





PestFacts WA webinar

"DPIRD Seasonal status of pests and diseases delivered to growers" project. DAW2404-005RTX. GRDC co-investment

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal community and their cultures; and to Elders both past and present.

Webinar agenda

WA's climate outlook.

Ian Foster. DPIRD Principal Research Scientist

Spring and summer invertebrates.

Svetlana Micic. DPIRD Senior Research Scientist

Spring diseases and preparing for next season.

Geoff Thomas. DPIRD Principal Research Scientist

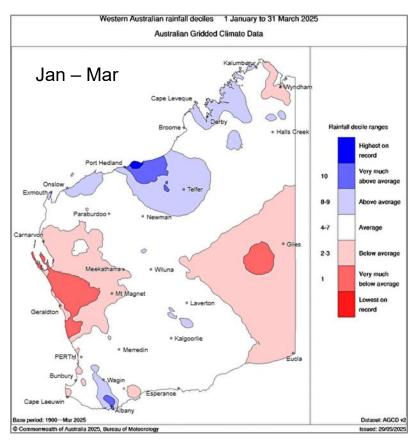
Question and Answer session.

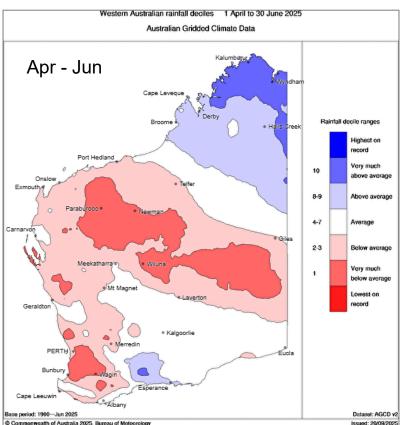
Outline

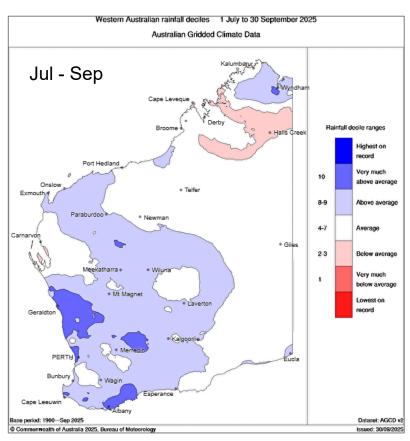
- Recap of seasonal climate to date
- Sea surface temperature outlooks
- Seasonal climate outlook for the rest of 2025.

lan.Foster@dpird.wa.gov.au

Rainfall 2025 to date



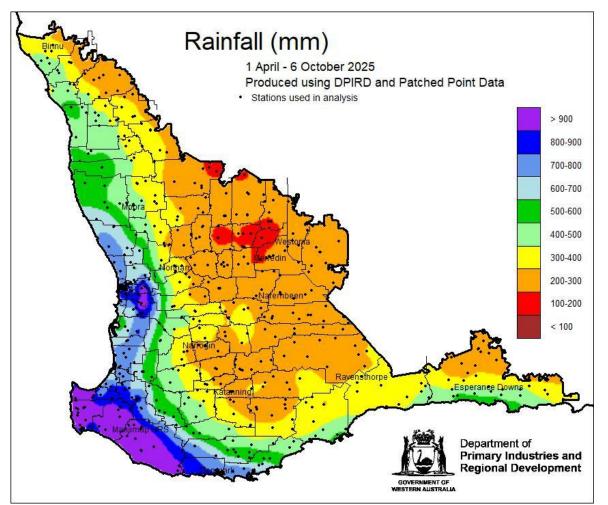


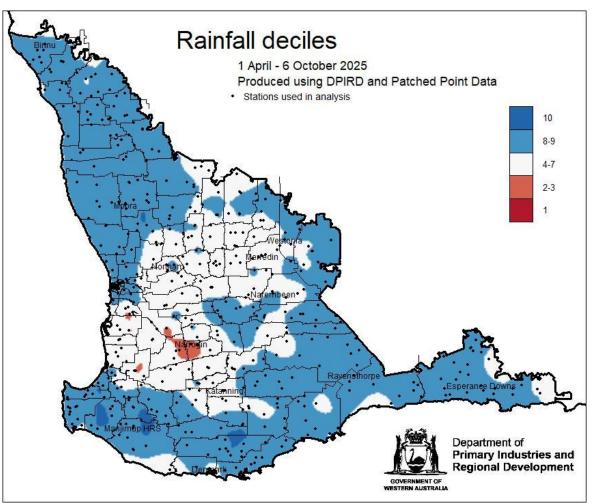


Prior rain Nov – Dec 2024 southern rangelands.

May was dry, so a late start to the growing season in many areas. Wetter for the latter part of the season.

