



PRIMARY  
INDUSTRIES  
& REGIONS SA  
**PIRSA**

# Crop and Pasture Report South Australia

2015-16 SEEDING INTENTIONS AND CROP ESTABLISHMENT

JULY 2015

**PREMIUM**  
FOOD AND WINE FROM OUR  
**CLEAN**  
ENVIRONMENT



Crop and Pasture Report - South Australia

This is a bimonthly report prepared by Rural Solutions SA, for the Agriculture, Food and Wine Division of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA).

Information current as of 6 July, 2015.

© Government of South Australia 2015.

## ALL ENQUIRIES

Dave Lewis  
Agribusiness Account Manager, Grains  
Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA)  
GPO Box 1671, Adelaide SA 5001  
Telephone +61 8 8463 6696  
Email [dave.lewis@sa.gov.au](mailto:dave.lewis@sa.gov.au)

## DISCLAIMER

PIRSA and its employees do not warrant or make any representation regarding the use, or results of the use, of the information contained herein as regards to its correctness, accuracy, reliability and currency or otherwise. PIRSA and its employees expressly disclaim all liability or responsibility to any person using the information or advice.

# Table of Contents

<b>State Summary</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Crop Estimates</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>District Reports</b>	<b>9</b>
Western Eyre Peninsula	9
Lower Eyre Peninsula	10
Eastern Eyre Peninsula	11
Upper North	12
Mid North	13
Lower North	14
Yorke Peninsula	15
Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula & Kangaroo Island	16
Lower Murray	17
Northern Murray Mallee	18
Southern Murray Mallee	19
Upper South East	20
Lower South East	21

# State Summary

## WEATHER

- Rainfall for May ranged from below average on Western Eyre Peninsula, Lower Eyre Peninsula and parts of Kangaroo Island and the Upper North to above average in the Adelaide Hills and parts of the Lower South East.
- Mean maximum temperatures for May were below average in the western part of the State and average in the east.
- June rainfall was highly variable and patchy across the State, ranging from very much below average on the west coast of Eyre Peninsula, through the Lower North, Adelaide Hills, Mallee and South East, to above average in the North-East Pastoral and Far North.
- Mean maximum temperatures for June were average across all agricultural districts.

## CROPS

- Stored soil moisture levels across the State are highly variable with many districts well below average but other districts including the Upper North, accumulating good stored soil moisture to date.
- Crops have generally established well and are actively growing.
- The rain in April and May enabled most farmers across the State to start sowing early and complete seeding with minimal delays.
- Dry conditions during May on parts of the Far West Coast and Eastern Eyre Peninsula did not allow farmers in some areas to complete seeding and some have opted to reduce the area of crop.
- In some of the drier areas of the State crop emergence has been poor, particularly on saline areas, heavier soil types and non-wetting sands. Rainfall in mid-June allowed most of these areas to germinate.
- Yield potential in most districts is still close to the long term average, however average to above average rainfall will be required in the next few months to maintain yield potential.
- Early sown cereals in the Port Germein district are at the booting stage with crops in other districts at stem elongation. These crops have grown rapidly with high water use, with some of these crops in some districts on certain soil types beginning to show signs of moisture stress.
- The area sown to wheat has either remained stable or declined slightly in some districts with less wheat sown back onto wheat stubble.
- There has been a significant increase in the area sown to barley in most districts of the State with a good price forecast for the coming harvest.
- The area of canola has been reduced by at least 30% across the State with the area falling by more than 50% in some districts, due to lower prices and poor crop performance in recent years.
- The reduced canola area has been replaced by mainly barley and pulses but also by oaten hay in some districts.
- Red legged earth mite and lucerne flea have been in higher numbers than normal in many parts of the State, damaging emerging crops. Farmers are spraying canola, pulses and cereals to reduce damage.
- Other insect pests have been at relatively low numbers.
- Leaf diseases are at low levels across the State with spot and net form of net blotch in barley being the major diseases.

## PASTURES

- Legume pastures have germinated well in most parts of the State.
- Growth of legume pastures has been variable depending on soil moisture.
- An increasing number of farmers have sown cereals for early feed and these are providing some grazing while legume pastures are establishing.
- Pasture feed is generally in short supply in many districts with farmer's still supplementary feeding livestock to maintain condition.
- Fodder reserves of hay and grain are very low in some districts and without substantial rain in the next few weeks farmers will need to either sell stock or buy in additional feed.

