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# Wine Industry Newsletter

## Contents



## Phylloxera response exercise strengthens WA wine industry’s biosecurity preparedness

Western Australia’s wine industry is strengthening its frontline defence against pests and diseases through a coordinated program of activities delivered during WA Wine Industry Biosecurity Week (8–12 June 2026).

Led by Wines of Western Australia (WoWA) in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and Wine Australia, the initiative brought growers, winemakers and regional stakeholders together to raise awareness, build capability and reinforce the importance of strong on-farm biosecurity practices.

At the centre of the week was the WA Wines Phylloxera Preparedness and Response Exercise, held in Margaret River on 10 June. The full-day simulation focused on one of the most significant biosecurity threats to global wine production—phylloxera—and explored how industry and government would respond to a detection in Western Australia.

## A practical, scenario-based approach

Facilitated by Plant Health Australia (PHA) in collaboration with WoWA and DPIRD, the exercise brought together participants for a structured and highly interactive program. Local and interstate biosecurity and phylloxera experts delivered technical and operational insights throughout the day.

The exercise began with an information session, providing participants with a clear understanding of Australia's biosecurity system, the roles of key organisations, and the biology, impacts and transmission pathways of phylloxera. Participants also received an overview of how state biosecurity response is managed, including response phases, decision-making processes and the role of industry during a biosecurity incursion.

Building on this foundation, participants moved into a series of progressive simulation scenarios designed to mimic the stages of a real incursion.


*Image: PHA's Melissa Garland welcomed participants to the phylloxera preparedness and response exercise.*

## Simulating a Phylloxera detection

Working in small groups, participants stepped through escalating scenarios based on a detection within the Margaret River wine region. These followed the lifecycle of a potential outbreak, from initial suspicion through to longer-term management.

Key stages included:

- **Detection:** responding to unexplained vine decline and deciding what actions to take
- **Investigation:** understanding tracing, communication expectations and risk assessment
- **Movement controls:** managing operations once a Phylloxera Infested Zone (PIZ) is established
- **Zone expansion:** responding to further detections and changing boundaries
- **Future management:** planning for industry operations one-year post-detection.

Each scenario required participants to consider practical decisions, including who to contact, how to manage vineyard activities under restrictions, and what support they would need from government and industry bodies.

The structured format, combining scenario presentations, group discussion, report-back and expert input, encouraged participants to actively engage and learn from each other's experiences.


*Image: Groups of participants worked through responses to a fictious detection of phylloxera.*

## Learning from industry experience

To compliment the fictious scenario, Yarra Valley viticulturist Steve Faulkner presented a case study to provide a practical perspective on managing phylloxera in an established region.

This session highlighted the long-term impacts of phylloxera, including:

- increased operational costs associated with machinery cleaning and heat treatment
- restrictions on moving equipment between vineyard sites
- additional labour and compliance requirements
- long-term effects on vineyard productivity and replanting decisions.

These insights reinforced a key message of the workshop; prevention and preparedness are significantly more cost-effective than managing an established infestation.


*Image: Yarra Valley viticulturist, Steve Faulkner, provided insights into the impact of phylloxera on vineyard operations.*

## Key messages for industry

Across the day, several consistent themes emerged:

- Early detection and reporting are critical to improving containment outcomes
- Biosecurity is a shared responsibility, requiring action at the vineyard level

- Everyday practices, such as hygiene and visitor management, are key risk mitigation tools
- Preparedness planning supports business resilience in the face of disruption.

## Looking ahead

WA Wine Industry Biosecurity Week, and particularly the phylloxera preparedness exercise, marks an important step in strengthening resilience across Western Australia's wine sector.

Insights gained from the exercise will be used to inform recommendations for Wines of WA and DPIRD, supporting improved preparedness for future biosecurity incursions and helping safeguard the industry's long-term sustainability.

## Acknowledgements

The phylloxera preparedness and response exercise was enabled by the Western Australian Wine Industry Partnership, an industry-led initiative supported by the WA Government and the Wine Australia Regional Program.

Wines of WA, DPIRD, Vine Health Australia, Margaret River Wine Association and the Endeavour Group all generously contributed to the success of the exercise.

# Biosecurity workshops delivered in Margaret River and Swan Valley

As part of WA Wine Industry Biosecurity Week, producers strengthened their biosecurity knowledge and on-farm planning skills through a series of practical, hands-on workshops delivered in Margaret River and the Swan Valley.

The half-day workshops, facilitated by Wine Australia, Wines of WA and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), focused on helping growers identify, prioritise and manage biosecurity risks specific to their own vineyard operations.

Led by Wine Australia Program Manager (Biosecurity, Pest and Disease) Robyn Dixon, the sessions brought producers together to build on existing knowledge of biosecurity through discussion and practical planning.

## Awareness to action

A key feature of the workshops was a strong emphasis on applied learning. Participants worked through real-world scenarios and exercises focussing on how pests and diseases can enter and spread through vineyards.

Common pathways discussed included soil movement, plant material and human activity, with management strategies explored. This allowed growers to pinpoint vulnerabilities and identify practical improvements tailored to their operations.

Key activities included in the workshops:

- Footbath hygiene demonstration
- Pest-matching exercise linking threats, pathways and controls
- Machinery movement scenario examining shared equipment risks
- Risk assessment of pest and disease likelihood and impact
- Vineyard mapping to identify movement pathways and control points
- These activities reinforced the concept that biosecurity risks are often associated with everyday operations, such as vehicle movement, contractor activity and visitor access.

*Image: Attendees at the Margaret River workshop demonstrating the use of footbaths.*

## Biosecurity as everyday practice

The consistent message throughout the day was biosecurity is not a one-off task, but an integral part of routine vineyard operations.

Simple practices such as cleaning machinery, managing visitor access, using certified planting material and training staff can significantly reduce risk.

Importantly, these actions not only protect individual businesses but also contribute to safeguarding regional productivity and reputation.

## Supporting industry preparedness

The workshops reflect a broader industry focus on strengthening preparedness for high-impact pests such as phylloxera, and emerging biosecurity threats facing Australian vineyards.

They support growers in meeting sustainability certification requirements and demonstrating proactive risk management to supply chain partners and markets.

## Acknowledgements

These workshops were funded by the Wine Australia Regional Program and supported by Wines of WA and DPIRD through in-kind contributions.

# Seasonal climatic update

DPIRD technical officer Yu-Yi Liao has compiled an update for the 2025-26 growing season across all 9 of WA's wine regions. Following the climate data article published in the May edition, this information provides the WA wine industry with regional insights for current and past growing seasons.

These summaries include bar graphs illustrating monthly rainfall data for the last 4 seasons from June to May and graphs showing accumulated growing degree days (*GDD), average monthly temperature and daily rainfall for each region (noting that only current-season daily rainfall is presented).

*GDD units= $\frac{(Daily\ Max\ temperature + Daily\ Min\ temperature)}{2} - 10°C$ base

## Overview

The 2025–26 season was characterised by a wetter winter and spring across most regions, resulting in higher overall accumulated rainfall. Autumn rainfall was marked by a heavy downpour at the end of March in most regions attributed to Ex-Tropical Cyclone Narelle. In terms of heat accumulation, 2025-26 was generally a milder season compared to the last 4 years, tracking higher than the 2022–23 season but lower than 2023–24 and 2024–25.

## Swan District

Figures 1 and 2 show data collected from the BoM Millendon weather station (site number 9281) representing the Swan District wine region.

The Swan District accumulated the highest rainfall of the past 4 seasons, driven by significant winter (497 mm) and spring (162 mm) totals. Autumn rains began in March, with 29 mm of the month's 38 mm total falling on a single day (28th March).

