growth.
- Producers are continuing to supplementary feed livestock with hay and grain. Many are beginning to deplete their on-farm reserves and have purchased additional hay.
- Adequate supplies of hay available for sale, but grain supplies are limited.
- Area sown to vetch or vetch and cereal pastures has increased in the northern part of the district to replace regenerating medic pastures.
- Many producers have reduced stocking rates, which has enabled livestock to be maintained in reasonable condition.

Mid North

Weather

- Rainfall for May was average in the west and below average in the remainder of the district.
- June rainfall was average across most of the district, with an area of above average rainfall around Balaklava.
- Mean maximum temperatures were average to above average for both May and June. Mean minimum temperatures were average for May and above average to very much above average for June.

Crops

- Seeding continued through May with approximately 60 to 70% of the crop sown dry before rain was received in late May.
- The area sown to oaten hay was reduced by 30 to 40% and there has been a small increase in the area sown to lentils (5 to 10%), due to their improved price.
- The area sown to canola did not change as a result of the late opening rains.
- Many farmers waited for weed germination to occur before sowing barley. Early maturing wheat varieties were also sown after the rain to control germinating weeds in paddocks with high weed seed numbers.
- Many canola crops had patchy emergence, particularly on heavy textured soils and bean crops had a staggered emergence, as early rains were insufficient to wet-up soils.
- Cereals all emerged well after the rain.
- Strong winds caused some deep burial of dry sown seed, slowing crop emergence.
- Soil profiles are rapidly filling with moisture, but most are not yet full.
- Effectiveness of soil applied herbicides on early weed control in dry sown crops, has generally been good but later germination may still occur.
- In general, weed control from herbicides applied at seeding has been good.
- Mice numbers increased in isolated paddocks and baiting has been carried out to reduce numbers before seeding.
- Lucerne flea have increased and are damaging some cereal and lentil crops.

Pastures

- Emergence and growth of sown and regenerating pastures has been slow but there had been sufficient growth by late June to enable grazing to begin.
- Red legged earth mite and lucerne flea have become active in dry sown pasture feed.
- Producers have had an extended period of supplementary feeding and have used up most of their on-farm feed reserves.
- There are still adequate amounts of hay available for sale.
- Most ewe flocks are currently lambing or have finished lambing and producers have started lamb marking. It is too early to get an indication of lambing percentages.
- There is still insufficient pasture for cattle and producers will continue supplementary feeding for a few more weeks.
- Some farmers reported some unexplained ewe deaths through lambing.

Lower North

Weather

- Rainfall was below average for May and average for June.
- Mean maximum temperatures were above average for both May and June.
- Mean minimum temperatures were average for May and very much above average for June.
- Strong winds were recorded on several days during May and June.

Crops

- Approximately 70% of crops in the district were sown dry.
- Most farmers applied pre-emergent herbicides prior to sowing. On some of the lighter soils there was a germination of weeds following small rainfall events in May, allowing some weed control using knockdown herbicides prior to sowing.
- Dry sowing is likely to result in many crops where weeds will be difficult to control, particularly cereal in cereal.
- The area sown to canola and faba beans has been reduced and mainly replaced by barley.
- The area of oaten hay has only been reduced by 20%, which was less than earlier estimated. It has mostly been replaced by barley and some wheat.
- The total crop area is relatively unchanged from last year.
- Seeding continued throughout May and June with most crop sown by mid-June and all completed by late June.
- Crop emergence has been very patchy on early sown crops. Rain in June has enabled more even emergence.
- There have been numerous reports of herbicide damage to crops resulting from some pre-emergent applications but it is expected that effected crops should recover quickly.
- Strong winds caused minor damage to crop on lighter soils, mainly on the edges of paddocks.
- Mice numbers are high in localised areas with some farms affected worse than others. Most farms only have a few paddocks where mice have caused crop damage. Any grazed paddocks have a much lower number of mice.
- Snails are just starting to become evident within the Pinery Fire ground. Outside of that area numbers are being actively controlled.
- Insect pests are at very low numbers. There are early signs of lucerne flea and some Russian wheat aphid in barley.

Pastures

- Pastures have been slow to emerge and grow and are currently providing very little useful feed.
- Some wind erosion occurred on a few paddocks of sandy soil that had been overgrazed.
- There is still plenty of hay on-farm and available for sale. Some of the larger hay producers have been selling hay to the Northern Territory.
- Supplies of grain are limited with most farmers keeping grain for their own use.
- Livestock have been well maintained, although lambs have taken longer than normal to get to market weights.
- Lambing percentages have been above average with a high percentage of twins. Some lamb deaths have occurred due to the cold and predation from foxes.