## KEY LINKS TO OTHER INFORMATION

Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources - Soil and Land Condition monitoring:  
[www.environment.sa.gov.au/Knowledge\\_Bank/Science\\_research/Monitoring\\_evaluation\\_analysis/Monitoring/Soil\\_and\\_land\\_condition](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Knowledge_Bank/Science_research/Monitoring_evaluation_analysis/Monitoring/Soil_and_land_condition)

Bureau of Meteorology - Weather and rainfall observations:  
[www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

## NOTES ON 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 dryland 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>	470 000	145 000	392 000	168 000	234 000	247 000	56 500	6 100
	<i>t</i>	564 000	408 000	548 000	488 000	398 000	642 000	159 000	14 500
Durum	<i>ha</i>	0	0	0	20 000	10 000	10 000	6 500	0
	<i>t</i>	0	0	0	48 000	18 000	24 000	17 000	0
Barley	<i>ha</i>	58 000	66 000	71 000	170 000	102 000	101 000	32 000	1 900
	<i>t</i>	74 000	188 000	103 000	475 000	180 000	264 000	90 000	4 800
Oats	<i>ha</i>	16 500	3 200	6 000	4 000	4 500	5 000	1 500	3 300
	<i>t</i>	16 500	7 000	6 000	9 000	5 200	10 000	3 300	8 000
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	1 500	1 700	500	0
	<i>t</i>	400	1 250	550	2 200	2 500	4 200	1 300	0
Peas	<i>ha</i>	4 800	4 500	5 500	18 000	27 000	23 000	6 700	400
	<i>t</i>	3 800	5 500	5 000	27 000	29 000	31 000	10 500	550
Lupins	<i>ha</i>	1 500	26 000	5 500	1 000	3 500	1 800	500	1 000
	<i>t</i>	1 200	40 000	4 300	1 300	4 000	2 500	750	1 600
Beans	<i>ha</i>	0	6 000	400	12 500	7 200	13 500	6 000	600
	<i>t</i>	0	9 000	250	20 000	8 500	23 000	10 200	1 100
Chickpeas	<i>ha</i>	0	400	200	8 500	3 200	5 000	1 000	0
	<i>t</i>	0	500	100	10 000	3 500	5 500	1 200	0
Lentils	<i>ha</i>	0	2 000	200	85 000	4 000	12 500	6 200	0
	<i>t</i>	0	3 000	200	118 000	4 400	17 500	8 600	0
Vetch	<i>ha</i>	2 400	1 800	2 000	2 000	5 500	5 000	300	0
	<i>t</i>	700	1 500	1 200	2 000	2 200	3 500	300	0
Canola	<i>ha</i>	5 300	63 000	10 000	24 000	23 000	26 000	4 200	2 200
	<i>t</i>	4 200	88 000	8 000	34 000	27 000	34 000	5 400	3 500
Hay (not in total)	<i>ha</i>	4 500	3 500	2 500	21 000	21 000	32 000	6 000	6 900
	<i>t</i>	9 200	14 000	5 700	84 000	84 000	135 000	24 000	27 000
Total	<i>ha</i>	558 900	318 400	493 300	514 000	425 400	451 500	121 900	15 500
	<i>t</i>	664 800	751 750	676 600	1 234 500	682 300	1 061 200	307 550	34 050

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>	5 500	69 000	245 000	129 000	68 000	22 000	2 257 100
	<i>t</i>	13 000	104 000	294 000	168 000	150 000	71 000	4 021 500
Durum	<i>ha</i>	300	500	500	0	9 000	0	56 800
	<i>t</i>	500	600	500	0	16 000	0	124 600
Barley	<i>ha</i>	10 000	59 000	56 000	90 000	35 000	5 500	857 400
	<i>t</i>	24 000	88 000	76 500	117 000	77 000	17 000	1 778 300
Oats	<i>ha</i>	1 800	3 000	4 000	3 200	13 500	4 000	73 500
	<i>t</i>	4 100	3 600	5 000	4 000	22 000	9 500	113 200
Rye	<i>ha</i>	0	2 000	3 200	2 500	500	0	8 200
	<i>t</i>	0	2 400	3 000	3 000	400	0	8 800
Triticale	<i>ha</i>	500	4 000	6 000	8 000	2 000	500	27 100
	<i>t</i>	1 200	6 000	7 200	9 500	3 000	1 600	40 900
Peas	<i>ha</i>	1 500	5 000	2 400	3 600	3 000	400	105 800
	<i>t</i>	2 500	4 500	700	3 600	4 200	800	128 650
Lupins	<i>ha</i>	2 000	2 000	2 400	10 000	16 000	3 000	76 200
	<i>t</i>	3 600	1 800	1 200	8 000	20 000	4 500	94 750
Beans	<i>ha</i>	400	200	0	1 200	13 500	10 000	71 500
	<i>t</i>	800	200	0	1 100	19 000	20 000	113 150
Chickpeas	<i>ha</i>	200	0	800	1 000	200	200	20 700
	<i>t</i>	200	0	650	1 000	200	250	23 100
Lentils	<i>ha</i>	200	0	400	1 000	3 000	200	114 700
	<i>t</i>	240	0	200	850	3 300	320	156 610
Vetch	<i>ha</i>	0	1 200	3 600	5 000	800	0	29 600
	<i>t</i>	0	400	1 800	2 500	600	0	16 700
Canola	<i>ha</i>	4 300	4 000	11 000	5 500	26 000	12 500	221 000
	<i>t</i>	6 500	2 400	5 500	4 100	34 000	21 000	277 600
Hay (not in total)	<i>ha</i>	23 000	7 200	2 500	13 000	48 000	27 500	218 600
	<i>t</i>	106 000	25 000	5 000	32 000	168 000	110 000	828 900
Total	<i>ha</i>	26 700	149 900	335 300	260 000	190 500	58 300	3 919 600
	<i>t</i>	56 640	213 900	396 250	322 650	349 700	145 970	6 897 860

