



South Australian Crop and Pasture Report

November 2022



Government
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Department of Primary
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Key link to Weather information

[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 PIRSA 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.

State Crops and Pastures – Spring Growth 2022

Summary

The 2022 growing season rainfall (April to October) ranged from above average to well above average in the Mallee but average over parts of the Peninsulas and Southeast (Figure 1). Above average rainfall for the three months commencing August (Figure 2) was due to repeated rain and storm activity. November rainfall is already well above the monthly average across the State's cereal zone due to rain and storms continuing into the first three weeks of the month.

Despite damaging flooding January rains filling soil profiles with moisture, the late arrival of opening rains in some districts delayed seeding. Near ideal conditions of winter and early spring allowed all crops to catch up. Crops are in good to excellent condition, ranging from late grain fill in later finishing districts to ripe ready for harvest elsewhere. Crop harvest and hay baling has been delayed by repeated storms and rain with some reports of crop damage due to strong winds, heavy rain, with hail in some districts. Some of the grain harvested so far has weather related quality issues.

Crop production is estimated at 12.1 million tonnes, driven by an ideal spring finish for a crop generally of good to excellent condition. This exceeds the previous 2016-17 11.1 million tonne crop production record.

The record production at high global prices, allowing for some weather damage downgrading, has an estimated Farm Gate Value of \$4.4 billion, also well above last year's record high farm gate value.

Sown crop area and production for previous six seasons						
Seasons	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 <i>estimated</i>
Area sown (ha)	3,565,000	3,572,000	3,898,000	4,003,000	3,942,000	<i>3,932,000</i>
Production (t)	6,921,000	5,795,000	6,467,000	9,135,000	8,445,000	<i>12,088,000</i>
Farm gate value	\$1.7 billion	\$1.7 billion	\$2 billion	\$2.5 billion	\$3.3 billion	<i>\$4.4 billion</i>

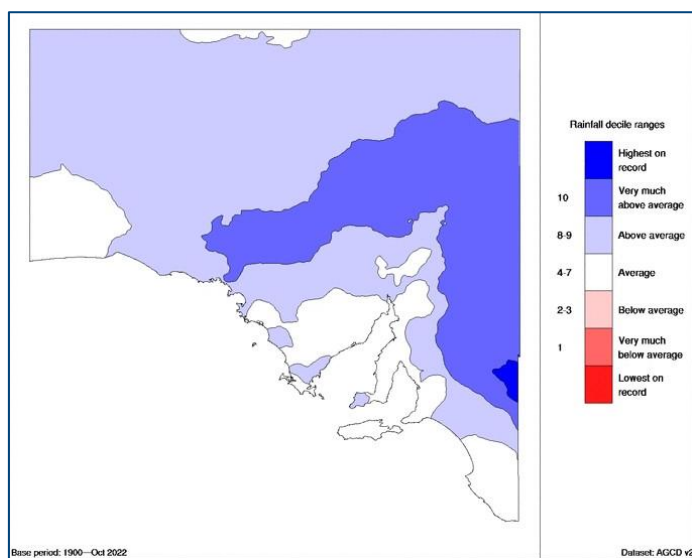


Figure 1: 1 April to 31 October 2022 Rain Deciles
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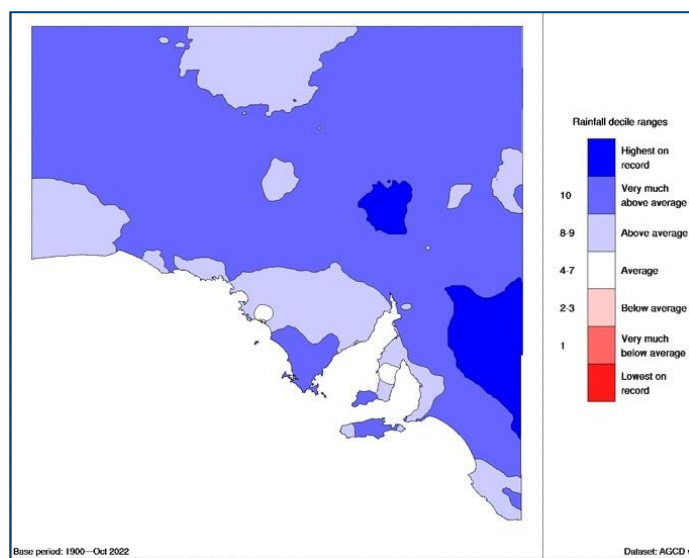


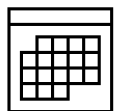
Figure 2: 1 August to 31 October 2022 Rain Deciles

The season so far



Weather

Above average rains in January and February resulted in flood damage in some districts but filled subsoil moisture reserves. Useful opening rains arrived later in many districts, followed by a dry July. The season turned in August, with well above average rainfall that continued through to the third week of November. Growing season (April – October) rainfall ranged from average to well above average in the eastern part of the State's cereal zone (Figure 1).



Season outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's season outlook update issued 24 November 2022 shows most of South Australia for the three months December to February to have an equal chance of being wetter or drier than median rainfall, except the Southeast, which is more likely to be wetter. Likewise, outlook for maximum temperatures is also neutral, but warmer minimum temperatures are more likely for much of the state.