Yorke Peninsula

Weather

- Rainfall for May was below average and June rainfall was average.
- Mean maximum temperatures for May were average on Northern Yorke Peninsula and above average in the rest of the district. June maximum temperatures were average in the northwest corner and above average in the remainder of the district.
- Mean minimum temperatures were average for May and above average to very much above average for June.

Crops

- Despite the break not occurring in most of the district until the end of May, most farmers completed sowing by the start of June, only a few weeks later than normal.
- With the later break, farmers on Northern Yorke Peninsula reduced the area sown to canola. On Central Yorke Peninsula there has been an increase in the area sown to lentils with a reduced area of barley and canola.
- Oaten hay area has been reduced by 40 to 50% and mostly replaced with lentils.
- Crops sown in dry and marginal conditions emerged poorly, with some crops taking more than four weeks to emerge. These crops have recovered well, with minimal impact likely on yield.
- The late break to the season has meant slower growth due to cold temperatures following germination.
- Some wheat sown in late April is already at stem elongation. Most wheat is from three leaf to mid-tillering growth stage.
- Continual rainfall since the end of May has made it difficult to undertake paddock activities such as rolling of barley and lentil paddocks.
- Soil moisture has increased with good levels down the profile.
- Red legged earth mite and lucerne flea have been in low numbers to the end of June.
- Russian wheat aphid has been present in low numbers in early sown wheat and barley crops. These will be controlled when broadleaf herbicides are applied.
- Snail control over the summer has been reasonable in many paddocks due to the dry conditions. However, paddocks with no snail management implemented have high snail numbers.
- Some early sown barley crops have a low amount of net blotch. This is unlikely to spread during winter, however it could lead to early disease establishment in spring.
- Mice numbers increased throughout May with many inland paddocks requiring multiple bait applications to reduce numbers. Mice have only caused minor crop damage across the region, although there have been isolated crops that have suffered some yield loss.
- Regular rainfall events during June have allowed farmers to apply their first nitrogen fertiliser application earlier than normal.
- A new pre-emergent herbicide for the control of ryegrass has caused reduced crop growth and severe bleaching, particularly in barley crops. The cold conditions have slowed crop recovery, and it is too early to determine the impact on yield.

Pastures

- The late break to the season has limited the growth of early sown pasture feed.
- Adequate growth enabled pastures to be grazed in late June, however the cold conditions have slowed growth, reducing the bulk available for grazing.
- A good germination of medic and grasses is now present in regenerating pasture paddocks.
- On-farm hay stocks are low but there are some reserves of lower quality oaten hay available for sale.
- Livestock are in average condition and lambing percentages have been above average.

Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu & Kangaroo Island

Weather

- Rainfall for May was very much below average on eastern Kangaroo Island and southern Fleurieu Peninsula and below average in the rest of the district. June rainfall was average to above average.
- Mean maximum temperatures were above average for both May and June.
- Mean minimum temperatures were average for May and in June, above average on Kangaroo Island, and very much above average on Fleurieu and Adelaide Hills.

Crops

Central Hills/Fleurieu Peninsula

- Some canola, lupins and faba beans were dry sown, mainly on sandier soils.
- The late break had limited impact on crop area sown, although some farmers have decreased the area sown to canola and lentils. This has been replaced with wheat and barley.
- Seeding was 90% complete by the end of June, and some paddocks are now too wet to seed.
- Crop emergence has been staggered due to variable soil moisture levels and dry sowing.
- Strong winds caused minor damage to newly emerged crops, but these have recovered quickly.
- Pre-emergent herbicides have generally given good weed control in dry sown crops. Some control has been a little uneven, but the majority has worked well.
- There have been reports of minor mice damage to emerging crops.
- There has been some minor red legged earth mite damage in some crops.

Kangaroo Island

- Some canola, barley and wheat crops were dry sown.
- Late opening rains have had limited impact on cropping programs.
- Seeding is slightly later than normal, and 95% of crop area had been sown by the end of June.
- Crop emergence has been reasonably uniform. The cold weather has slowed canola growth and made it more susceptible to insect and slug attack. Dry sown crops have had staggered germination but have recovered with later rains.
- Mice are present in low numbers but have not caused significant crop damage.
- Snails and slugs are present, and crops are being baited to minimise crop damage.
- Red legged earth mite and brown pasture loopers have caused damage to emerging crops.