TABLE 2 CROP ESTIMATES AGAINST FIVE YEAR AVERAGE

		2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	5 year ave	2015/16
Wheat	<i>ha</i>	2 237 100	2 226 100	2 176 300	2 295 900	2 236 000	2 234 300	2 257 100
	<i>t</i>	5 818 500	4 444 800	3 556 500	4 976 000	4 672 000	4 693 600	4 021 500
Durum	<i>ha</i>	69 800	74 600	77 200	68 300	51 300	68 200	56 800
	<i>t</i>	240 600	223 950	181 240	194 930	118 250	191 800	124 600
Barley	<i>ha</i>	965 200	987 700	907 100	854 900	804 000	903 800	857 400
	<i>t</i>	2 839 100	2 031 800	1 912 900	2 093 500	1 922 000	2 159 900	1 778 300
Oats	<i>ha</i>	75 300	75 800	85 800	85 000	73 300	79 000	73 500
	<i>t</i>	152 300	117 400	128 740	159 700	120 700	135 800	113 200
Rye	<i>ha</i>	9 500	9 500	9 500	7 100	9 000	8 900	8 200
	<i>t</i>	11 600	7 900	7 500	6 350	9 300	8 500	8 800
Triticale	<i>ha</i>	85 700	80 200	69 200	49 300	27 100	62 300	27 100
	<i>t</i>	167 100	117 500	95 920	86 500	44 300	102 300	40 900
Peas	<i>ha</i>	126 300	109 900	103 700	106 100	98 000	108 800	105 800
	<i>t</i>	238 500	144 400	116 100	143 250	114 600	151 400	128 650
Lupins	<i>ha</i>	64 900	64 900	63 200	69 300	64 700	65 400	76 200
	<i>t</i>	120 100	78 900	75 110	105 500	72 250	90 400	94 750
Beans	<i>ha</i>	71 500	72 200	69 400	69 000	65 600	69 500	71 500
	<i>t</i>	168 600	121 220	105 510	139 400	93 900	125 700	113 150
Chickpeas	<i>ha</i>	10 700	12 200	19 700	20 700	19 700	16 600	20 700
	<i>t</i>	16 000	19 550	21 810	29 280	20 250	21 400	23 100
Lentils	<i>ha</i>	97 700	106 100	88 800	94 800	106 200	98 700	114 700
	<i>t</i>	174 350	181 600	97 720	163 350	152 350	153 900	156 610
Vetch	<i>ha</i>	12 800	13 100	13 100	17 000	23 200	15 800	29 600
	<i>t</i>	12 900	11 120	6 800	14 320	13 150	11 700	16 700
Canola	<i>ha</i>	196 500	269 500	302 700	301 000	321 200	278 200	221 000
	<i>t</i>	381 700	435 700	398 700	434 400	313 800	392 900	277 600
Hay (not in total)	<i>ha</i>	244 200	201 500	204 500	227 300	211 500	217 800	218 600
	<i>t</i>	1 066 000	774 400	769 000	1 018 100	763 000	878 100	828 900
Total	<i>ha</i>	4 023 000	4 101 800	3 985 700	4 038 400	3 899 300	4 009 600	<b>3 919 600</b>
	<i>t</i>	10 341 350	7 935 840	6 704 550	8 546 480	7 666 900	8 239 000	<b>6 897 900</b>



# District Reports

## Western Eyre Peninsula

### WEATHER

- May rainfall was below average in most of the district and June rainfall varied from average in the east to well below average in the coastal districts between Elliston and Streaky Bay.
- Scattered showers from 16 to 18 June brought falls of greater than 15 mm to inland districts with Wudinna receiving the most rain (40 mm). Rainfall distribution has been patchy with large differences in rainfall between neighbouring properties.
- Mean maximum temperatures were below average for May and average to above average for June. Several light frosts were experienced during June.