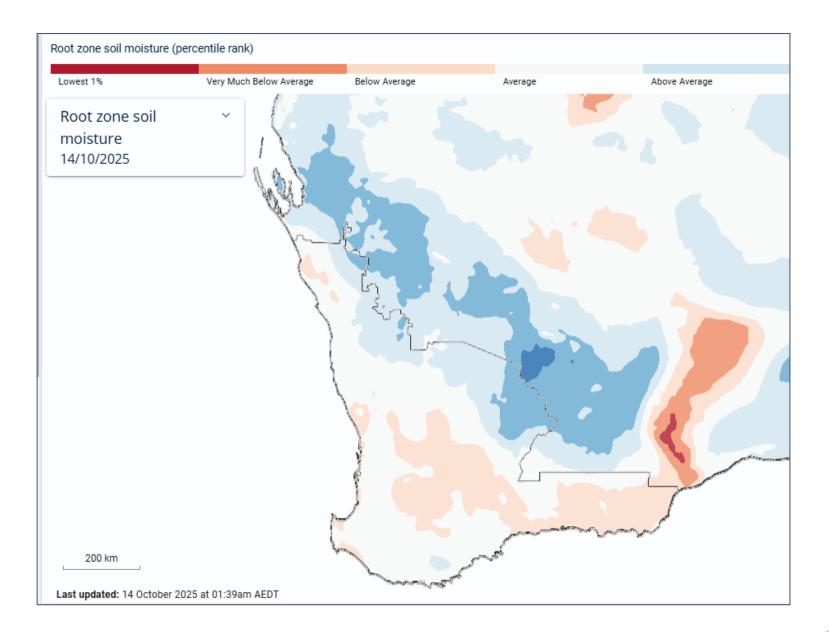
Agricultural area rainfall





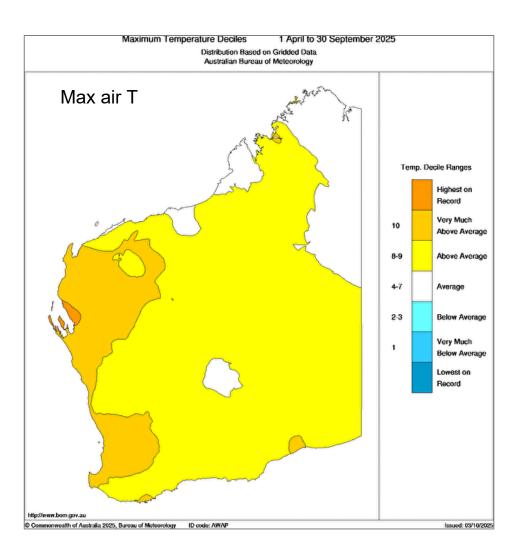
Reference period: 1975 - 2024

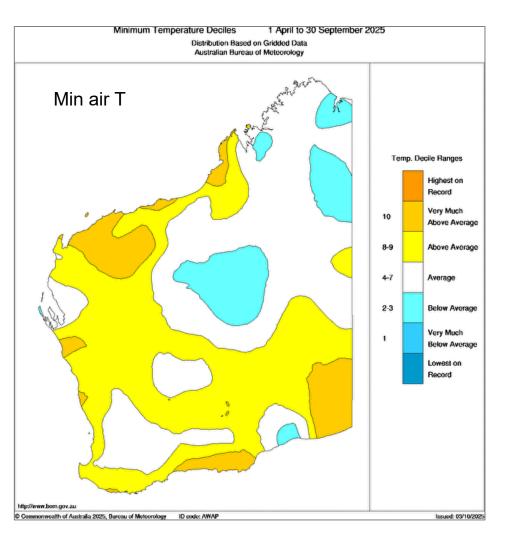
Soil water



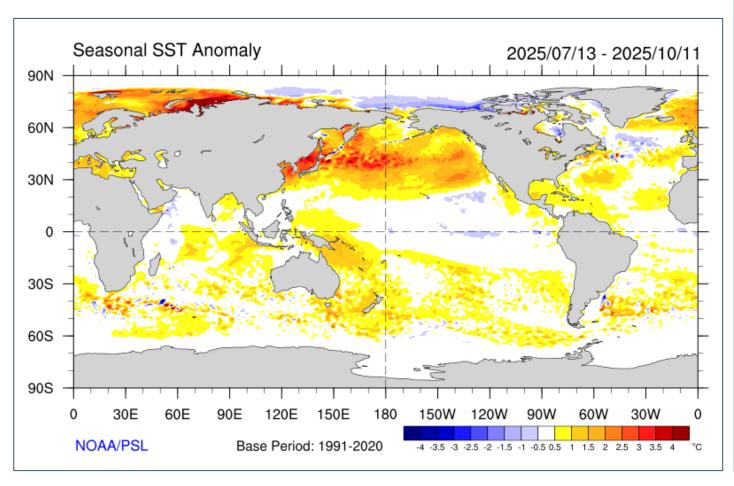
Ian.Foster@dpird.wa.gov.au
Map source: Bureau of Meteorology.

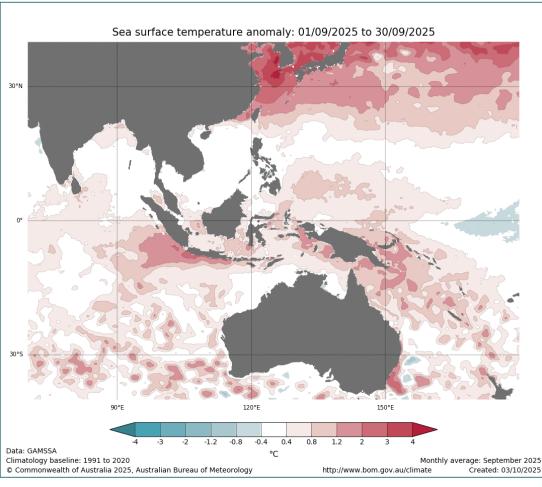
Seasonal temperature





Ocean temperatures

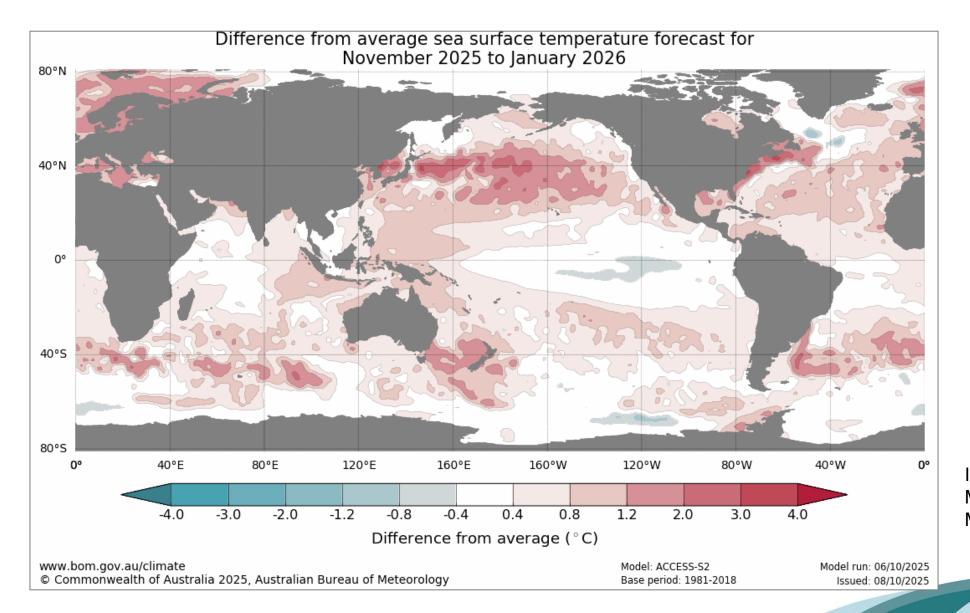




Indian Ocean Dipole – negative phase Eastern tropical Pacific is cooling Weak La Nina event could develop.