Pastures

Central Hills/Fleurieu Peninsula

- Emergence and growth of sown and regenerating pastures has been slow due the late break and cold weather.
- There are low levels of on-farm hay and grain reserves and many farmers will need to replenish stocks.
- There are good reserves of grain and hay available for sale in the district.
- The late break has impacted livestock condition and lambing percentages. Stock that have been fed quality supplements are in good condition with high lambing percentages, however those in poor condition have much lower lambing percentages.

Kangaroo Island

- Emergence and growth of sown and regenerating pastures has been slow due to the late break and onset of cold weather. Capeweed that germinated with February rains has survived whilst the clover has died, leaving many pastures capeweed dominant.
- Grain reserves are being depleted with producers sourcing grain from the mainland. Hay reserves are reasonable but lower than normal.
- There is very limited grain for purchase on KI. Some hay is still available.
- The late break has impacted livestock condition and lambing percentages in some flocks. Lambing percentages are average.

Lower Murray

Weather

- Rainfall was below average for May and average for June with only small rainfall events occurring.
- Mean maximum temperatures were above average for both May and June.
- Mean minimum temperatures were average for May and above to very much above average for June.
- Strong winds were recorded on several days.

Crops

- Dry seeding continued into May and June as rainfall has been limited and not enough to wet the soil profile.
- Crops have been sown later than the optimum as farmers waited for rain but then decided to sow anyway as dry conditions continued.
- There has been a reduction in the total area of crop sown with large reductions in the area sown to canola and pulse crops.
- There is little subsoil moisture therefore crop production estimates at this stage are below average.
- Crops are very slow to emerge and this has also delayed post-emergent spraying and fertiliser applications.
- Strong winds have damaged emerging crops in some areas further slowing growth.
- Insect and other pests have generally been in low numbers with only a few reports of lucerne flea damaging some stressed crops.

Pastures

- Supplementary feeding of livestock is continuing in paddocks to keep them in good condition as pasture growth has been negligible.
- Sown pasture feed is also struggling to emerge and establish with farmers having to rely on farm supplies of hay and grain to keep stock in adequate condition.
- Lambing percentages have been average.
- River flats have been sown but are slow to establish especially where producers are relying on environmental water licences.
- Hay area is likely to be similar to last year with average quality hay still available on farm.

Northern Murray Mallee

Weather

- Rainfall was below average for May and average to below average for June.
- Mean maximum temperatures were above average for May and June.
- Mean minimum temperatures were average to below average for May and very much above average for June.
- Strong winds have been recorded on several days throughout May and June.

Crops

- Seeding is generally finished across the district.
- Emerging crops are stressed due to lack of moisture and strong wind events.
- While most farmers completed their seeding programs, many farmers in the northern areas reduced their seeding area by up to 30%.
- Most farmers committed to a higher area of dry sowing, with some up to 80% before any useful rains of 5-10mm fell. This was a high risk, but most crops have benefited with earlier crop emergence.
- The area sown to pulse crops and canola has been greatly reduced due to the late start to the season, with some sown to cereal or left as pasture for grazing.
- Crop emergence has been good on the loamy sands, but very poor on heavier textured clay soils.
- Wind erosion has cut emerging seedlings, particularly on lighter soil types.
- There is great concern that if a significant rainfall event does not arrive in the coming weeks there could be high levels of crop failure.
- While average yields may still be possible, it would require very consistent and high rainfall for the rest of the season, as there is very little subsoil stored moisture available across the district.
- Mice are present in paddocks and around buildings but are generally not of in large enough numbers to encourage farmers to start baiting.
- Some weed spraying has commenced to try and preserve all available moisture for crops.

Pastures

- Paddock feed availability is very low with little value in stubbles and green feed only emerging slowly.
- Sown cereal pastures are only able to support grazing for short periods due to very poor growth.
- Most farmers have been supplementary feeding for two to three months in paddocks and are now moving more towards containment feeding.
- Lambing percentages have been down, with many ewes unable to support twins.
- While farmers generally have grain on-hand, there are very low hay reserves in the district.
- Without significant rainfall in the next month many crops will fail and become available for grazing later in the season.

Southern Murray Mallee

Weather

- May rainfall was below average to very much below average and June rainfall ranged from above average in the far west to below average in the eastern half of the district.
- Mean maximum temperatures were above average for May and June. Mean minimum temperatures were average to below average for May and very much above average for June.
- Strong to moderate winds were recorded on numerous occasions through the period.