### CROPS

- Very dry conditions between Elliston and Streaky Bay have resulted in a reduction in crop area sown.
- Estimates are that many growers in these districts have sown less than 75% of their intended program with large areas around Penong, Poochera and Port Kenny/Mt Cooper also not sown.
- Some growers in the Mt Cooper, Wirrulla and Mudamuckla districts finished their seeding programs following rainfalls of more than 10 mm around 24 June.
- Crop germination has been poor on heavy textured soils and calcareous soils.
- There is little stored subsoil moisture in most areas of the district.
- The area sown to canola has been reduced by 10 to 15% given the higher risk and recent poor returns.
- Paddocks following break crop/pastures have been sown but growers have reduced the area of cereals sown into cereal stubble paddocks.
- Early sown paddocks, including vetch and medic pasture in the central parts of Western Eyre have germinated well.
- There was some concern about the potential for herbicide residues impacting crop germination given extremely low spring/summer rainfall. Some farmers changed their rotation in paddocks where they considered this to be a risk.
- Mild conditions resulted in a good germination of broadleaf weeds. Good weed control has been achieved with use of post emergent herbicides.
- A number of insect pests including Bryobia mite, red legged earth mite and lucerne flea have caused damage to early emerging crops and pastures on heavier soil types with some damage from polyphrates weevil on grey soils.
- Mice activity in isolated areas was higher than expected with approximately 10% of growers baiting and some re-sowing of early sown cereals for feed around Cungi.

### PASTURES

- There has been good pasture growth in the central parts of Western Eyre Peninsula on loamy soils, however growth has been minimal on heavier textured and calcareous soils, particularly along the coast.
- In areas where pasture growth has been good, livestock are in excellent condition.
- There are a number of growers still supplementary feeding stock where paddocks feed is scarce.

## Lower Eyre Peninsula

### WEATHER

- May rainfall was below average across the district.
- June rainfall varied from very much below average along the western coast, average east of Cummins, to above average in coastal areas around Tumby Bay.
- Mean maximum temperatures were average to below average in May and average for June. Inland areas recorded several frosts towards the end of June.

### CROPS

- Good seeding conditions allowed most farmers to complete their planned sowing program by the first week of June.
- The area sown to canola has been reduced by 15 to 20% with the majority of this sown to lupins and barley with a smaller increase in the area sown to peas and beans.
- Sunny days and damp soil profiles resulted in a rapid germination of crops and pastures across most of the district.
- South of Edillilie cooler temperatures in late June slowed growth.
- Most farmers applied urea to crops ahead of rainfall events in the last half of June.
- Pulse and canola crops were at full canopy closure with cereal crops at early to mid-tillering by the end of June.
- Lucerne flea and red legged earth mite caused some damage to emerging pastures and canola crops. Most growers controlled these early with minimal crop damage.
- Net blotch has been prevalent in emerging barley crops with fungicide applications effective in controlling these early infections.
- Post emergent herbicide applications have been effective in controlling both broadleaf and grass weeds.
- There has been some herbicide residue damage reported to isolated areas of crop
- Snail and mice numbers are low.

### PASTURES

- Sown pasture paddocks and grazing crops have high amounts of feed.
- Livestock are in excellent condition.
- South of Edillilie, drier than average conditions and cool temperatures has slowed growth on sub-clover pastures

## Eastern Eyre Peninsula

### WEATHER

- May rainfall was generally average across the district and June rainfall varied from below average in the west to average in the rest of the district.
- Mean maximum temperatures were below average during May and average during June.
- Several light frosts were recorded at the beginning and end of June.

### CROPS

- Mild and damp conditions enabled most farmers to finish seeding by the first week of June.
- Good moisture conditions during seeding in most districts, enabled farmers to sow their whole cropping program with no significant changes in area or crop type.
- Dry conditions in the Buckleboo area has resulted in a slight reduction in the area of crop sown.
- Germination has been poor on the heavier soil types and those crops that did germinate suffered early moisture stress.
- The area of canola is expected to be reduced by 15 to 20% with the majority of this sown to lupin and vetch break crops with a small increase in the area of beans and lentils.
- With the dry spring/summer conditions there were concerns about potential herbicide residue damage. Some growers changed their rotation to minimise the risk of crop damage.
- Crops emerged rapidly. Canola and pulse crops were at canopy closure and cereal crops were tillering by the end of June.
- There are large differences in the vigour of early sown crops compared to that of later sown crops.
- Many farmers applied nitrogen fertiliser ahead of late June rainfall events.
- Post emergent herbicide applications have generally been effective with low levels of both broadleaf and grass weeds in crop.
- High levels of net blotch have been observed in barley crops and most growers have or are planning to apply fungicide to protect crops from potential yield loss.
- Rhizoctonia damage has been observed in many barley crops.
- Lucerne flea and red legged earth mite caused damage to emerging canola and pulse crops and most farmers sprayed to reduce numbers before crop growth was slowed with cooler weather in late June.
- Topsoil has dried out but most soil profiles contain some stored subsoil moisture.