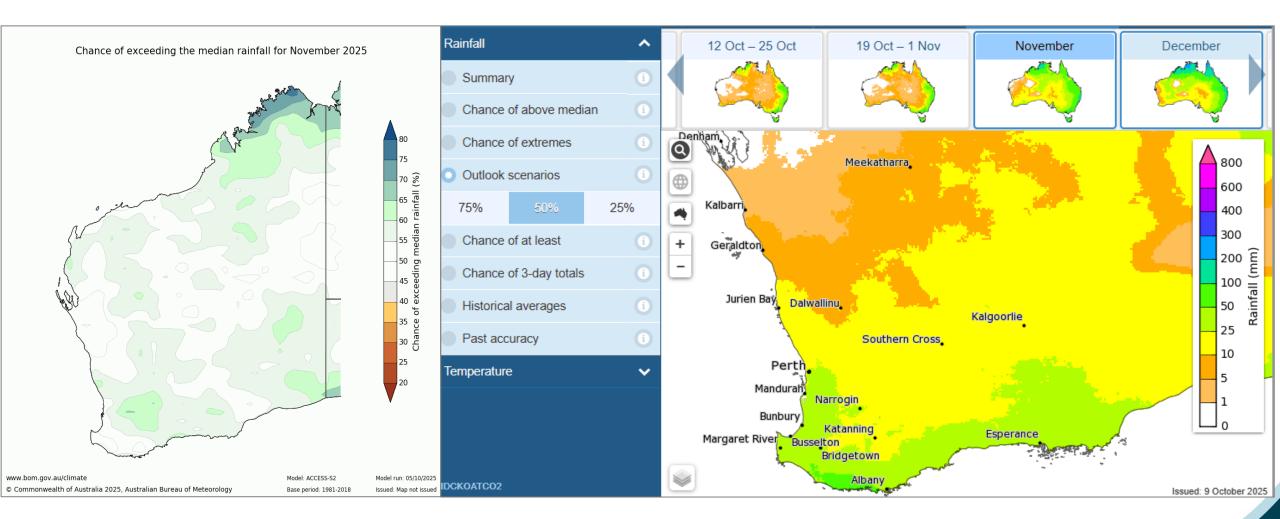
Maps: Bureau of Meteorology and NOAA

Sea surface temperature prediction



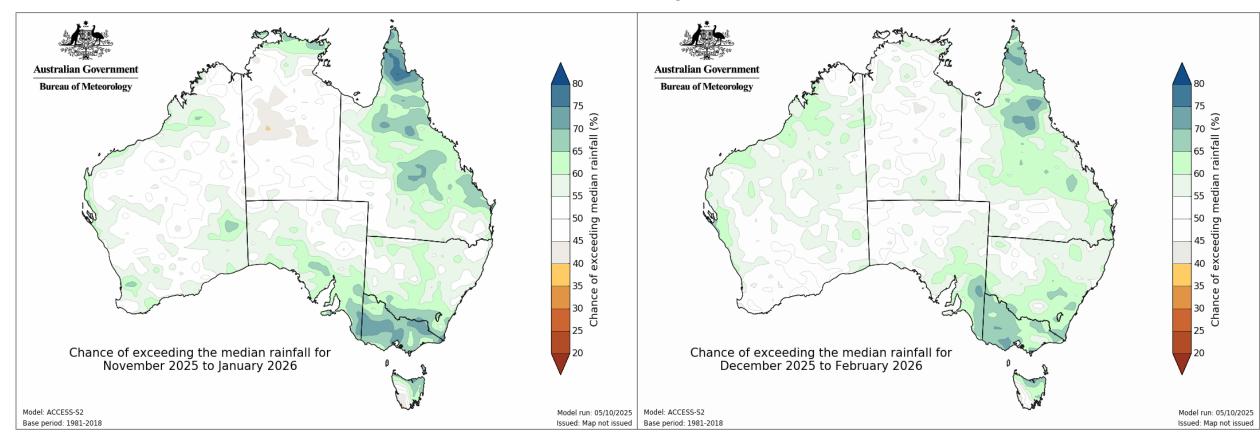
Ian.Foster@dpird.wa.gov.au; Map source: Bureau of Meteorology.

November rain outlook 2025

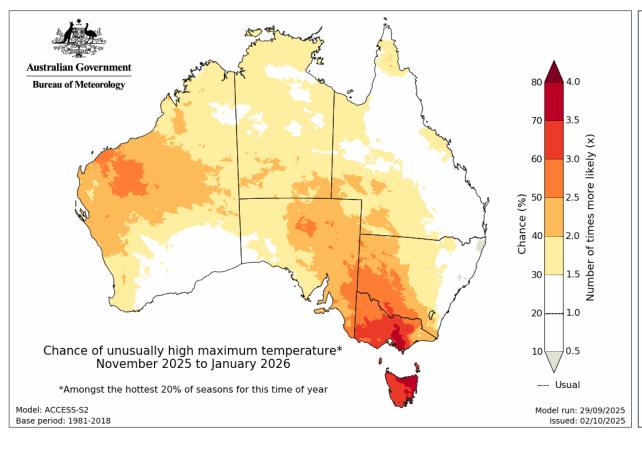


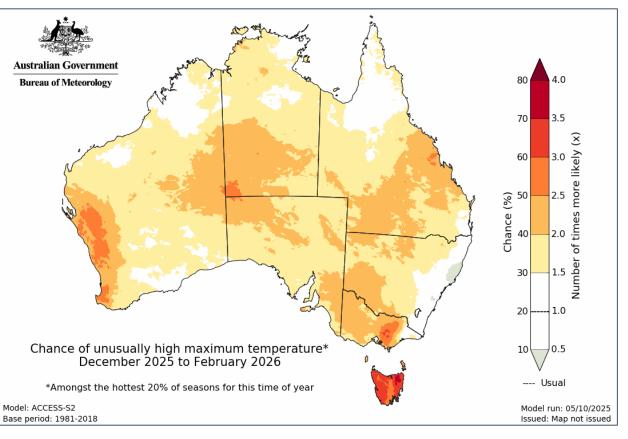
Seasonal rain outlook 2025

Chances of exceeding median rainfall



Temperatures





Extreme max air T Nov 2025 – Jan 2026

Extreme max air T Dec 2025 – Feb 2026

Take home messages

Summer rainfall 2024/25 was mixed across the agricultural region.

