

Mouse Forecast

Winter 2026 (June - August)

Predicted house mouse activity across Australian grain-growing regions

Issued 26 June 2026



Overview

- Western Australia: **A mouse plague is under way in the Northern (Geraldton) zone.** Mouse activity east from Fitzgerald in the Sandplain (Esperance) zone is also at concerning levels. Eastern (Kwinana East) and Central (Kwinana West) zones have overall low mouse activity, but growers here should remain vigilant as there are some patches with higher activity.
- South Australia: Mouse activity is moderate across Adelaide Plains and Yorke Peninsula. We have observed a decrease in activity from last season, likely due to lower food availability and proactive management during sowing. However, mouse activity could increase as more food is now available.
- Elsewhere: mouse numbers likely remain low.
- An emergency permit has been issued by the APVMA for the higher dose ZnP50 bait. Locations with permit access change on a fortnightly basis, based on APVMA-defined mouse activity categories (which differ from our mouse forecasts due to different data types, metrics and time periods). Check the [GRDC website](#) for emergency permit information and current access.

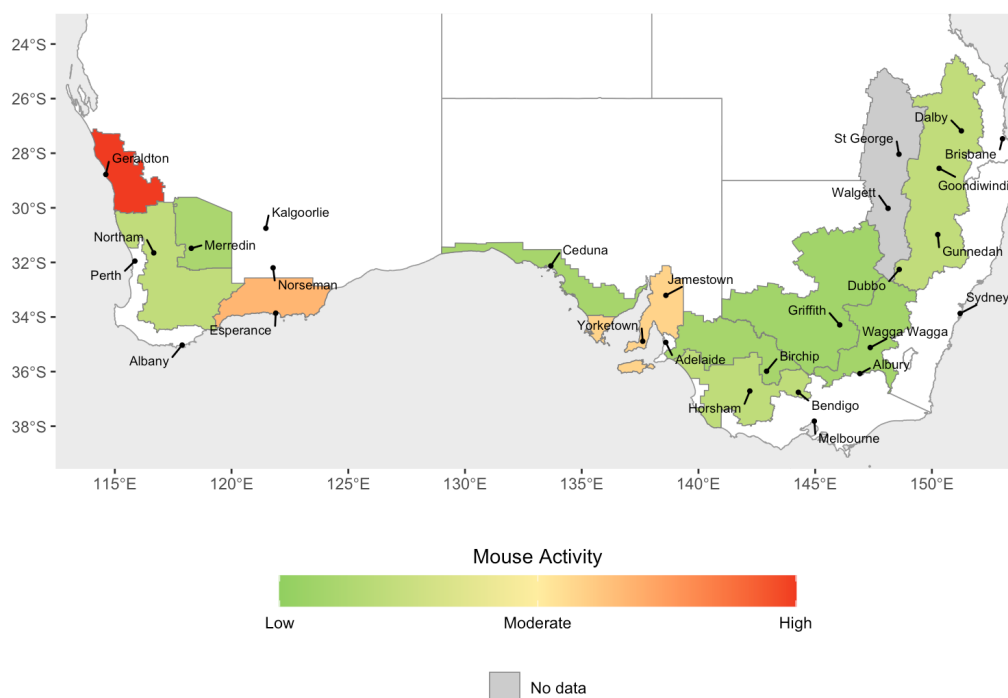


Figure 1: Estimated relative mouse activity in Winter 2026 (June - August) across each GRDC agro-ecological zone (broad regions defined by similar climate, soils, and farming systems). Estimates consider live-trapping rates, active burrow counts, chew card assessments, the proportion of surveyed paddocks which detected mice and farmer observations (via MouseAlert). Mouse activity cannot be estimated in zones shaded grey as they have not been surveyed since March 2026.

Management recommendations

- Mouse activity should be monitored through winter in zones with moderate-high activity: WA Sandplain, WA Northern and SA Midnorth-Lower Yorke Eyre, and prepare to take action.
- Monitor mouse activity in crops using [chew cards or a walk-through, searching for active mouse burrows and crop damage](#).
- If you detect mice, consider [applying zinc phosphide bait](#) before crops mature, as bait will become less attractive to mice once grain develops in the head.
- ZnP25 is the only currently registered bait available everywhere; use in accordance with the label instructions and report any adverse effects via the [APVMA website](#). An emergency permit is currently available for the higher dose ZnP50 bait; check access and requirements on the [GRDC website](#).
- Plan for a clean harvest (minimal grain loss) to reduce mouse food through the stubble.