### PASTURES

- Mild conditions have resulted in generally high levels of feed in pasture paddocks.
- Lucerne flea and red legged earth mite caused damage to emerging pastures and most farmers have sprayed to control numbers.
- Growers are intending to cut hay from oat and vetch paddocks, given favourable conditions.
- Livestock are in excellent condition.

## Upper North

### WEATHER

- May rainfall was below average in the western part of the district and near average in the east.
- June rainfall varied from below average in the south east to above average in the northern part of the district during June.
- Mean maximum temperatures for May were below average along the western coast with the remainder of the district being average. June maximum temperatures were average.
- A few frosts were recorded in the eastern part of the district during mid to late June.

### CROPS

- There was adequate moisture in most areas of the district to enable seeding to progress quickly during May with seeding in earlier districts completed by the second or third week of May.
- Marginal soil moisture in the Crystal Brook/Wandearah area delayed seeding on the heavier soil types.
- The northern part of the district has good yield potential with high levels of stored soil moisture.
- Early sown crops emerged well, although growth was relatively slow due to the cool conditions in inland areas.
- Heavy rain in mid-May caused some crusting resulting in poor emergence of some crops on heavier soil types.
- High levels of lucerne flea and red legged earth mite caused significant damage to emerging crops, slowing early growth. All crop types were affected and large areas have been sprayed to reduce insect numbers.
- Early sown crops along the coast have grown rapidly and some crops have matured too quickly, reducing yield potential. These early sown crops were at the booting stage at the end of June.
- In the rest of the district early sown cereal crops are at stem elongation with later sown crops at three to four leaf stage.
- The area sown to canola has reduced by 20%.
- There has been a slight reduction in wheat area, mainly wheat sown back onto wheat stubble.
- There has been a significant increase in the area sown to barley and oaten hay, with small increases in lupins and field peas.
- Some farmers applied nitrogen fertiliser to early sown crops before rainfall events in mid-June. Others are planning to apply nitrogen before the next rainfall event.
- Most farmers have commenced post emergent weed control, although germination of many weeds has been very slow.
- Disease levels are relatively low in all crops.

### PASTURES

- Regenerating and early sown pastures have grown well, although high numbers of lucerne flea and red legged earth mite have caused some damage, slowing growth.
- Pasture growth has slowed with the cold conditions in late May and June with most producers still supplementary feeding lactating ewes.
- Livestock are generally in good to excellent condition.

## Mid North

### WEATHER

- May rainfall was average and June rainfall was below to very much below average.
- Mean maximum temperatures for May and June were average across the district.
- Several frosts were recorded in most of the district in mid to late June.

### CROPS

- Soil moisture levels are reasonable in most areas. Some small areas, particularly around Balaklava, have low soil moisture levels.
- Most farmers completed seeding by the end of May, which is one to two weeks earlier than normal.
- Seeding conditions were good, with only a few interruptions due to soil conditions being either too wet or too dry.
- An increasing number of farmers are sowing by the calendar, rather than waiting for the break of the season, due to larger areas to sow and benefits from earlier sowing.
- There has been adequate moisture to allow germination resulting in good crop emergence.
- Early sown crops have grown well with cereals at stem elongation.
- Later crops have only grown slowly due to the cold conditions in mid to late June.
- Farmers have commenced applying post sowing nitrogen to cereal and canola crops.
- The area sown to wheat has declined, with less wheat sown back on wheat stubble.
- The area sown to barley has increased by 20% as a result of strong price signals.
- The area of canola has been reduced by 50% being replaced by barley, oaten hay and field peas.
- High numbers of lucerne flea and red legged earth mite caused damage to a large number of emerging crops with large areas being sprayed to reduce damage.
- Slaters and millipedes also caused damage to emerging canola crops.
- Barley crops sown back onto barley stubble have low to moderate levels of spot form of net blotch.
- There are low levels of disease in field pea and bean crops.
- Isolated paddocks have been baited to control mice and snails, mainly in cereal crops.

### PASTURES

- Pasture feed is in short supply. Pastures have only started to grow following rain in mid-June.
- Most producers are still supplementary feeding lactating ewes.
- An increasing number of producers are putting sheep in confinement feedlots after the opening rains to allow pastures to get established.

## Lower North

### WEATHER

- Rainfall was average during May and below to very much below average for June.
- Mean maximum temperatures were average in May and June.
- Several light frosts were recorded in parts of the district during mid to late June.