First half of the growing season 2025 was drier than normal.

Second half was wetter than normal.

Rain outlooks for the rest of 2025 are mostly neutral for WA.

Summer 2025/26 is likely to be warmer than normal.



Spring and summer invertebrates growers need to watch out for

Spring Pests



Native budworm



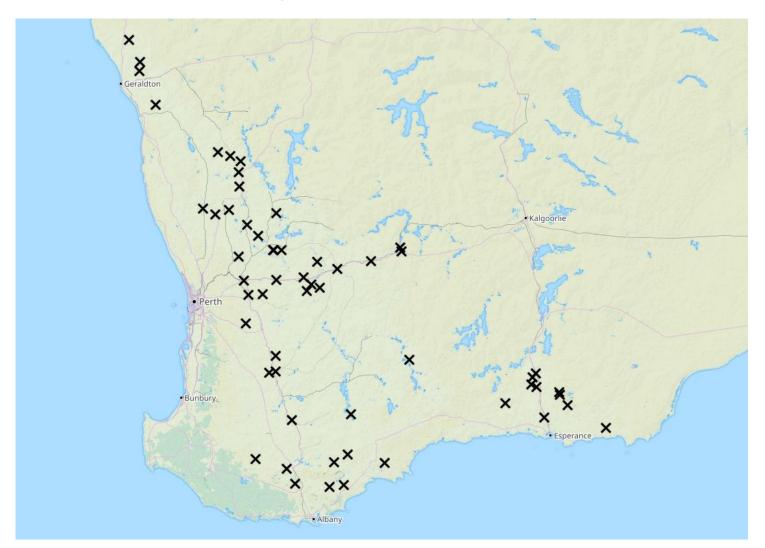
Diamondback moth

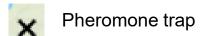


Aphids

Trapping network for native budworm

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

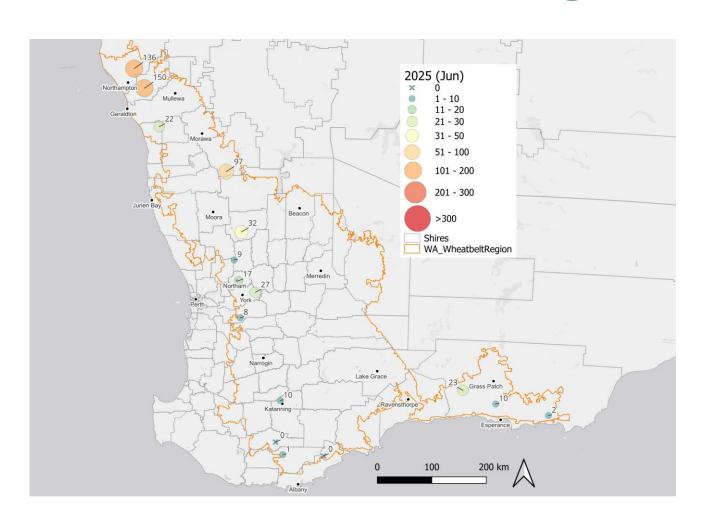






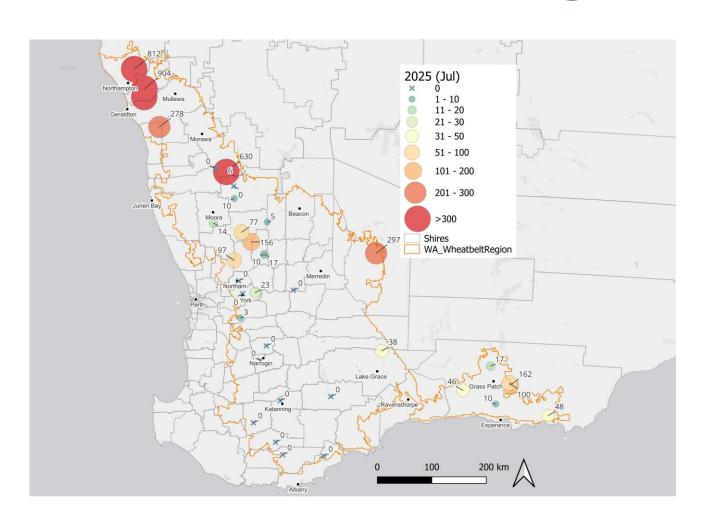
Svetlana.Micic@dpird.wa.gov.au; Image and map source: DPIRD.