Subsoil moisture

The soil reserves from the summer rains proved a useful moisture source for maintaining the crop during the dry July. The wet late winter and spring has maintained soil moisture profiles above average with the large crop tapping into reserves during ripening.



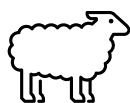
Crop mix

The area of wheat was near average, like last season. High canola prices have resulted in increased canola area at the expense of barley this year. The decline in pea area continues to a record low this year. Disease pressure on some legumes resulted in crops ploughed in and resown with cereals. Hay areas are down due to the second year of low export hay demand.



Cropping progress

Harvest progress is considerably behind compared to normal years, but with some favorable weather will see significant tonnage delivered into bulk stores from late November. Harvest is expected to continue into the new year in many districts.



Pastures and livestock condition

Pasture feed spring availability is above average. Producers handfed supplements during winter in some districts. Grain reserves are sufficient to cover needs, but rain spoilage of new cut hay is widespread and quality less than average. Livestock are in good to excellent condition.

Challenges and opportunities



Pests and diseases

Most districts reported issues with leaf disease, including stripe rust in wheat, powdery mildew in cereals, chocolate spot in beans, grey mold, and other diseases in lentils. Managing disease was a challenge due to limited trafficability in wet paddocks and large disease pressure in crops. Extended favorable conditions for snail breeding have increased populations. Summer weed growth and grain harvest spillage in paddocks may see ideal conditions for mice.



Regional issues and adverse events

Severe storms during October and first half of November disrupted and delayed harvest, with some storm and hail damage to crops reported in several districts. Recovery from summer floods continues with repairs to roads and restitution of damaged paddocks to take some time.

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>	433 200	145 200	362 200	165 900	241 100	248 200	73 200	5 400
	<i>t</i>	1 273 000	590 000	1 014 200	780 000	675 080	730 500	448 000	20 760
Durum	<i>ha</i>	0	0	0	13 600	6 000	5 000	4 200	0
	<i>t</i>	0	0	0	54 400	16 800	12 000	12 600	0
Barley	<i>ha</i>	81 700	69 600	77 900	163 100	91 500	94 700	20 600	2 100
	<i>t</i>	215 000	278 400	235 000	797 000	201 300	245 600	97 500	9 230
Oats	<i>ha</i>	14 100	3 200	4 600	4 200	5 300	4 400	2 300	1 600
	<i>t</i>	42 000	11 500	11 500	16 800	7 420	12 100	5 980	4 928
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>	1 200	2 000	1 350	3 500	2 400	4 200	1 200	450
Peas	<i>ha</i>	2 800	2 300	4 200	11 700	13 900	13 900	6 100	400
	<i>t</i>	5 600	4 000	5 500	30 000	27 800	21 000	10 980	600
Lupins	<i>ha</i>	1 500	10 500	4 800	1 000	2 900	1 800	500	1 000
	<i>t</i>	4 500	31 000	10 500	2 500	4 350	3 300	700	2 000
Beans	<i>ha</i>	400	7 700	400	11 200	12 200	12 900	3 100	3 400
	<i>t</i>	1 000	23 100	1 000	39 200	24 400	20 400	6 200	10 300
Chickpeas	<i>ha</i>	0	400	200	6 600	4 600	2 300	400	0
	<i>t</i>	0	1 000	500	16 500	6 900	2 760	520	0
Lentils	<i>ha</i>	2 000	9 000	2 200	128 500	9 900	17 100	6 200	0
	<i>t</i>	6 000	22 500	5 100	370 000	19 800	22 230	11 160	0
Vetch	<i>ha</i>	2 400	3 600	2 000	2 600	5 600	4 200	300	0
	<i>t</i>	960	3 000	1 600	5 000	1 680	2 520	210	0
Canola	<i>ha</i>	5 100	79 200	8 000	14 200	28 300	25 400	4 600	4 700
	<i>t</i>	11 500	214 000	18 500	35 000	50 940	38 100	10 400	17 100
Hay	<i>ha</i>	5 500	6 400	10 100	13 700	18 900	33 800	9 500	7 600
(not in total)	<i>t</i>	16 500	28 200	35 400	61 700	60 480	135 200	36 100	19 000
Total	<i>ha</i>	543 600	331 200	467 000	523 600	422 500	431 600	121 900	18 700
	<i>t</i>	1 560 760	1 180 500	1 304 750	2 149 900	1 038 870	1 114 710	605 450	65 368