### CROPS

- Sub-soil moisture levels are very low with limited reserves to buffer against any dry periods.
- Seeding was completed by mid to late May in the earlier districts and the second week in June in the later districts.
- Early sown crops have grown rapidly with cereals at second node stage but later sown crops are growing very slowly due to cold and moisture stress and are only at three to four leaf stage.
- Canola crops are at the six to eight leaf stage with a bud already forming. Most crops have not achieved adequate ground cover and have low yield potential. Crops on heavier soil types are beginning to wilt from moisture stress.
- Early sown bean crops are flowering and later crops are at six leaf stage.
- Field pea and lentil crops are at the three to four leaf stage with most of these crops sown later.
- Rainfall across the district has been patchy. Crops on lighter soils are still growing well in areas where more rain has fallen.
- Some herbicides have been very effective at controlling weed numbers and most crops treated with these products have low weed numbers.
- Many paddocks have relatively low broadleaf weed numbers and most farmers are spraying to stop seed build-up rather than for economic benefits.
- Only about 20% of farmers have applied post sowing nitrogen, due to the dry conditions.
- Most farmers are waiting for a strong rainfall event before applying.
- Green peach aphids have built-up in a canola paddock near Mallala, which has higher levels of Beet Westerns Yellow virus than most other canola crops.
- Lucerne flea built up to high numbers in a few areas and required spraying.
- Leaf diseases across the district are generally at very low levels.

### PASTURES

- Medic pastures have germinated well but are growing very slowly and not providing adequate feed for livestock.
- Most producers are supplementary feeding and some have agisted stock, until pasture feed is adequate.

## Yorke Peninsula

### WEATHER

- May rainfall in May was generally average across the district. June rainfall was below to very much below average.
- Mean maximum temperatures for May and June have been average.

### CROPS

- Soil moisture levels across the YP are now low, except in the north-east corner of the district where areas of lighter topsoil have subsoil moisture stored from rains falling in January.
- The early break to the season resulted in a good germination of weeds, enabling good weed control in paddocks sown from the end of April.
- Sowing was completed earlier than average with most producers in the Northern YP and Southern YP finishing in the middle of May, while the Central YP was completed by the end of May.
- The area sown to lentil has increased 15-20%, replacing mainly canola and field peas.
- Very little canola has been grown in the Northern YP.
- Crop emergence was excellent in most areas, except for an area around Kadina where the dry topsoil at seeding lead to a patchy emergence.
- Early sown cereal crops have grown rapidly with many at stem elongation.
- Later sown crops have grown slowly due to the cooler temperatures during late May and June.
- Crops on saline soil areas have emerged poorly and boron toxicity symptoms have been evident in a number of crops along the coast due to a lack of soil moisture.
- Red legged earth mite, blue oat mite and lucerne flea were present in high numbers after seeding, retarding the growth of some cereal crops. Insecticides have been applied to reduce numbers.
- Snail control has been reasonable across YP due to the dry conditions over summer; however there are still paddocks with high snail numbers, especially on the SYP.
- Some early sown barley crops have low levels of net blotch infection. The disease is unlikely to cause significant damage during winter but could spread rapidly once temperatures increase later in the year.
- Fungicides are already being applied to some barley paddocks to reduce the incidence of net blotch.
- The low rainfall throughout June has limited the opportunity to apply nitrogen fertiliser. Later than ideal nitrogen application to some crops may reduce yield potential.
- Yellow leaf spot is present at low levels in wheat crops sown back onto wheat stubble.
- Mice baiting has significantly lowered mice numbers, allowing the majority of crops to emerge and grow with very little economic damage.
- Control of in-crop weeds has been occurring in a timely manner.
- Many farmers are considering decreasing their nitrogen inputs, due to the dry June and increased chance of below average spring rainfall with the development of an El Niño.

### PASTURES

- Rainfall in April resulted in an excellent germination of medic and grass pastures, providing early livestock feed.
- Pasture growth was slow in late May and June due to the lack of rain and cooler temperatures.
- Livestock condition is still excellent with producers supplementary feeding. Stock condition will start to deteriorate if good rains are not received by mid-July.

## Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula & Kangaroo Island

### WEATHER

- Rainfall for KI was average to below average for May and June.
- Rainfall for Adelaide Hills and Fleurieu was average to above average for May and very much below average for June.
- Mean maximum temperatures have been average for May and June.

### CROPS

#### Central Hills/Fleurieu

- The area sown to canola has reduced by about 15% and been replaced with barley and hay crops.
- Early opening rains enabled good weed control before seeding. Limited seeding delays enabled most farmers to be finished sowing before the end of May.
- Crops have emerged well with good early crop growth, with some isolated water logging.
- Red legged earth mite caused damage to some emerging crops.
- Farmers are applying herbicides and insecticides to control weeds and insects in established crops.
- There are moderate to high levels of soil moisture in most of the district.