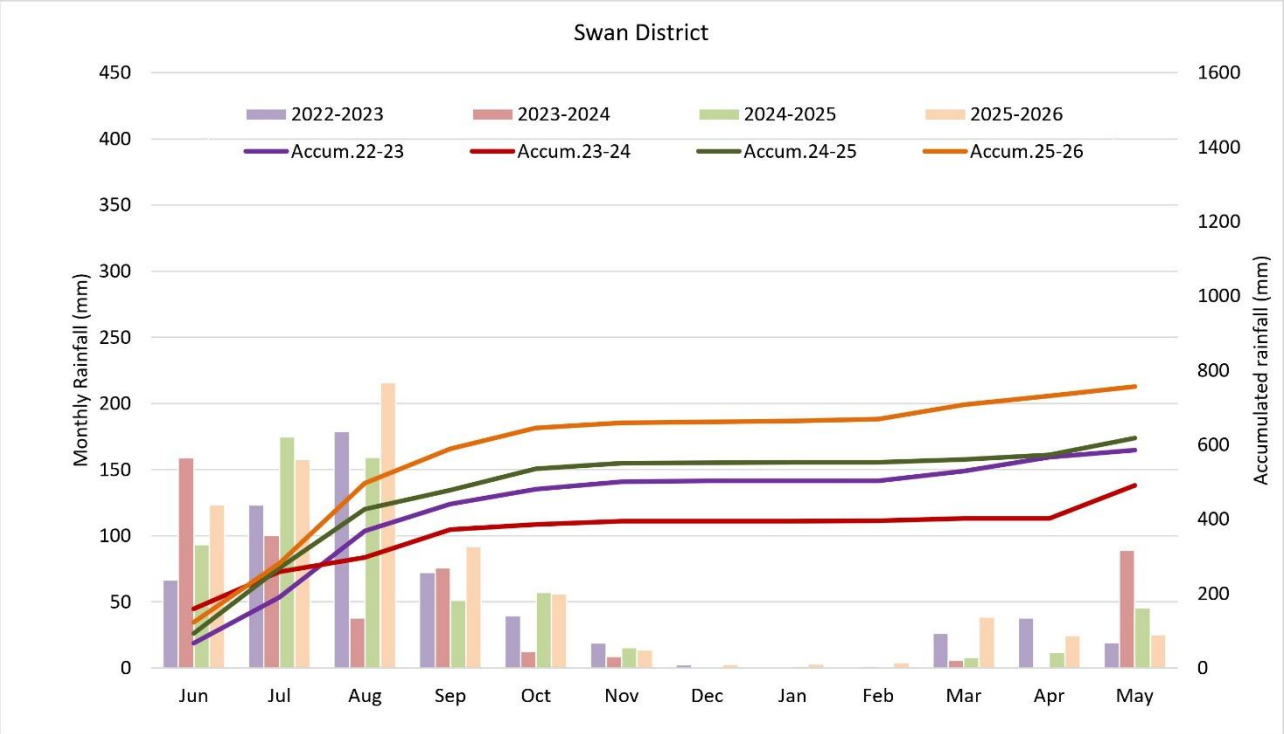


*Figure 1 Swan District 2022-26 season monthly rainfall*

Accumulated GDD for the current season tracked just under the middle range of the last 4 years, totalling 2,617 units. Average monthly temperatures in October and April were cooler, mirroring the 2022–23 season.

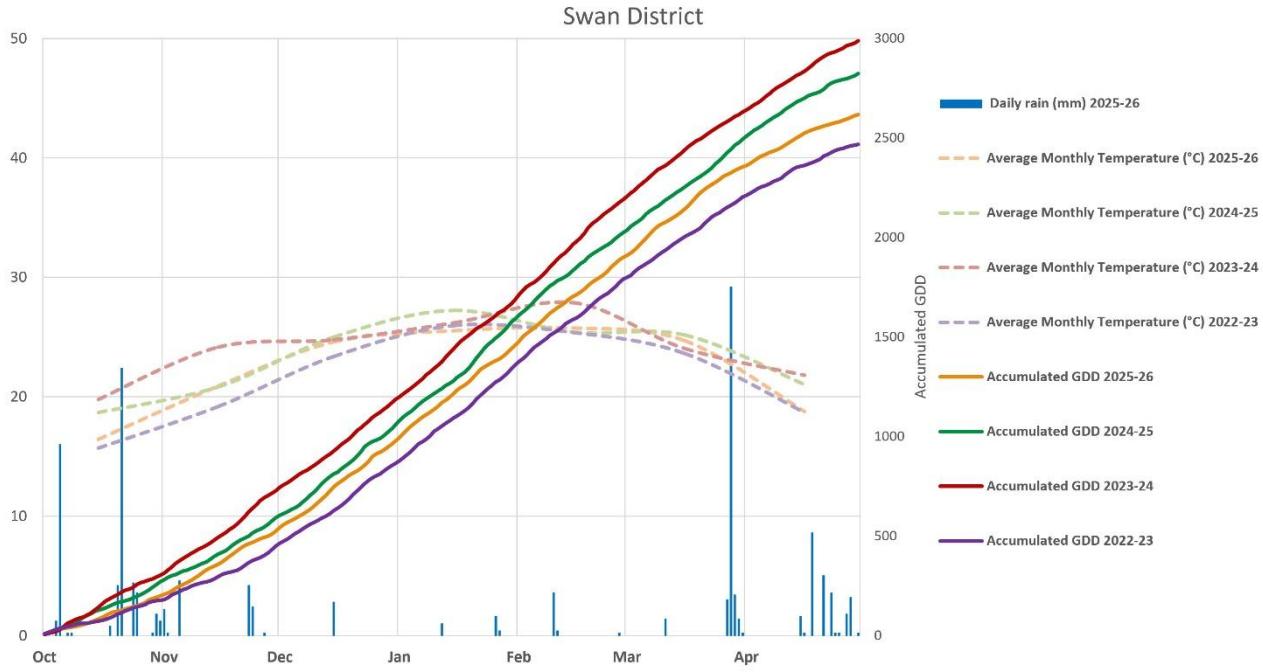


*Figure 2 Swan District 2022-26 growing degree days and average monthly temperature comparisons between 4 seasons and daily rainfall in season 2025-26.*

## Perth Hills

Perth Hills region data in Figures 3 and 4 are produced from two weather stations, BoM station Bickley (site number 9240) and DPIRD station Glen Eagle.

2025-26 was the wettest of the last 4 seasons. Accumulated rainfall from winter through autumn reached 1,189 mm by the end of May.

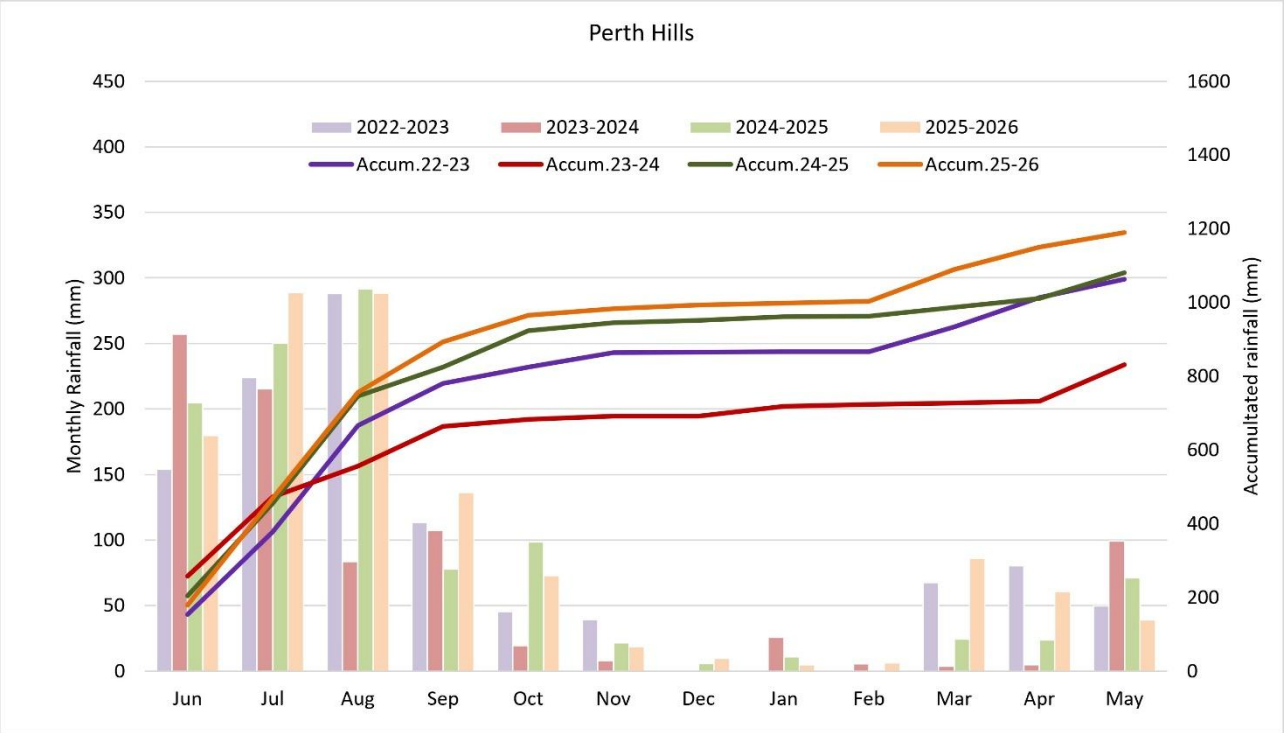


*Figure 3 Perth Hills 2022-26 season monthly rainfall*

The region experienced a milder growing season, accumulating 2,262 GDD units, 209 units lower than 2024-25. A significant rainfall on 28th March (68 mm) accounted for 80% of the month's total precipitation.