Native budworm flights – June 2025



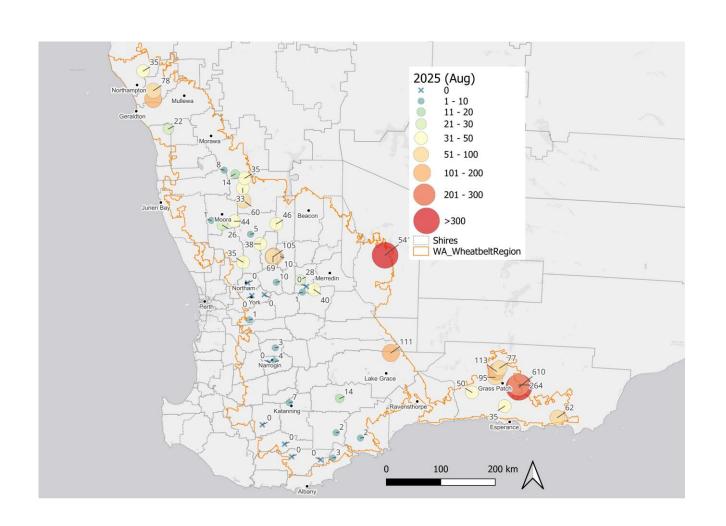


Native budworm flights – July 2025



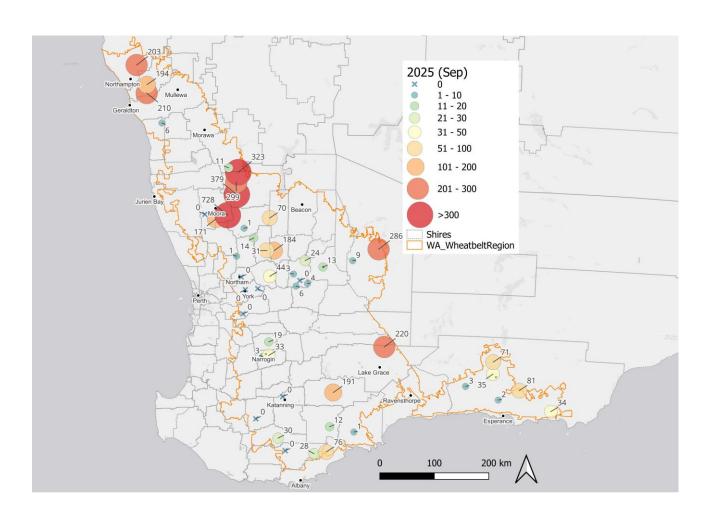


Native budworm flights – August 2025





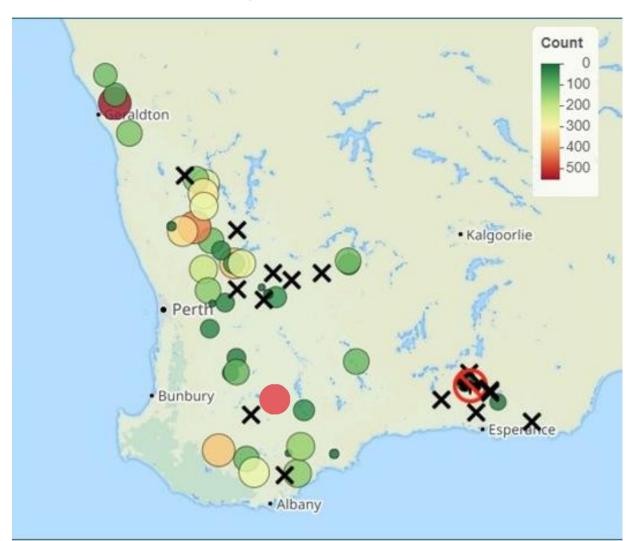
Native budworm flights - September 2025





Native budworm flights - October 2025

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

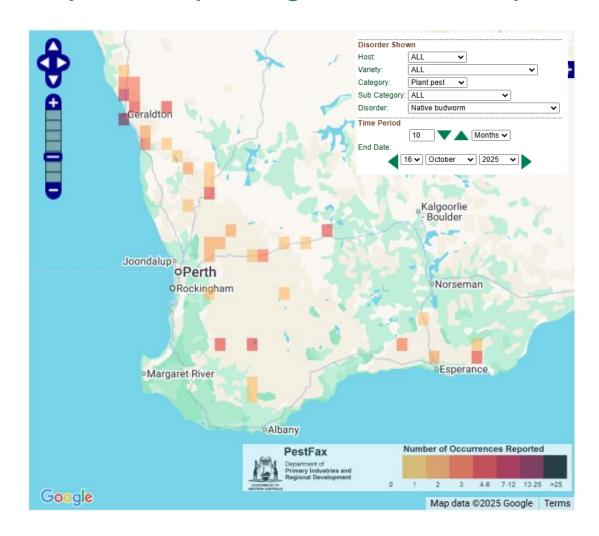


X indicates no data, indicates no moths in trap.

Svetlana.Micic@dpird.wa.gov.au; Map source: Cesar Australia, MothTrapVisWA.

Does this mean more caterpillars?

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





Svetlana.Micic@dpird.wa.gov.au; Image and map source: DPIRD.

Monitor for native budworm

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



Thresholds for budworm

MyPestGuide CropScout app





Thresholds for native budworm

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

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

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



Spraying for native budworm

- Consider withholding periods.
- Beneficials chemical toxicity table.

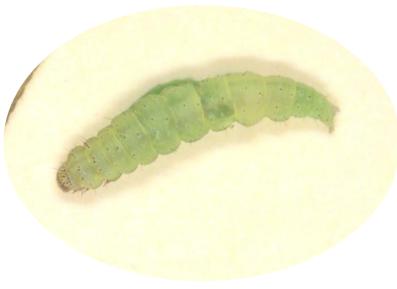
https://cesaraustralia.com/resources/beneficials-toxicity-table/