#### Kangaroo Island

- The canola area has decreased. Broad beans not able to be sown early were replaced with cereals.
- Most farmers completed seeding by mid to late May, two to three weeks earlier than normal, with farmers in a few drier areas completing seeding in early June.
- Crop emergence has been excellent on the heavier soils and crop growth has been good.
- Crop emergence has been patchy on non-wetting sands and areas that only received lighter rainfall. Crops have germinated on these areas since good rains mid-June but growth is slow.
- Red legged earth mite and cutworm have damaged some crops. Insecticides have been applied.
- High levels of annual ryegrass, wild radish and capeweed, germinated in crops and have required control. Common sow thistle is increasing in its prevalence across the Island.
- Nitrogen fertiliser has been applied to cereal and canola crops.
- Stored soil moisture levels are generally good, although levels are lower in coastal/low rainfall regions.

### PASTURES

#### Central Hills/Fleurieu

- Excellent pasture growth has followed the early opening rains.
- The quality of some pastures has deteriorated following two to three seasons of poor spring, summer and autumn rains.
- Fodder reserves are very low and most farmers have increased hay crops this season in an effort to replenish supplies.

#### Kangaroo Island

- Pasture growth is good in central/western KI, but poor in coastal areas with lower soil moisture levels.
- Livestock condition is generally good, especially where supplementary feeding has been adequate.
- Ewes are lambing with higher than normal mortality where ewes are in poor condition.
- Farmers are hoping for average to above average rainfall in July/August to fill dams.



## Lower Murray

### WEATHER

- The Murray Plains recorded close to average rainfall in May, but well below average rainfall in June.
- Temperatures have been average with numerous frosts occurring through June.

### CROPS

- Seeding conditions were generally very good across the district with good soil moisture through April and May, particularly close to the ranges.
- Areas along the eastern side of the district have had less rain and have minimal subsoil moisture.
- Crops are generally in early to late tillering growth stages, with early sown crops in stem elongation.
- Rain will be needed soon on the eastern lower rainfall side of the district, particularly on the sands to maintain reasonable yield potential.
- The area sown to canola is only about 50% of previous years, being replaced by pulse crops and barley.
- Canola crops have budded and are starting to bolt with relatively low yield potential.
- The germination of weeds has been reasonably slow, due to the cold weather and inadequate June rainfall. This has made timing of weed control difficult in some areas, which could lead to some late escapes of grassy weeds.
- There have been some reports of spot form of net blotch in barley, and some fungicide will be applied with broadleaf herbicides.
- Farmers are looking for opportunity to apply nitrogen fertiliser in the higher rainfall areas but many others are holding back to see if the season will improve. The next few weeks will be critical for these decisions.
- Red legged earth mite has caused damage to emerging crops and there are some diamond back moth beginning to appear in canola crops.

### PASTURES

- Pasture feed levels have been low in the eastern areas of the district, with poor growth on sandy and heavy soils.
- Supplementary feeding of hay and grain has been required.
- Some farmers are preparing to reduce stock numbers in many areas if good rains are not received in the next few weeks.
- Livestock are generally in reasonable condition.

## Northern Murray Mallee

### WEATHER

- May rainfall was average and June rainfall was below to very much below average.
- Mean maximum temperatures have been average for May and June. Numerous frosts have been recorded across the district during June.

### CROPS

- Crops generally range from early tillering to stem elongation across the region, depending on time of sowing.
- The majority of farmers completed their full sowing program, despite the low rainfall received in May.
- Most crops are still growing well, relying on the good rainfalls of April.
- Crops are moisture stressed in areas that only received light rainfall, particularly on deeper sands and heavy soils.
- Stored soil moisture levels are variable across the district, depending on soil type and June rainfall distribution.
- All areas require follow up rains, as there is generally limited deeper stored plant available moisture.
- The area sown to canola has greatly decreased this season, with more pulse crops being sown instead, including vetch, chickpeas and lupins.
- Many crops have been sprayed for grassy weeds, with broadleaf weed control well underway.
- The main crop pests this season, such as red legged earth mite and lucerne flea, have generally been sprayed and controlled.
- There have been low levels of mice in paddocks but numbers have not increased to damaging levels.

### PASTURES

- Paddock feed continues to be fairly low across the district, requiring supplementary feeding of hay and grain.
- Pasture growth is slow due to the onset of colder weather conditions and frosts. There has been some early grazing of sown cereal pastures.
- Good prices have made it worthwhile for farmers to supplementary feed their livestock to keep them in adequate condition.

## Southern Murray Mallee

### WEATHER

- May rainfall was close to average in most areas.
- June rainfall was well below average. Pinnaroo was the exception, received a 20-25 mm rain in June. Numerous frosts have occurred across the region in June.