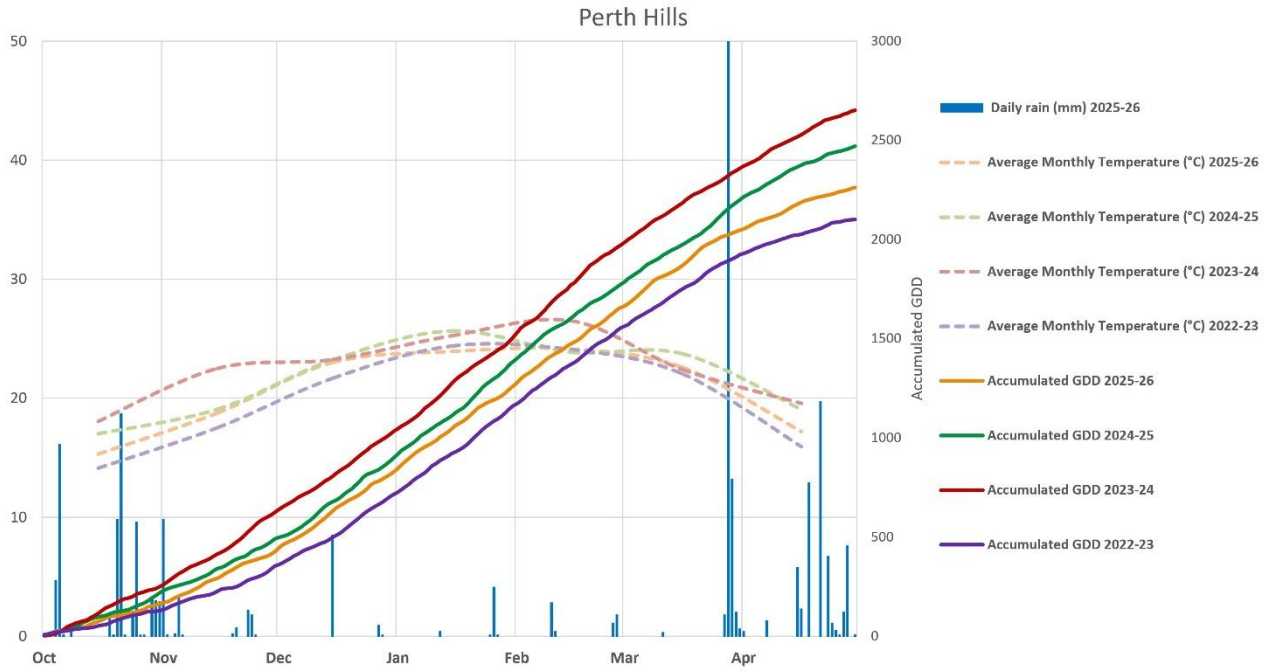


*Figure 4 Perth Hills 2022-26 growing degree days and average monthly temperature comparisons between 4 seasons and daily rainfall in season 2025-26.*

## Peel

Peel's data in Figures 5 and 6 is sourced from BoM Dwellingup weather station (site number 9538).

Following peak rainfall in August, the Peel region experienced consistent monthly rainfall in spring and autumn, accumulating a seasonal total of 1,140 mm, the highest recorded in 4 years.

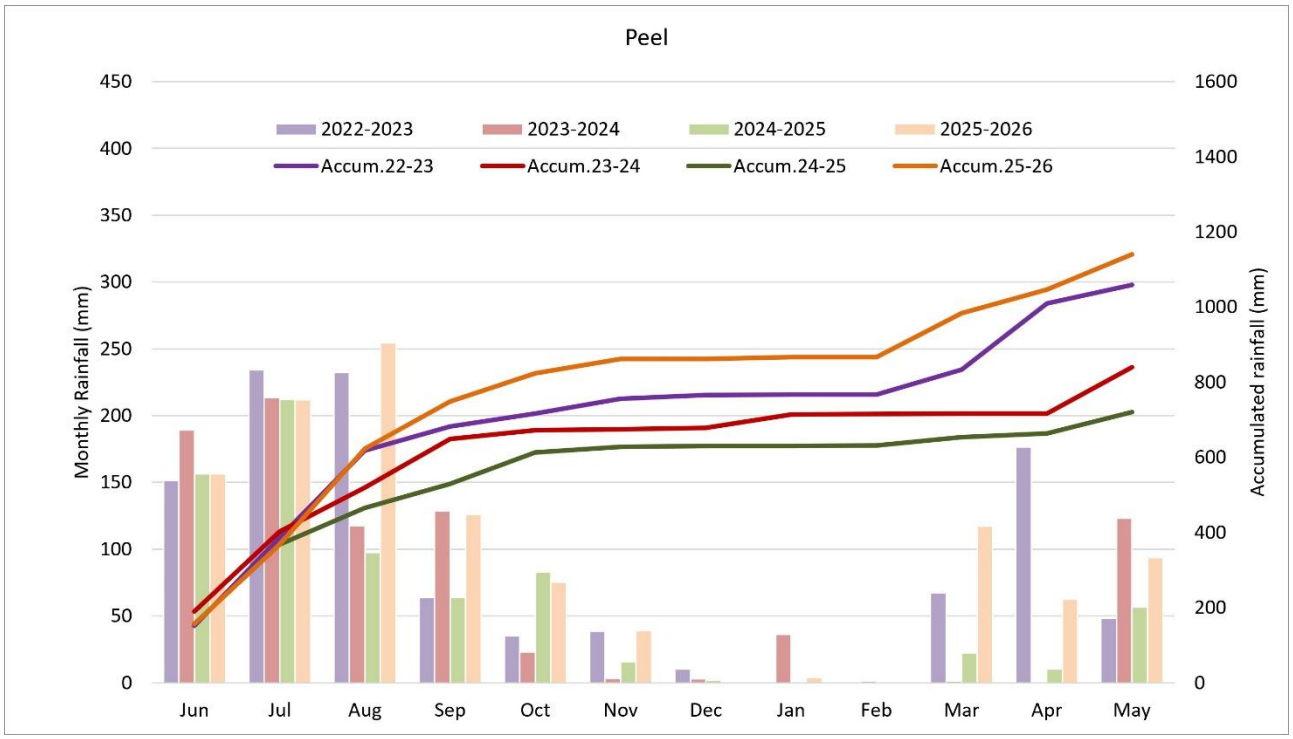


*Figure 5: Peel 2022-26 season monthly rainfall*

In 2025-26, the Peel region accumulated 2,067 GDD units, the second-lowest total in 4 seasons. Most monthly temperatures were below the 4-year average, resulting in a cooler season overall. Nearly all of the March rainfall (117 mm) was contributed by a major event on 28th March (91 mm) and the following day (21 mm).

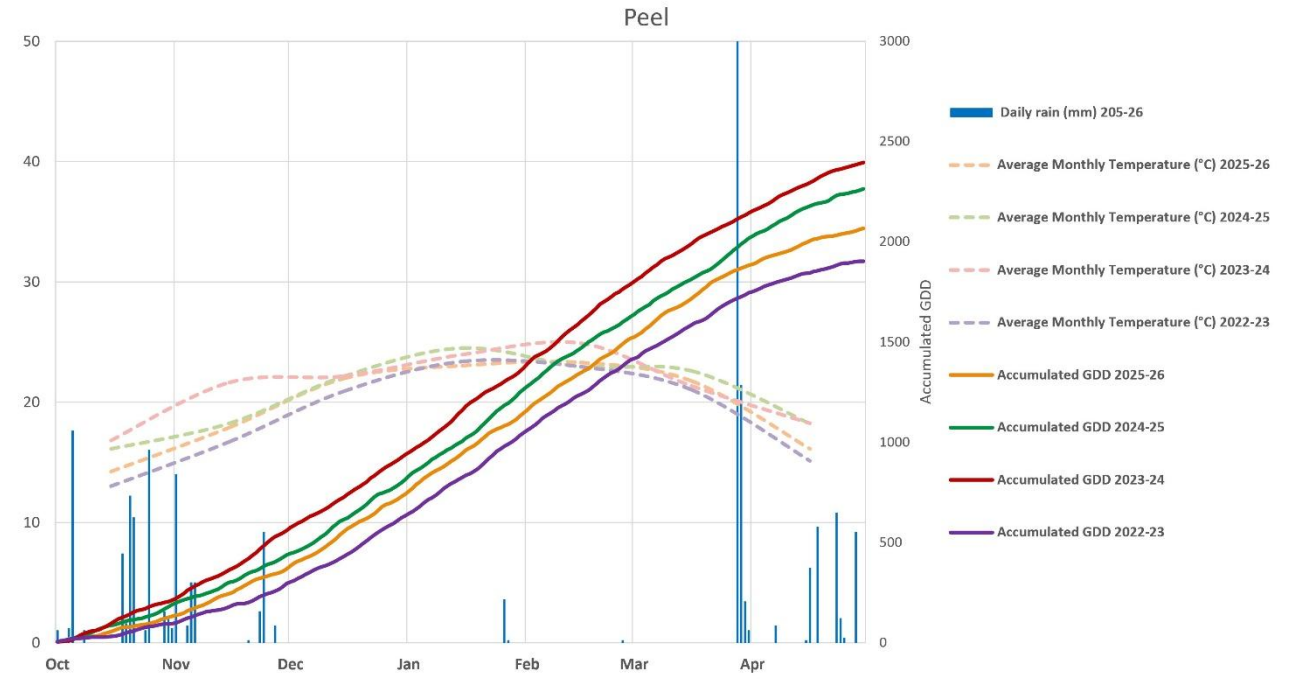


*Figure 6: 2022-26 growing degree days and average monthly temperature comparisons between 4 seasons and daily rainfall in season 2025-26.*

## Geographe

Data derived from DPIRD's weather stations, Capel, Donnybrook and Dardanup 2, were compiled to represent Geographe in Figures 7 and 8.