Diamondback moth flight movement



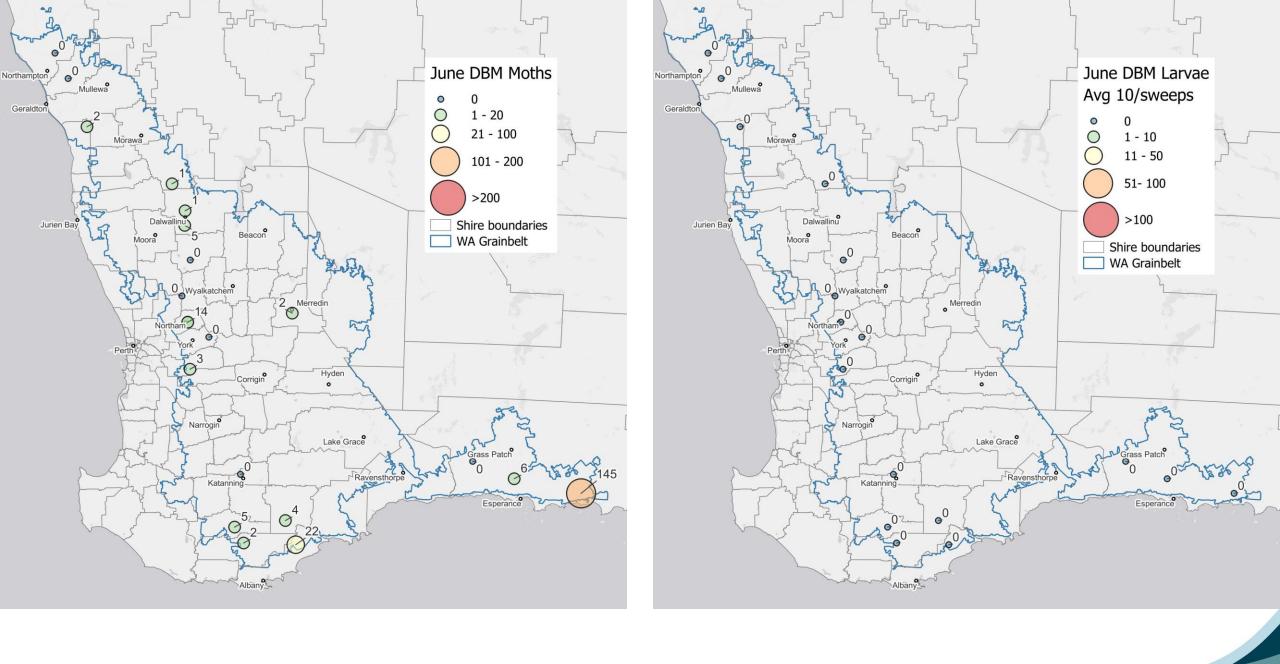
Diamondback moth

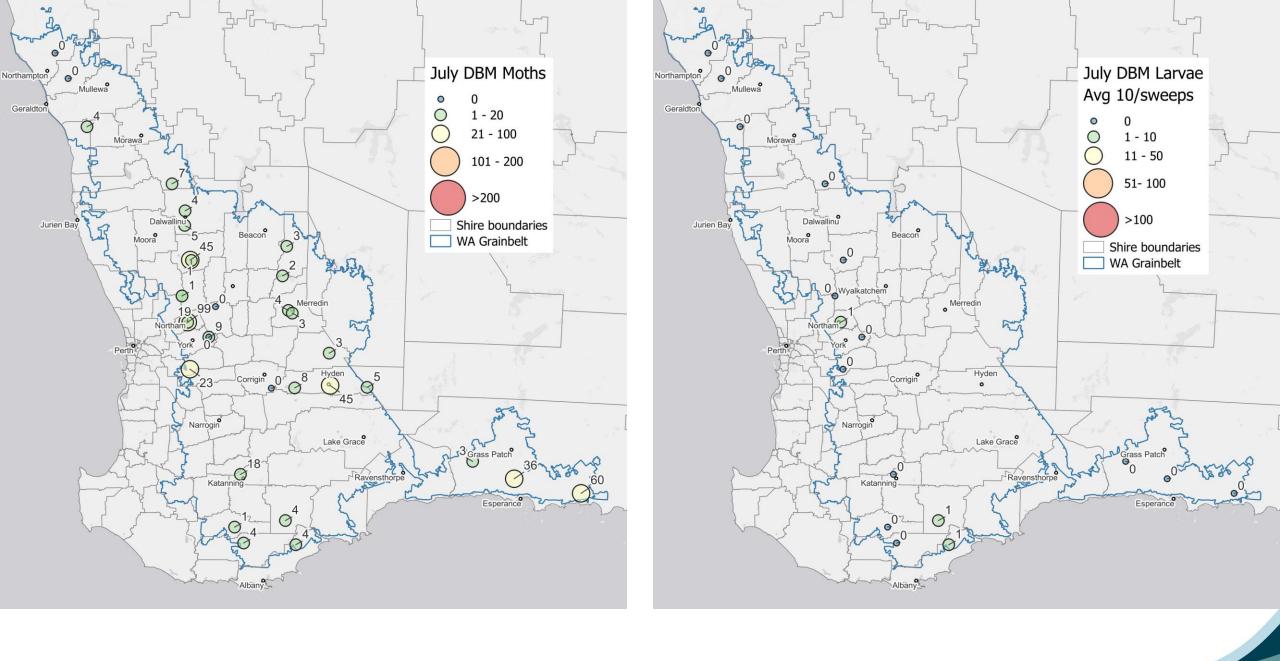


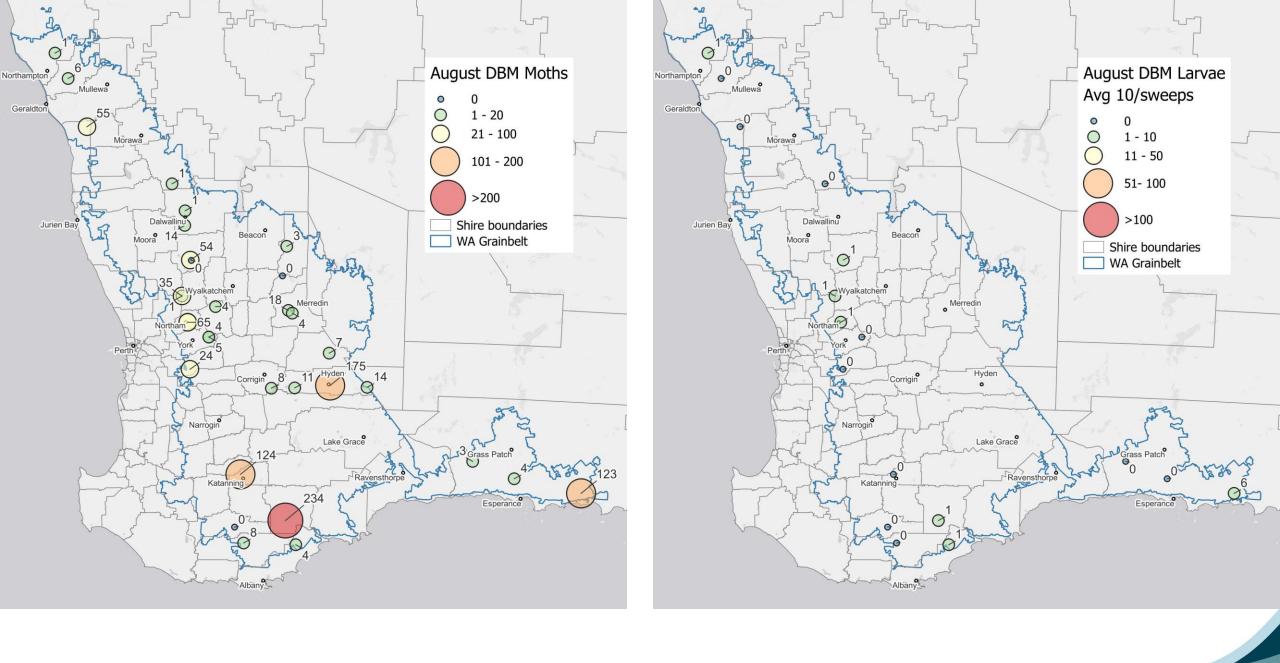
Diamondback moth caterpillar

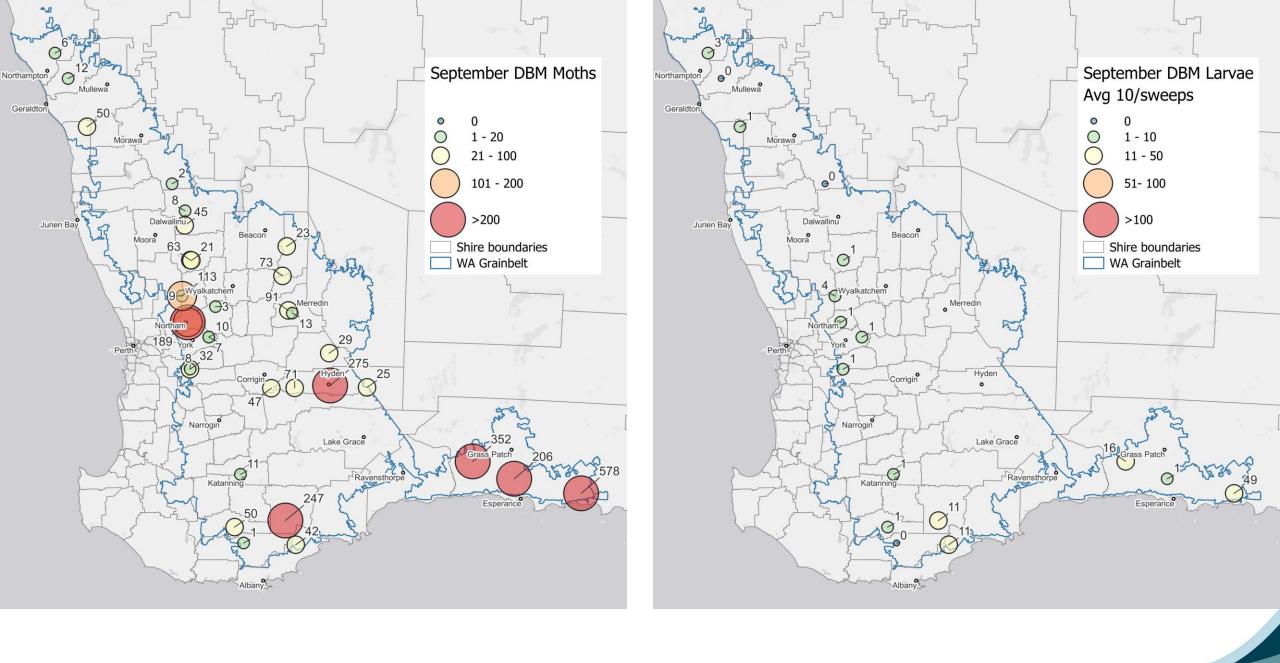


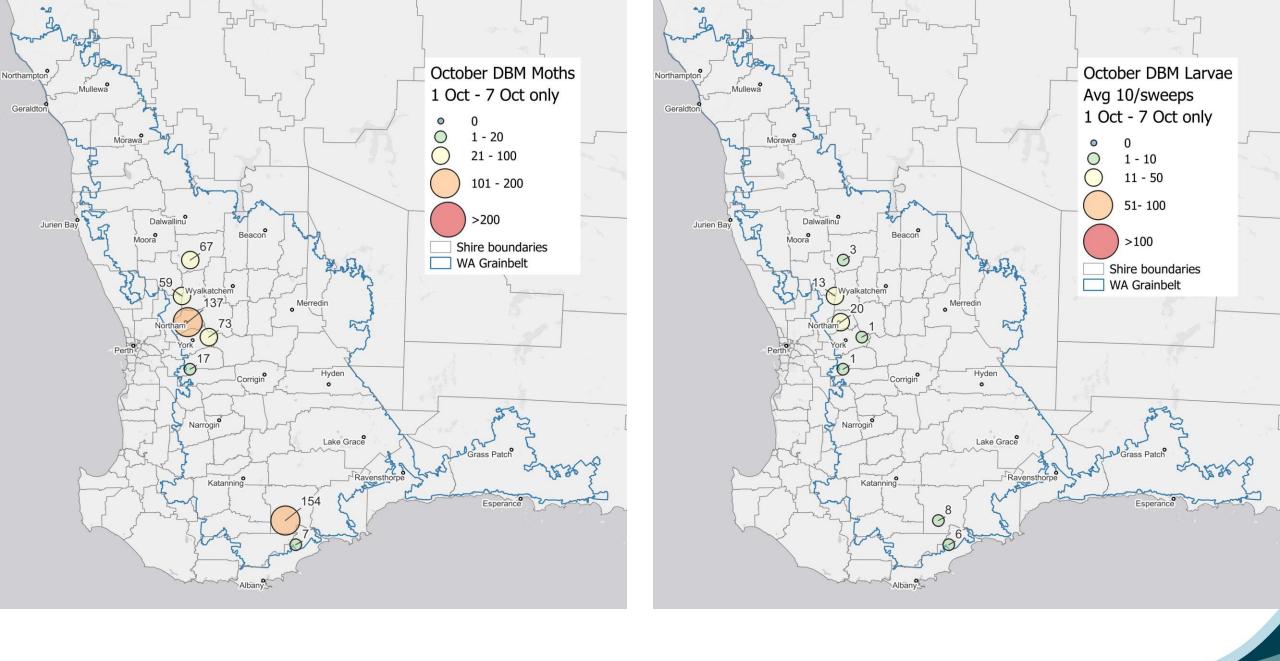
Delta trap











Spring aphids

Canola aphids



Turnip aphid (*Lipaphis erysimi*)

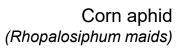


Cabbage aphid (*Brevicoryne brassicae*)



Green peach aphid (*Myzus persicae*)

Cereal aphids





Russian wheat aphid (Diuraphis noxia)



Oat aphid (Rhopalosiphum padi)



Svetlana.Micic@dpird.wa.gov.au; Image source: DPIRD.