Crops

- Dry sowing began in April and continued through May and the beginning of June with the majority sown dry or semi-dry.
- There was only sufficient rain in early June to enable crops to emerge.
- Some seeding was still taking place at the end of June.
- Crop emergence has been slow and patchy with poor emergence on heavier soils with high weed numbers, particularly in dry sown crops.
- With the late and poor opening rains some farmers have reduced the area of canola and pulse crops and replaced them with cereals.
- The total crop area sown has been reduced.
- Crop growth has been slow and most cereals had only reached the three to four leaf stage by the end of June.
- Soil conditions are still dry at depth as rainfall has been too light to fill the soil profile.
- Mice and snail numbers have not been significant.
- Some crops have been damaged by strong winds, further slowing growth.
- Lucerne flea has damaged some pulse crops, mainly where they are moisture stressed.

Pastures

- Pasture growth has been limited with late emergence and slow growth.
- Supplementary feeding of hay and grain is continuing. Livestock are in relatively good condition.
- Sown pasture feed has also grown slowly, increasing demand for supplementary feed.
- At this stage lambing percentages are still average to good as farmers are working hard to keep feed supplies up to stock and maintain good animal health.
- There are still adequate supplies of hay, however grain supplies are dwindling as farmers have used more than double the normal amount for supplementary feeding.

Upper South East

Weather

- May rainfall was below average and June rainfall was generally average with above average rainfall in the Field and Meningie areas.
- Mean maximum temperatures for May and June were above average.
- Mean minimum temperatures were average to below average for May and above average to very much above average for June.

Crops

- Due to the dry conditions in April and May most crops were sown later than normal.
- With average to above average rainfall in June, crops have emerged and actively growing.
- There was poor germination on some non-wetting sands.
- Frost events had very minimal impact on crops and have only slowed growth.
- Despite the later than optimum start to the season, most farmers have sown similar crop types and area to last year.
- The area sown to canola has increased slightly (5%) with a reduction in the area sown to beans. The high price of canola influenced some farmers to sow canola, despite the later opening rains.
- Germination and early crop growth were delayed due to a lack of soil moisture and colder temperatures, particularly in the south of the district.
- Knockdown and pre-emergent herbicides have been less effective as most weeds have been moisture stressed.
- New pre-emergent herbicides on the market are providing more options for weed control but farmers and agronomists are still determining where they fit into the farming system.

Pastures

- Pasture feed availability is low due to dry conditions through April and May. Rainfall in June has increased pasture growth.
- Supplementary feeding of livestock is continuing throughout the district.
- Producers trail feeding grain in-paddock have used more than anticipated and sourcing off-farm feed grain is becoming more difficult as farmers hold onto their own stock as reserves.
- Producers who have pregnancy scanned ewes and then containment fed based on nutritional requirements (single, twins, triplets) tend to have more feed on-hand due to better feed budgeting.
- Hay stocks are still at good levels and readily available across the district.

Lower South East

Weather

- Rainfall for May was generally below average and June rainfall was average.
- Mean maximum temperatures were above average for May and average to above average for June.
- Mean minimum temperatures were average for May and above average for June.

Crops

- Opening rains were one to two weeks later than normal.
- The start to the cropping season has been much drier than the last few above average years.
- Frosts have had minimal impact on crop emergence and early growth with daytime maximum temperatures being above average.
- A similar area has been sown to cereals and pulse crops as last year, although the area of canola is down slightly by about 5%.
- A limited area of GM canola has been sown to manage high weed populations.
- High stubble loads have made seeding difficult and although most farmers have tried not to burn, increasing numbers of slugs, snails and mice have meant that burning is the only option.
- There is minimal waterlogging evident in crops due to the drier start to the season.
- Crops sown dry have emerged well and are actively growing.
- There was poor emergence of some small seed crops (clovers), requiring some reseeding.
- Slugs have damaged patches of some emerging canola crops.
- Farmers are closely monitoring early sown wheat crops for *Septoria tritici*, especially where canopies are constantly wet.
- Mice are still active, but at relatively low numbers with very little crop damage. They are being monitored and very little baiting has been conducted to date.

Pastures

- Pasture growth slowed as result of cooler conditions.
- Red legged earth mite are in high numbers and damaging pastures more than usual.
- Slugs have caused damage to some pastures.
- Sown pastures in the northern part of the district have been damaged more than normal by red legged earth mite, slugs, slaters and crickets. This is due to delayed sowing and drier conditions.
- In the northern part of the district there are good supplies of hay and grain for sale, however in the southern part there is less hay available.
- Livestock across the district are generally in good condition with few health issues.
- Supplementary feeding is occurring in most areas, due to slow pasture growth.
- Long range weather forecasts are favourable for good pasture growth.



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