Unlike all other regions, Geographe has similar rainfall accumulations between current and last season. Higher winter and spring rainfall has set the region up for better water resources, accumulating 956mm by the end of May.

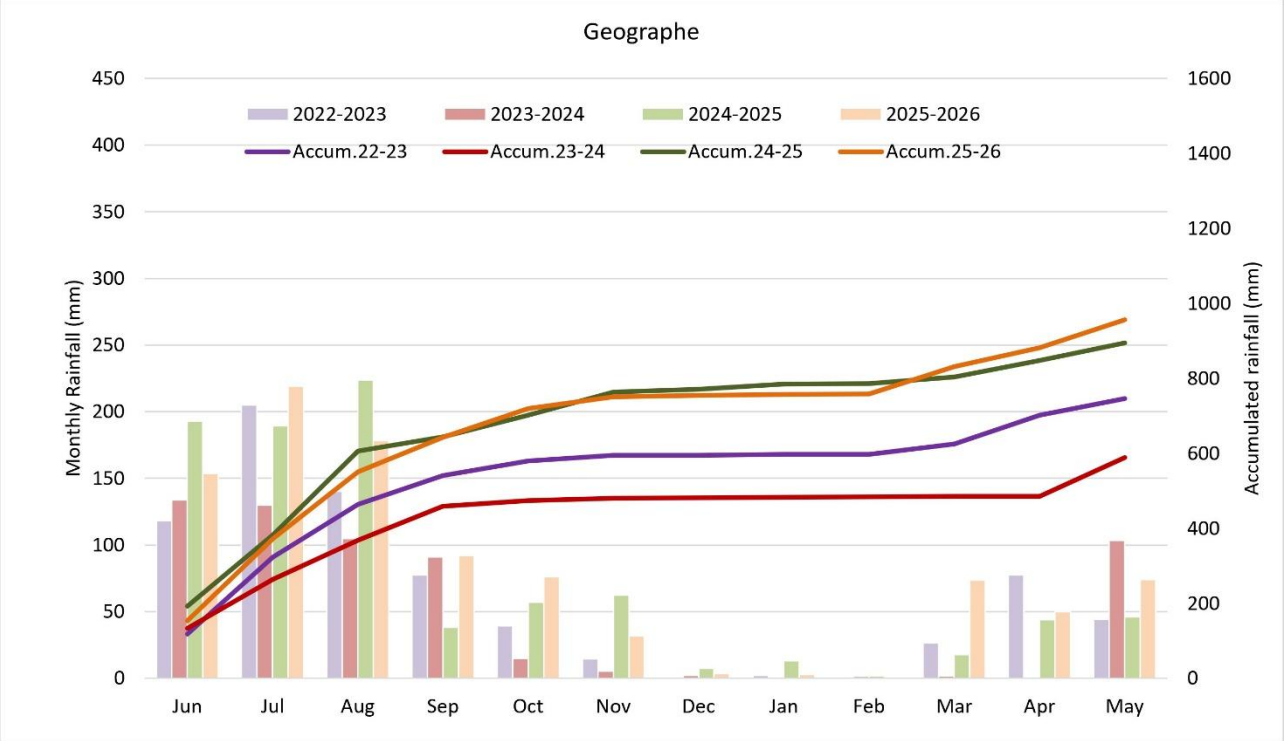


*Figure 7 Geographe 2022-26 season monthly rainfall*

Accumulated GDD for the current season tracked slightly below last season, and as cooler autumn conditions set in, the trend aligned more closely with 2022–23, finishing at 2,066 GDD units, 88 units higher than 2022–23. Rainfall in March totalled 74 mm, largely driven by a concentrated late-month event, with 62 mm recorded on 28 March.

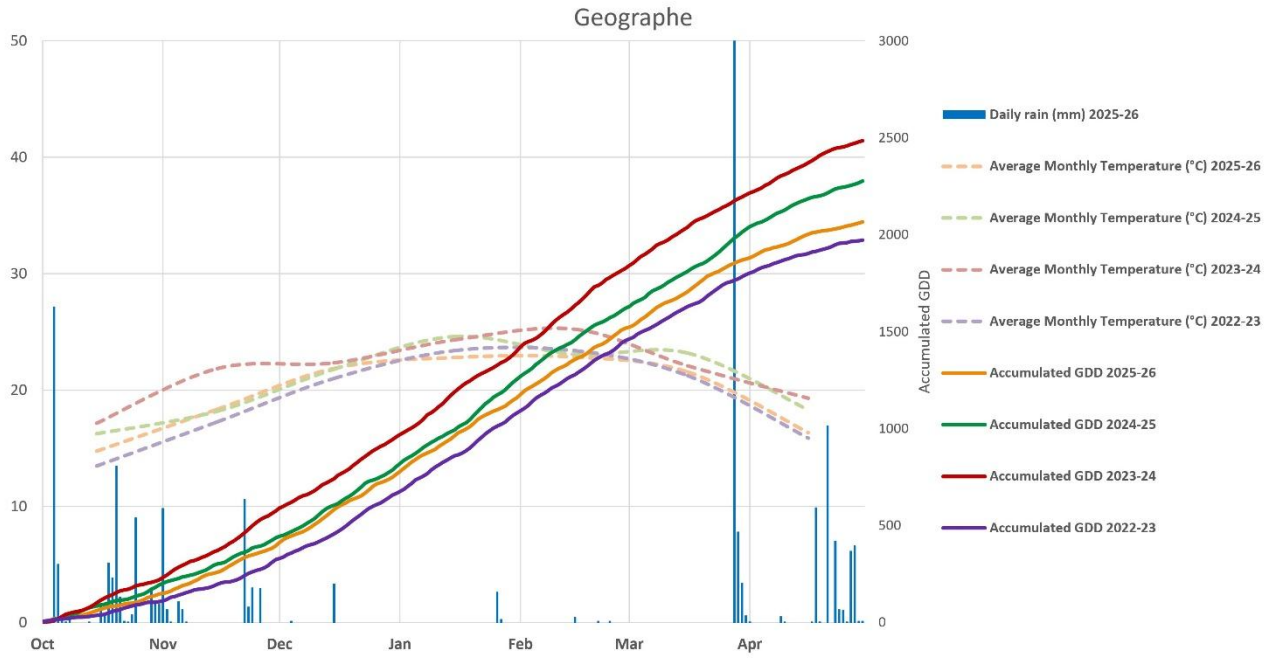


*Figure 8 Geographe 2022-26 growing degree days and average monthly temperature comparisons between 4 seasons and daily rainfall in season 2025-26.*

## Margaret River

Figures 9 and 10 illustrate Margaret River's seasonal data from DPIRD's Vasse, Wilyabrup, Margaret River, Rosa Brook and Karridale weather stations.

With consistently high rainfall from winter through to autumn, Margaret River accumulated 1,235 mm in 2025-26, significantly higher than the previous 4 years.