Past trends

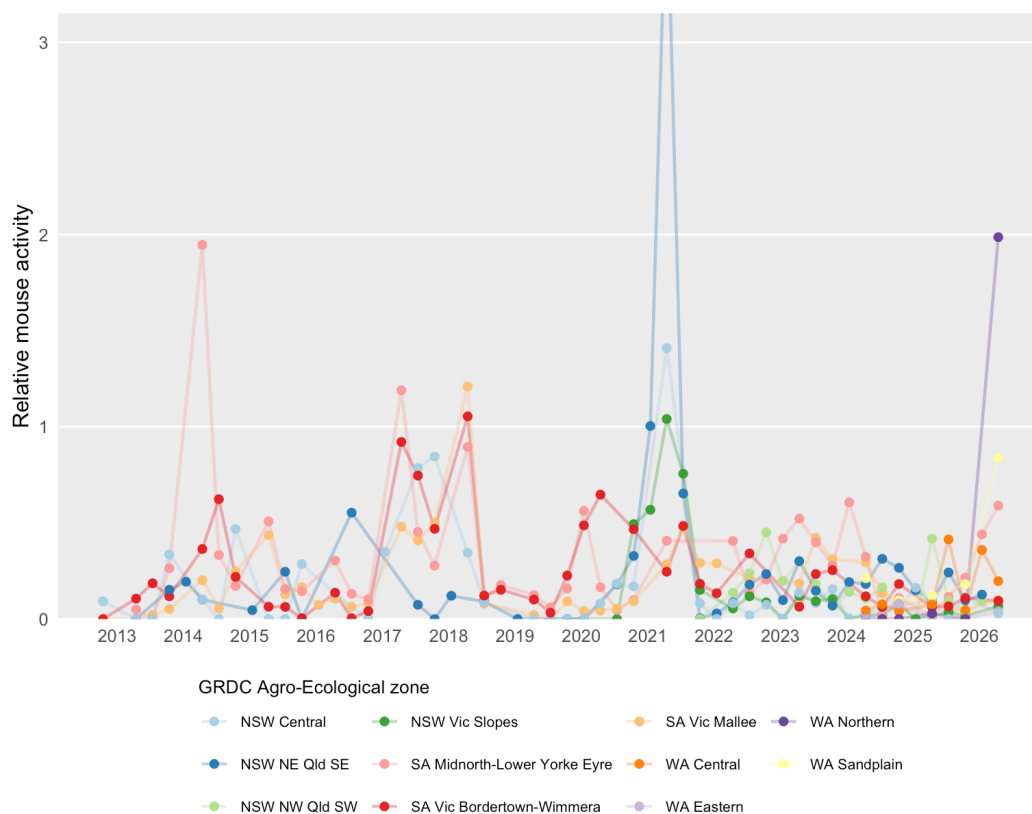


Figure 2: Estimated relative mouse activity from Summer 2013 - Autumn 2026 in each GRDC agro-ecological zone (broad regions of the Australian grain belt defined by similar climate, soils, and farming systems). Estimates consider live-trapping rates, active burrow counts, chew card assessments, the proportion of surveyed paddocks which detected mice and farmer observations (via MouseAlert).

About

Mouse forecasts are enabled through a [Grains Research and Development Corporation and CSIRO investment into the 2025-29 Mouse Monitoring and Surveillance project](#) via the [Rodent Pest Management team](#). Forecasts will be updated seasonally or as new data becomes available.

We are actively developing new statistical models to improve mouse forecasts, and working on their presentation. This work is run in coordination with the National Mouse Group, a grower-led network of farmers, industry representatives, state government, GRDC and CSIRO. The group meets three times a year to update local reports of the current mouse situation, review management recommendations and determine research priorities.

Monitoring data

Mouse population surveys are conducted 2 - 3 times a year at each of the ~170 long-term monitoring sites. Mice are surveyed through active burrow searches and chew cards. To calibrate this data against more robust population density measurements, we also conduct live-trapping at 3 sites (Adelaide Plains SA, Northern Mallee VIC and Central West NSW).

Mouse monitoring data is collected by CSIRO, NSW Local Land Services, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Central West Farming Services, Birchip Cropping Group, and Farmanco. We also thank NSW DPIRD, who generously provide additional live-trapping survey data. Further live-trapping data is also occasionally supplied through the [GRDC / CSIRO Mouse Ecology 2024-2029 project](#).

We also receive reports from farmers, agronomists and other community members directly. This is key information we consider given we cannot feasibly survey every paddock across the entire grain growing region.

Report mouse activity

Take 60 seconds to report mouse activity on your farm on [MouseAlert](#).

We are primarily seeking observations from within paddocks (not houses or farm sheds), and particularly encourage reporting of low activity - not just observations of high mouse activity.

We incorporate these observations with our monitoring survey results to create these forecasts and improve understanding of mouse populations, to help keep producers informed.

Contact

Questions about the forecast? Get in touch with Dr Matthew Rees matt.rees@csiro.au.

For media enquiries, contact Research Officer Steve Henry steve.henry@csiro.au or the [CSIRO media office](#).

We value your feedback.