Minimising snail issues at harvest





Snails are only an issue in some parts of the port zones.

Budget for cleaning. Cost calculators available at; https://scfarmers.org.au/resources/

Monitoring for 2026 now



Black keeled slug



Small conical snail



Redlegged earth mite



Desiantha weevil

Monitoring for 2026 now

 Weeds are a host for next year's pests.



Wild radish.

Another hot, dry summer? 2026 risk?

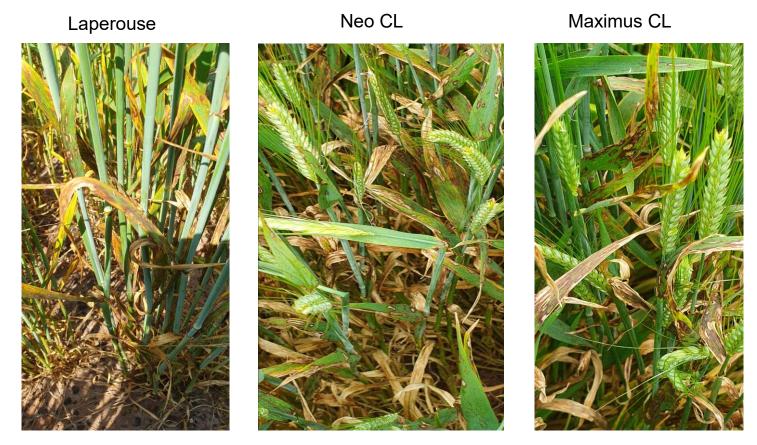
- Russian wheat aphid (RWA) will survive on native grasses.
- Pests that don't persist in absence of hosts = aphids & diamondback moths.

Take home messages

- Monitor for Native Budworm and use thresholds.
- Budget to clean grain.
- Plan for 2026 by monitoring now for pests.
- Native budworm flights into broadacre regions of WA will likely be earlier than June 2026.
- Expect minimal green bridge over summer, not going to affect RLEM, slugs & snails, weevils, RWA

Diseases in 2025 and preparing for 2026

New virulence - Barley scald



Lower Great Southern region – 2025.

New virulence – Barley powdery mildew

- Affecting varieties such as Maximus CL and Combat.
- First seen 2023 in Maximus.
- More widespread in 2025.



2025 season



Barley loose smut

2025 season



Barley loose smut



Bacterial blight oats

2025 season



Barley loose smut



Bacterial blight oats



Yellow spot / nodorum blotch wheat

Root diseases





Take-all in wheat

Geoff.J.Thomas@dpird.wa.gov.au; Image source: DPIRD.

Inoculum carryover into 2026

- Stubble (e.g. net blotches, yellow spot, blackleg, ascochyta pulses)
- Seed (e.g. loose smut, ascochyta)
- Soil (e.g. root disease, nematodes, sclerotinia)
- Green bridge (e.g. rusts, virus, virus vectors)
- Don't forget carryover from previous seasons.



Take home messages

It's too late to manage disease in 2025.





Take home messages

- It's too late to manage disease in 2025
- Barley scald has emerged as a major risk
- Plan seed dressings for loose smut control
- Hot dry summer will maintain stubble / soil inoculum
- Use all Integrated Disease Management (IDM) tools
 don't just rely on fungicide.

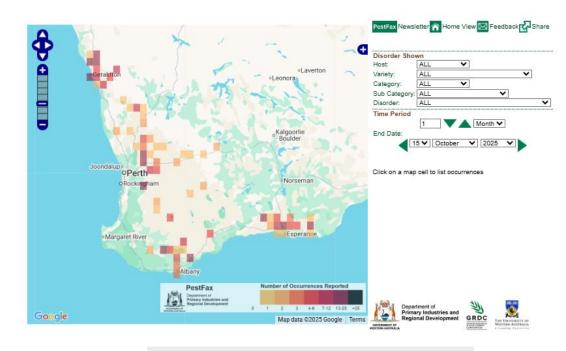


PestFacts WA service

PestFacts WA service

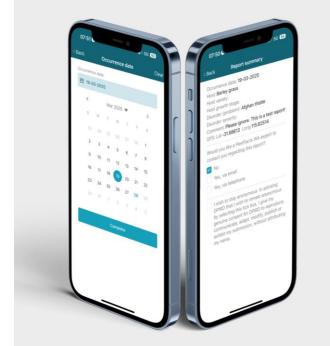
See what's being reported in your area on the PestFacts WA map

https://www.dpird.wa.gov.au/onlinetools/pestfacts-wa/pestfacts-wa-map/



Use the PestFacts WA Reporter app to report insects and diseases or request a free diagnosis

https://www.dpird.wa.gov.au/onlinetools/pestfacts-wa/pestfacts-wa-reporter/



PestFacts WA service

Subscribe to the PestFacts WA newsletter.

https://www.dpird.wa.gov.au/aboutus/newsletters/PestFacts-WA-newsletter/



PestFacts WA

Issue: 19 Date: October 2025

Contents

- Patchy crops:
 Diagnosing the cause for better
 2026 management
- Wheat streak mosaic virus
- Diamondback moth activity update
- Green peach aphid numbers are increasing

Patchy crops: Diagnosing the cause for better 2026 management

- Dandaragan
- Calingiri
- Highbury



Wheat plants with some displaying take-all symptoms, including white coloured heads, among healthy plants. Photo courtesy of DPIRD.

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Questions and Answers session





- You can email us after today's session at: pestfactswa@dpird.wa.gov.au
- Webinar recording will be put on DPIRD's YouTube channel.
- Follow @DPIRDbroadacre on X (formerly Twitter) for #PestFactsWA posts.

Thank you

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