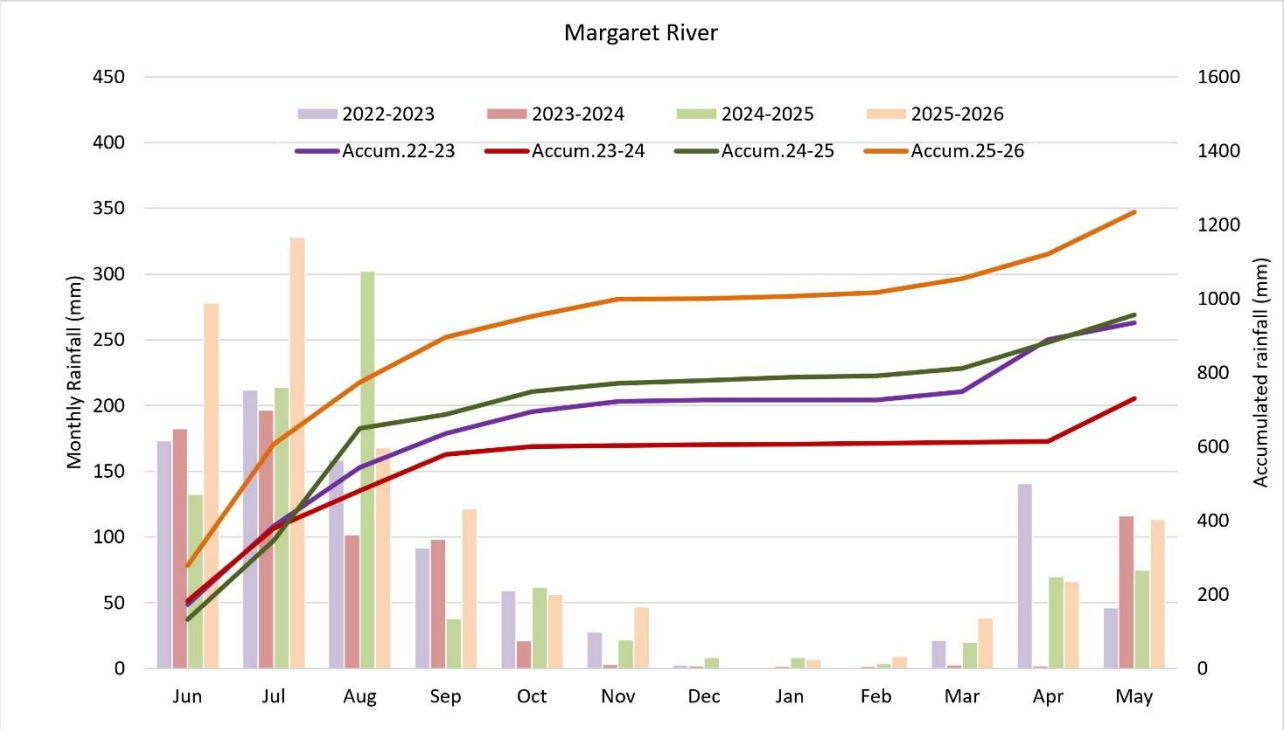


*Figure 9 Margaret River 2022-26 season monthly rainfall*

Early-season GDD tracked closely with 2024–25, but cooler temperatures from February slowed heat accumulation. The season ended with1,783 GDD units, the second-lowest total in the past 4 seasons.

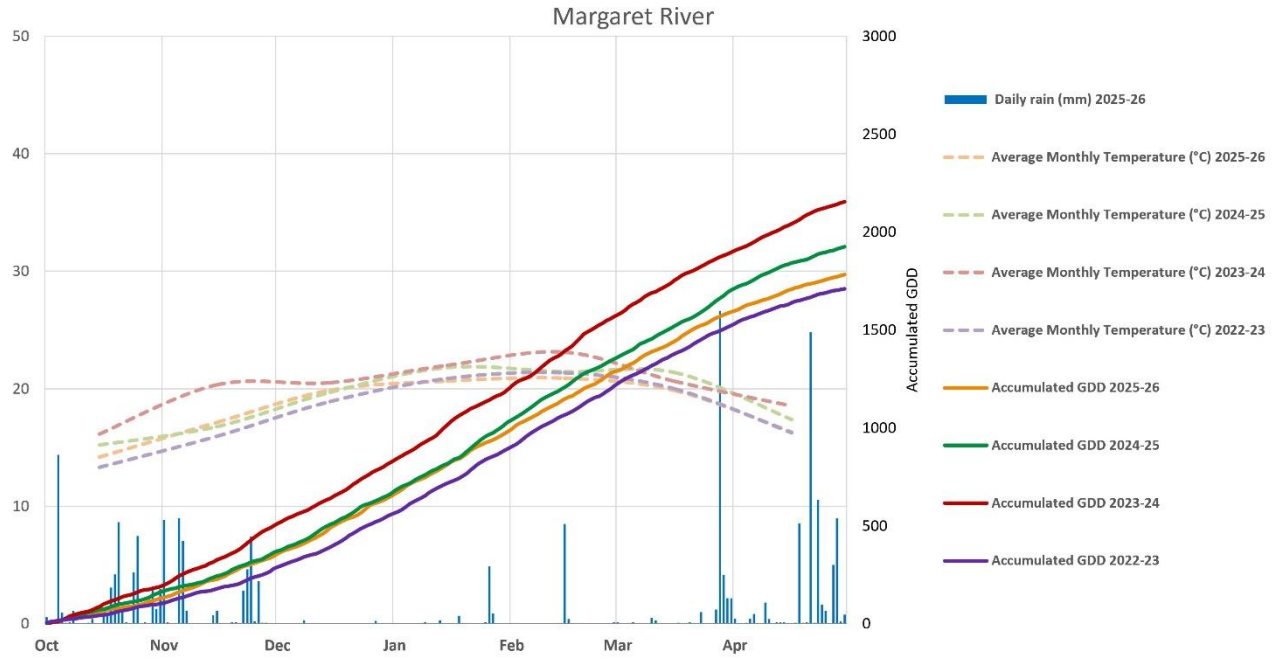


*Figure 10 Margaret River 2022-26 growing degree days and average monthly temperature comparisons between 4 seasons and daily rainfall in season 2025-26.*

## Blackwood Valley

The data from BoM Bridgetown weather station (number 9617) and DPIRD station Nannup are illustrated in Figures 11 and 12, representing the Blackwood Valley wine region.

The Blackwood Valley region experienced similarly elevated winter rainfall to last season, followed by increasing spring rainfall, reaching a total of 994 mm by the end of May, the highest in the past 4 seasons.

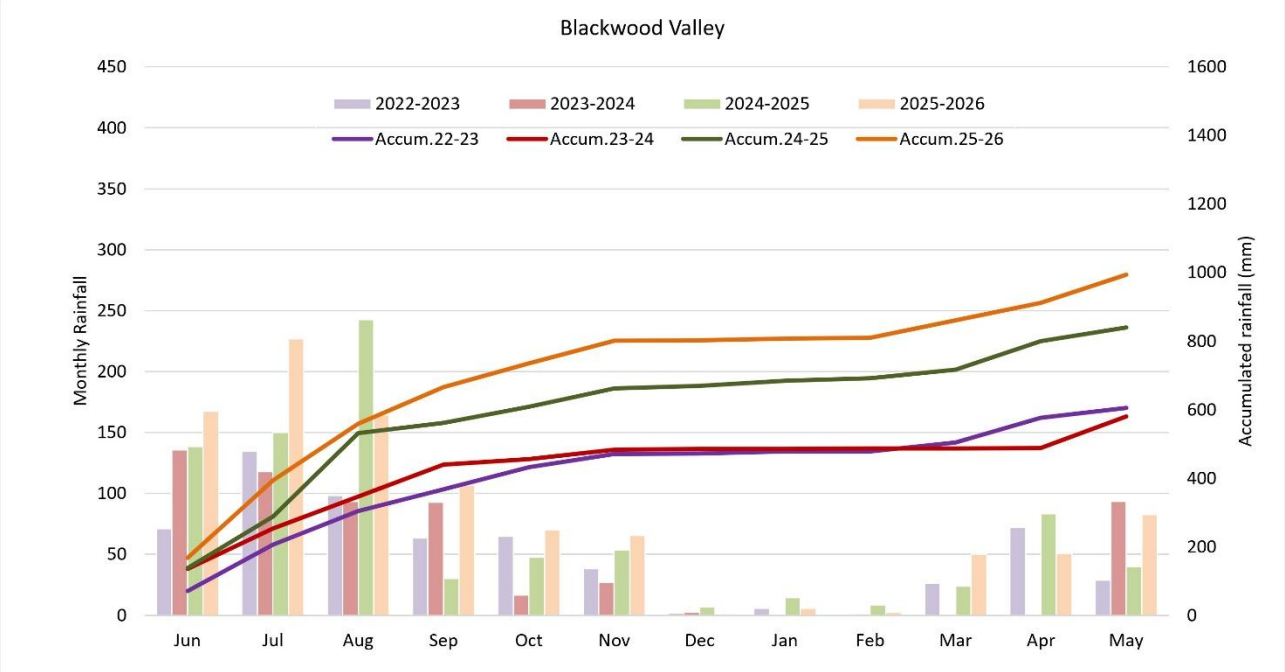


*Figure 11 Blackwood Valley 2022-26 season monthly rainfall*

By the end of April, the region had accumulated 1,881 GDD units, the second-lowest total in the past 4 seasons, with average monthly temperatures in January and February being the coolest recorded over the 2022–2026 period.