### CROPS

- Cereal crops across the district generally range between mid- tillering to late tillering.
- Crops in the east end of the district are generally looking good.
- Further west from Geranium through to Sherlock, crops are beginning to suffer moisture stress, particularly on the deep sands and heavy soils.
- Some farmers that missed early rains or didn't sow early chose to reduce some of their intended crop area, due to dry periods from early May.
- There is little stored subsoil moisture across the district and rain is needed very soon or yield potential will decrease.
- There has been a strong move away from sowing canola this season, allowing for a greater area sown to other break crops such as lupins, vetch as well as barley.
- Farmers have generally completed spraying grasses achieving good brome grass control and are now spraying broadleaf weeds.
- Nitrogen fertiliser application may be lower than usual due to limited rain events for spreading and reduced yield potential.
- Farmers have sprayed to control some high levels of lucerne flea and red legged earth mite, however pests have generally not been a major issue.
- There are some reports of low levels of spot from of net blotch appearing in barley crops.

### PASTURES

- Pasture feed availability continues to be an issue across the west of the district, with some farmers supplementary feeding of hay and grain.
- Pasture growth is slow due to the cold weather, frosts and lack of available moisture, particularly on sandy and heavy soil types. Feed levels are becoming critical in some areas.
- Livestock have generally been maintained in reasonable condition, due to the good prices and potential income.
- Many farmers will be looking to reduce stock numbers if good rainfall is not received over the next month.

## Upper South East

### WEATHER

- Rainfall for May was average and below to very much below average for June.
- A large part of the Upper South East has had the lowest rainfall on record over the last 18 months and very much below average for the last 36 months.
- Mean maximum temperatures were average for May and June with minor frosts recorded.

### CROPS

- Areas within the USE have some of the lowest stored soil moisture levels nationally compared to a normal year with very little moisture present below 40 cm in the soil profile.
- Sowing was completed by the end of June with lucerne being the last sown on the lighter soils.
- Many farmers have sown crops earlier than normal as the earlier sown crops have performed better than later sown crops over the last few years.
- Farmers will opportunity graze some of the early sown cereal crops to help bridge the current livestock feed gap.
- Herbicides that require moisture to be activated have not been applied and other options for weed control are being used.
- Pre-emergent herbicides have been effective providing good weed control.
- Many farmers are using soil tests to be more strategic about what fertiliser to apply with some paddocks having higher residual soil nitrogen following the dry finish last year.
- Nitrogen and phosphorus fertiliser rates have been reduced and producers are opting not to apply trace elements.
- Red legged earth mites are active and are in higher levels than normal in some areas, slowing growth of crops and pastures.
- Brown pasture loopers (caterpillar pest) are at higher levels than normal.
- Crops that were originally sown for grain may be grazed or baled for hay if dry conditions continue.

### PASTURES

- Most pasture paddocks have germinated and are actively growing with adequate pasture available in some areas but limited growth in most areas.
- Early sown cereals for feed are well established but rhizoctonia root disease is present in some of these crops.
- Broad leaf weeds are at higher levels than normal due to greater grazing pressures.
- Livestock condition is moderate with most cows having calved and ewes lambed. Calves and lambs have been marked with percentages varying depending on the level and length of supplementary feeding.
- Many producers are planning to wean lambs and calves early with many already having destocked herds and flocks by between 10-50%.
- Most cattle and sheep are still being supplementary fed which is largely being determined by the feed reserves producers still have on hand.
- Feed reserves of hay and grain are very low and many people have spent in excess of \$100,000 on supplementary feed.
- Cut worm (caterpillar pest) has been a bigger problem than normal in pastures.

## Lower South East

### WEATHER

- Rainfall for May was average to above average.
- Rainfall for June was below to very much below average, some areas receiving less than 50% of the June average.
- Mean maximum temperatures were average for May and June with several light frosts recorded during June.

### CROPS

- The majority of farmers had finished seeding by the end of June, although there was still about 10% of seeding to be completed on some farms.
- Time of sowing has been close to normal, with early sown crops well established and growing rapidly.
- Slugs and snails are at lower levels due to the drier conditions but farmers are still applying baits to reduce the risk of crop damage.
- Soil moisture is adequate and not inhibiting crop growth.
- The heavy black soils which are normally saturated at this time of the year are relatively dry, allowing spraying and other activities, which would normally not be possible.
- Crops on the peat soils which are generally waterlogged are performing well.
- A drier than average year is beneficial for pasture and crop growth during winter in the Lower South East.
- Many drains in the mid to lower South East that would normally be flowing this time of year are dry.
- Despite conditions being favourable for crop and pasture growth many farmers are concerned that this will be a below average year as it is normally much wetter at this time of the year.
- Farmers have not reduced crop inputs at this stage but average to above average rainfall will be required in the next six to eight weeks to ensure a reasonable season.

### PASTURES

- Many producers have shifted to sown annual pastures, rather than perennial pastures.
- Some clovers have germinated and are actively growing following a good germination.
- Pasture availability is average and actively growing with adequate soil moisture to achieve good pasture growth.
- Some cattle are still being supplementary fed.
- Very little hay is left in reserve on most properties.
- Livestock are in good condition.
- Lambing percentages have been good due to milder weather conditions.
- Phalaris staggers has been a problem this year in cattle.