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>	6 000	62 100	200 900	129 200	79 300	24 255	2 176 155
	<i>t</i>	23 100	186 300	502 300	387 600	226 820	121 990	6 979 650
Durum	<i>ha</i>	300	800	0	0	7 300	0	37 200
	<i>t</i>	1 100	2 000	0	0	16 060	0	114 960
Barley	<i>ha</i>	10 900	50 400	60 500	94 700	36 800	7 000	861 500
	<i>t</i>	51 600	151 200	151 300	284 100	123 600	45 500	2 886 330
Oats	<i>ha</i>	2 000	3 000	2 200	3 400	21 200	4 700	76 200
	<i>t</i>	5 400	7 500	4 400	8 500	74 200	23 500	235 728
Rye	<i>ha</i>	0	1 500	3 500	2 500	1 600	0	9 100
	<i>t</i>	0	3 750	7 000	5 750	2 300	0	18 800
Triticale	<i>ha</i>	500	2 600	1 500	6 400	1 000	500	18 300
	<i>t</i>	1 500	6 500	3 000	16 000	2 900	2 800	49 000
Peas	<i>ha</i>	1 000	4 500	2 000	3 600	2 900	400	69 700
	<i>t</i>	1 600	9 000	4 000	7 920	4 060	1 000	133 060
Lupins	<i>ha</i>	1 600	2 000	3 000	10 000	10 900	2 700	54 200
	<i>t</i>	2 900	4 000	6 000	22 000	23 980	8 100	125 830
Beans	<i>ha</i>	300	1 100	0	1 200	33 700	13 800	101 400
	<i>t</i>	800	1 980	0	2 400	97 700	52 200	280 680
Chickpeas	<i>ha</i>	200	3 000	14 500	10 500	600	200	43 500
	<i>t</i>	300	5 400	26 100	18 900	1 000	800	80 680
Lentils	<i>ha</i>	200	3 000	4 200	6 200	2 900	200	191 600
	<i>t</i>	280	5 400	7 560	12 400	7 250	800	490 480
Vetch	<i>ha</i>	0	4 000	6 600	5 300	1 200	0	37 800
	<i>t</i>	0	8 000	13 200	10 600	2 400	0	49 170
Canola	<i>ha</i>	3 300	6 000	7 700	13 000	35 500	20 700	255 700
	<i>t</i>	18 042	9 000	13 860	28 600	90 100	88 000	643 142
Hay	<i>ha</i>	23 900	7 200	5 000	13 800	28 100	27 100	210 600
(not in total)	<i>t</i>	82 000	28 800	15 000	58 000	133 200	126 800	836 380
Total	<i>ha</i>	26 300	144 000	306 600	286 000	234 900	74 455	3 932 355
	<i>t</i>	106 622	400 030	738 720	804 770	672 370	344 690	12 087 510

TABLE 2 CROP ESTIMATES AGAINST FIVE YEAR AVERAGE

		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	5 year average	2022/23
Wheat	ha	2 024 100	2 000 400	2 112 100	2 201 600	2 195 400	2 084 600	2 176 155
	t	4 122 500	3 156 000	3 251 500	4 923 000	4 705 500	3 863 300	6 979 650
Durum	ha	55 700	42 000	42 900	37 800	35 800	44 600	37 200
	t	139 400	75 220	82 560	114 870	108 350	103 000	114 960
Barley	ha	714 600	818 600	990 000	953 500	917 400	869 200	861 500
	t	1 640 700	1 725 800	2 091 000	2 560 000	2 151 700	2 004 400	2 886 330
Oats	ha	77 000	74 700	72 800	77 700	75 300	75 600	76 200
	t	149 300	121 500	120 450	173 700	162 400	141 200	235 728
Rye	ha	6 500	5 300	5 700	8 600	6 600	6 500	9 100
	t	5 100	3 150	4 250	11 100	4 600	5 900	18 800
Triticale	ha	19 900	29 400	32 300	28 800	21 400	27 600	18 300
	t	35 050	33 470	42 250	70 750	30 150	45 400	49 000
Peas	ha	90 200	65 700	65 300	70 000	66 800	72 800	69 700
	t	113 750	53 620	70 100	113 700	92 500	87 800	133 060
Lupins	ha	62 800	61 000	51 100	50 600	45 900	56 400	54 200
	t	53 400	59 950	53 800	75 650	63 400	60 700	125 830
Beans	ha	67 400	63 100	98 400	100 600	107 300	82 400	101 400
	t	101 660	79 730	156 650	212 700	247 280	137 700	280 680
Chickpeas	ha	29 700	33 600	22 200	29 500	13 500	28 800	43 500
	t	33 580	23 870	17 000	44 050	15 450	29 600	80 680
Lentils	ha	184 700	149 800	164 300	186 700	197 200	171 400	191 600
	t	260 200	177 870	220 400	345 950	339 180	251 100	490 480
Vetch	ha	32 400	28 400	34 000	36 400	34 400	32 800	37 800
	t	15 350	5 810	9 420	27 750	15 050	14 600	49 170
Canola	ha	200 200	200 100	206 600	220 800	224 700	206 900	255 700
	t	251 400	278 900	347 400	461 800	509 750	334 900	643 142
Hay (not in total)	ha	202 900	436 000	320 600	263 500	220 800	305 800	210 600
	t	948 600	1 297 000	1 258 900	1 195 000	852 000	1 174 900	836 380
Total	ha	3 565 000	3 572 000	3 898 000	4 002 600	3 942 000	3 759 400	3 932 400
	t	6 921 400	5 794 900	6 466 800	9 135 020	8 445 300	7 079 500	12 087 500