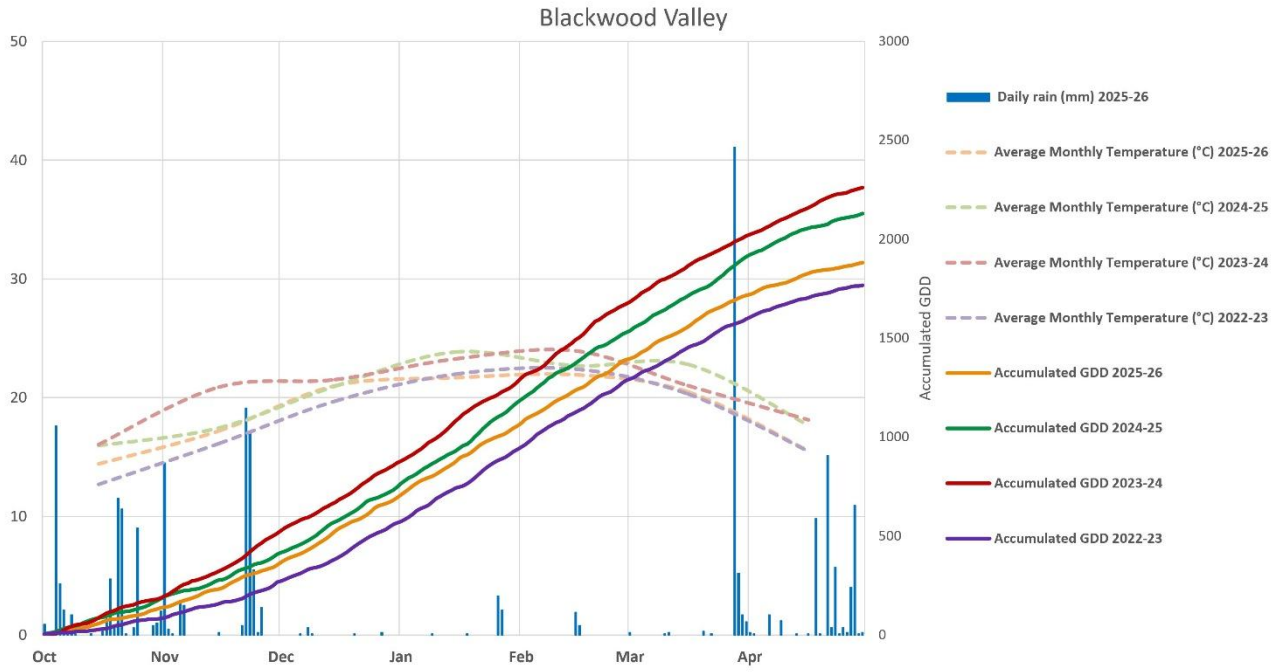


*Figure 12 Blackwood Valley 2022-26 growing degree days and average monthly temperature comparisons between 4 seasons and daily rainfall in season 2025-26.*

## Manjimup

The BoM weather station at Manjimup (site number 9573) and DPIRD's Manjimup HRS station provided data to represent the growing seasons in Figures 13 and 14.

The Manjimup region also experienced a wetter winter and spring; however, less accumulated rainfall occurred in summer and autumn than last season. By the end of May, the region had accumulated 1,117 mm, nearly identical to last season.

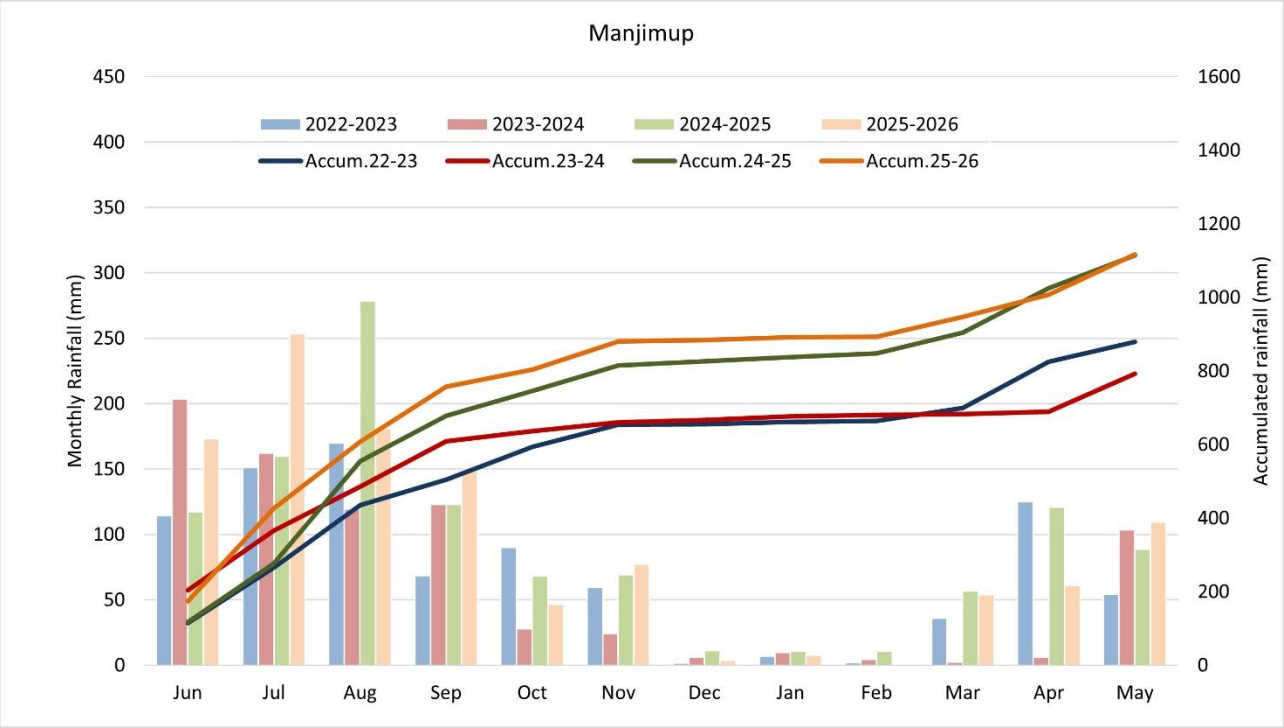


*Figure 13 Manjimup 2022-26 season monthly rainfall*

Manjimup recorded 1,708 GDD units by the end of April, 231 units fewer than 2024–25 season. February and March saw the coolest average monthly temperatures across 4 seasons, with notable autumn rainfall on 28 March (34 mm) and 21 April (25 mm).

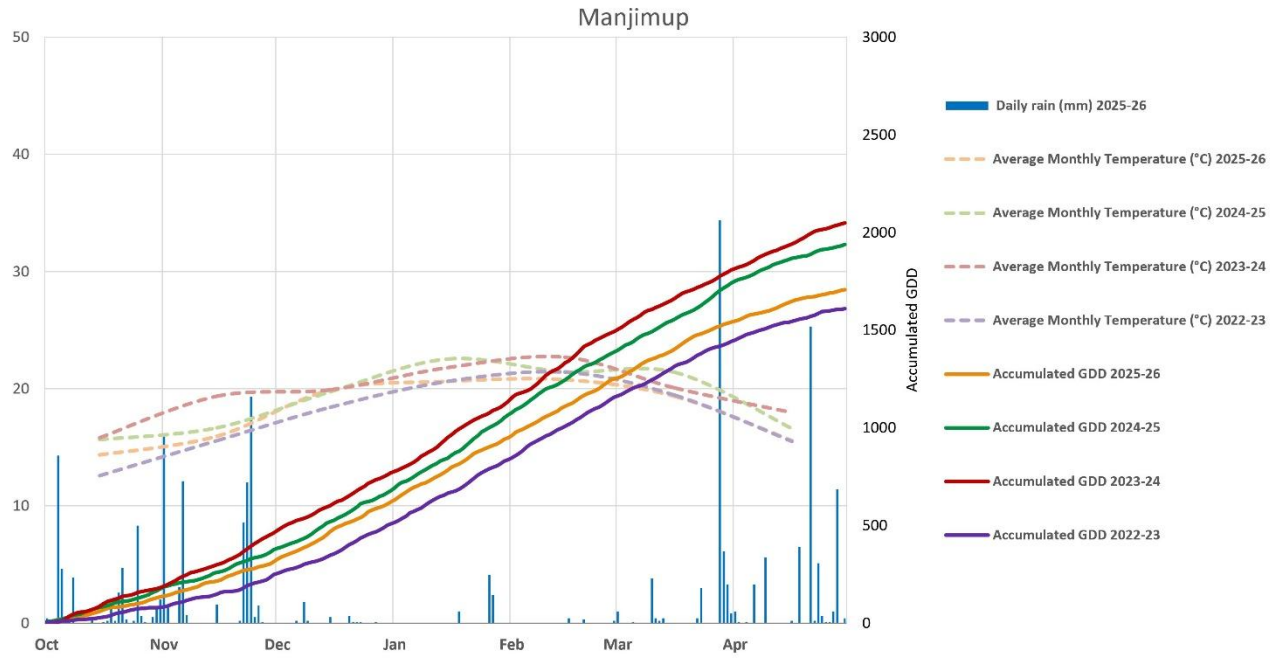


*Figure 14 Manjimup 2022-26 growing degree days and average monthly temperature comparisons between 4 seasons and daily rainfall in season 2025-26.*

## Pemberton

Data from DPIRD Pemberton weather station was collated in Figures 15 and 16.

Similar to most other regions, Pemberton received higher winter and spring rainfall in 2025-26. Autumn rainfall had been steadily increasing from March, which also contributes to the highest accumulated rainfall (1,474mm) across the recent 4 seasons.

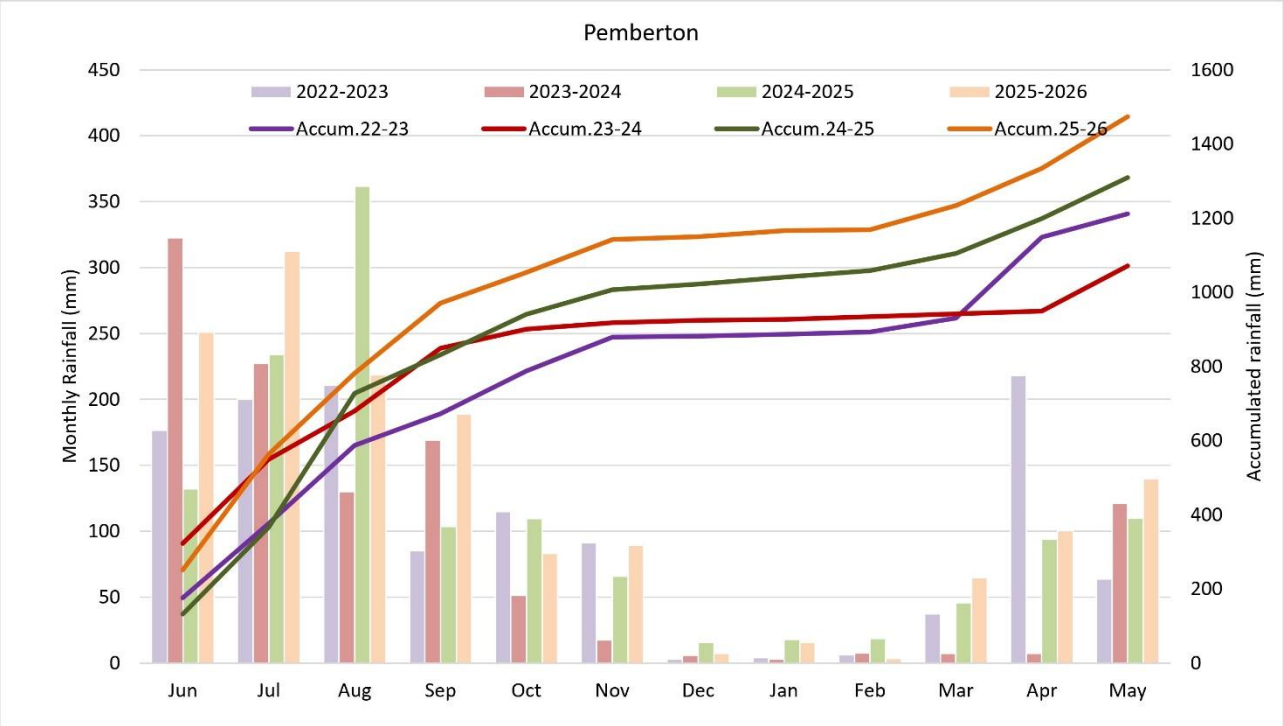


*Figure 15 Pemberton 2022-26 season monthly rainfall*

Heat accumulation closely followed the 2024-25 pattern until February, after which it slowed, aligning more closely with the trend observed in 2022–23. By the end of April, the region had accumulated 1,646 GDD units, 200 units lower than 2024-25.

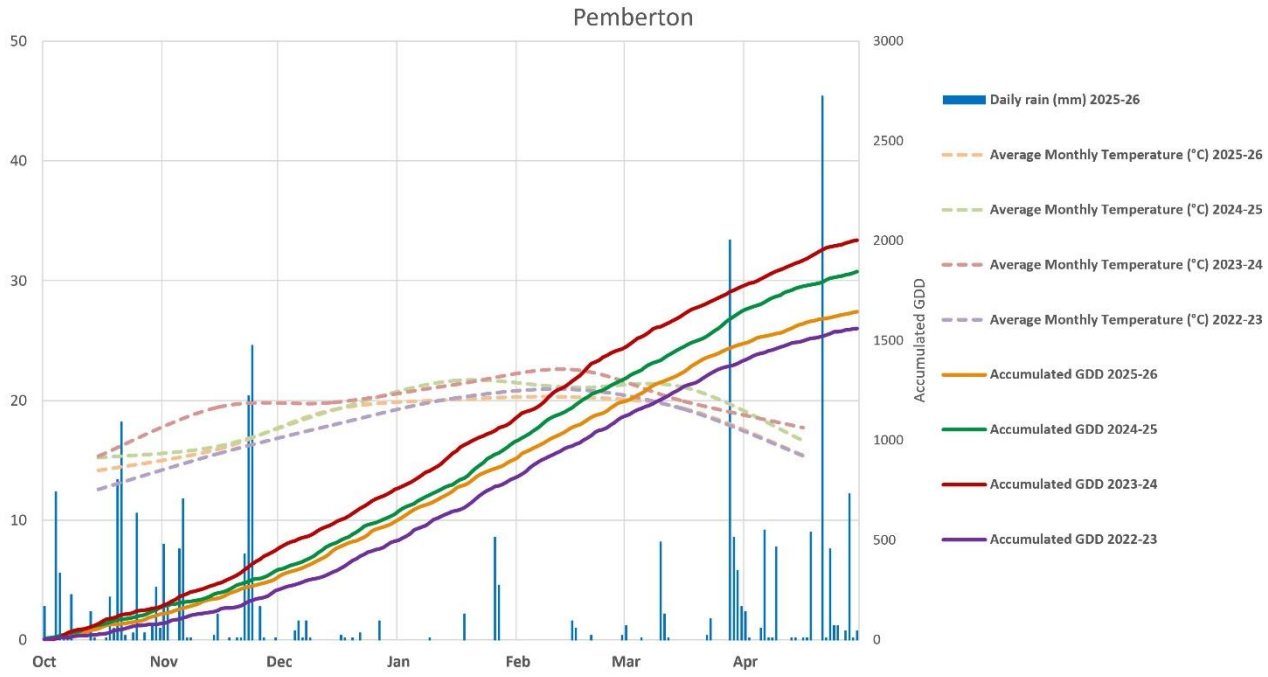


*Figure 16 Pemberton 2022-26 growing degree days and average monthly temperature comparisons between 4 seasons and daily rainfall in season 2025-26.*

## Great Southern

Data from BoM's Albany Airport (9741) and Rocky Gully (9964), Water Corporation's Quickup Dam and DPIRD's Denmark, Mt Barker, Stirlings South, Frankland North and Frankland weather stations were combined to produce Figures 17 and 18, representing each of the subregions of the Great Southern wine region.

Following two dry years, the region received improved rainfall in 2025-26, particularly in spring. Overall, cumulative rainfall tracked higher than the previous 3 seasons until autumn, reaching 798 mm by the end of May.

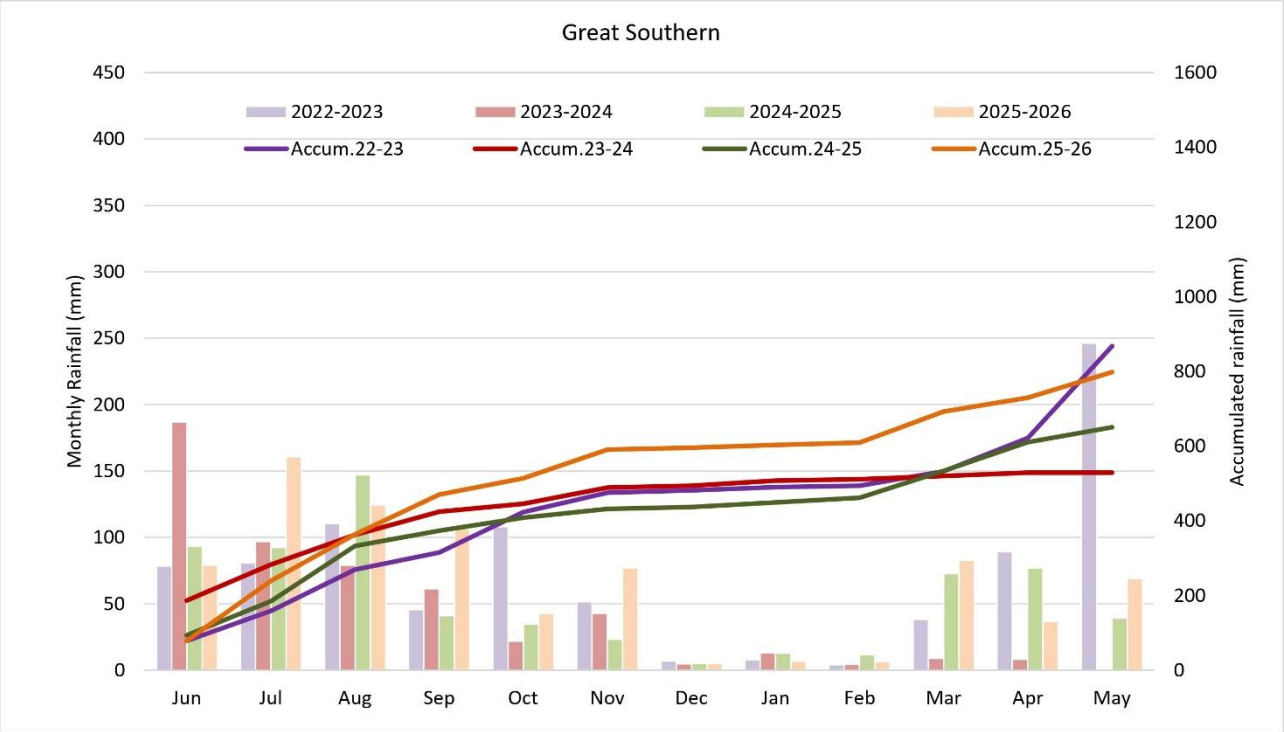


*Figure 17 Great Southern 2022-26 season monthly rainfall*

GDD tracked lower than the previous two seasons, ending with 1,701 units—the second-lowest in 4 years.

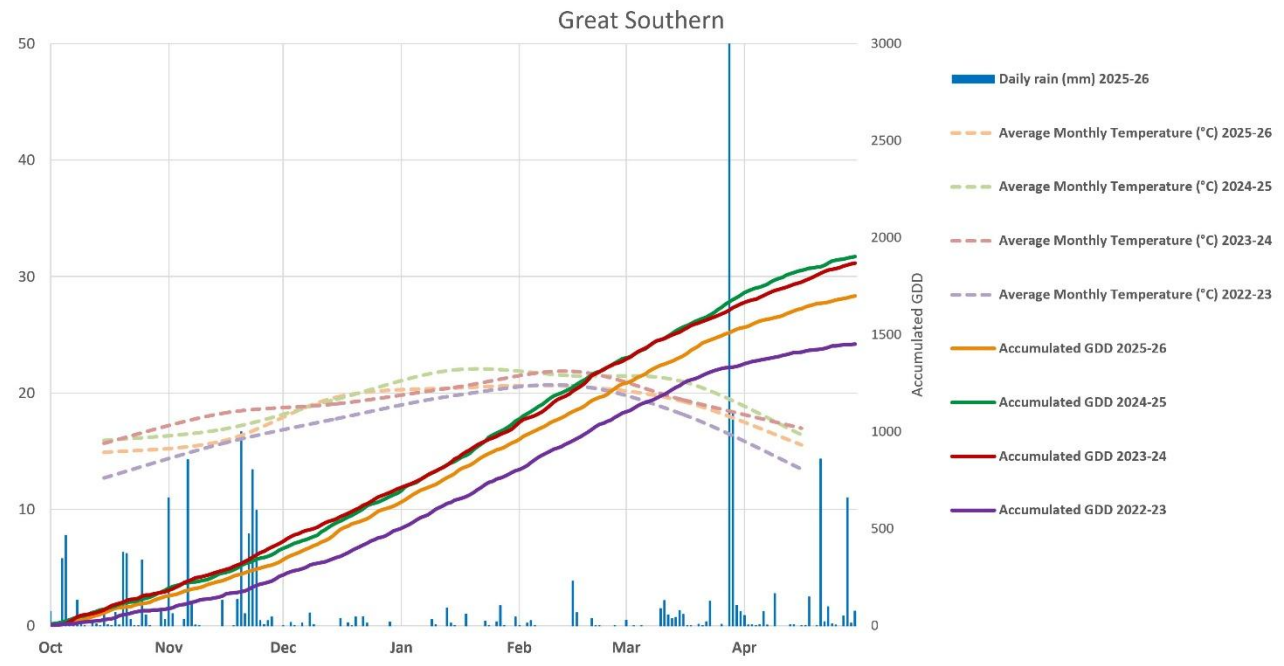


*Figure 18 Great Southern 2022-26 growing degree days and average monthly temperature comparisons between 4 seasons and daily rainfall in season 2025-26.*

## Summary of extreme heat days and heat waves over the past four seasons

The number of extreme heat days (defined for this article as 38°C and above) across the past 4 seasons is summarised in Table 1. There were fewer extreme heat days in 2025-26 than the last season except for the Great Southern region.

| Number of days with maximum temperature ≥ 38°C | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Wine region** | **Growing season** | | | |
| | **2022-23** | **2023-24** | **2024-25** | **2025-26** |
| Swan District | 9 | 26 | 27 | 20 |
| Perth Hills | 3 | 18 | 17 | 11 |
| Peel | 1 | 12 | 10 | 5 |
| Geographe | 2 | 13 | 11 | 5 |
| Margaret River | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Blackwood Valley | 0 | 13 | 6 | 3 |
| Manjimup | 0 | 7 | 3 | 1 |
| Pemberton | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Great Southern | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 |

*Table 1: Number of days with maximum temperature ≥ 38°C*

A summary of heatwave events, defined as 5 or more consecutive days with maximum temperatures ≥35 °C is presented in Table 2. Heatwaves in the Swan District occurred across multiple months, whereas in the Perth Hills and Peel regions were in early March.

| Number of heat waves | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Wine region** | **Growing season** | | | |
| | **2022- 23** | **2023- 24** | **2024- 25** | **2025-26** |
| Swan District | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| Perth Hills | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| Peel | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Geographe | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Margaret River | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Blackwood Valley | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Manjimup | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pemberton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Great Southern | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Table 2: Number of heat waves*

For further information on the data presented, contact Yu-Yi Liao.

# Grapevine berry inner necrosis virus detected in Australia

Grapevine berry inner necrosis virus (GINV) has recently been detected in Australia for the first time, prompting increased awareness and surveillance across the viticulture sector.

The virus, previously reported in Asia, has now been identified in vineyards in Victoria, Queensland and South Australia, and so far only in table grape varieties. No detections are reported from Western Australia.

GINV only infects grapevines (including wine, table and rootstock varieties) and has the potential to affect vine health and productivity. Impacts reported overseas include reduced vigour, smaller berries, internal berry necrosis and altered sugar–acid balance, although local impacts particularly for wine grapes remain uncertain.

## Detection and symptoms

A key challenge for growers is GINV does not always produce obvious symptoms. Infected vines may show restricted spring growth, delayed budburst, stunted or zig-zag shoots, and leaf discolouration such as yellow blotches or mosaic patterns. Bunches can be tighter, with smaller berries and uneven ripening. However, many infected vines can remain asymptomatic, making visual diagnosis unreliable.

Laboratory testing is currently the only way to confirm infection. This is particularly important given symptoms can resemble those caused by other grapevine viruses, nutrient deficiencies or environmental stress.

DPIRD Diagnostics and Laboratory Services has recently introduced molecular testing for GINV as an addition to the existing suite of grapevine viruses they can test for. Contact Monica Kehoe (monica.kehoe@dpird.wa.gov.au) for more information on grapevine virus testing, or ddls@dpird.wa.gov.au for submission enquiries. A copy of the submission form can be found here.

## Spread and current status

GINV is primarily spread through infected propagation material, such as cuttings, grafts and rootstocks. It can also be transmitted by the grape erineum mite (bud/blister mite), which is widespread in Australian vineyards.

The extent of the virus in Australia is still unknown. Detections have included both symptomatic and asymptomatic vines, suggesting it may have been present for some time before identification.

## Management and biosecurity

There is no cure for GINV once a vine is infected, so prevention is critical. Industry guidance emphasises:

- sourcing certified, virus-tested planting material
- maintaining strong on-farm biosecurity practices
- monitoring vineyards for unusual symptoms
- managing mite vectors where necessary
- reporting suspect vines for investigation

These measures align with broader virus management strategies already used in vineyards.

## Key takeaway

While the long-term impact of GINV on Australian wine production is still being assessed, early detection, vigilant monitoring and strict biosecurity will be essential to minimise potential spread and protect vineyard productivity.

Further resources are available at Vine Health Australia.

# New project aims to improve molecular testing of grapevine viruses

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) Diagnostics and Laboratory Services (DDLS) Dr Monica Kehoe is pleased to be part of a new Wine Australia funded project “Best practice sampling and virus detection in Australian grapevine propagation assets”. The project is led by Dr Fiona Constable from Agriculture Victoria Research and also includes the Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI).

One of the main aims for the DDLS team is to aid in the design and validation of new diagnostic tools to improve the robustness and reproducibility of molecular tests available for grapevine viruses in Australia.

The diverse range of grapevine virus strains in Australia, combined with the fact that most current tests were developed overseas, requires running more than 20 PCR and qPCRs on each sample to accurately detect just 13 viruses. This project presents a valuable opportunity to enhance these testing processes. The project will further develop best practice sampling protocols, and review and evaluate current approaches to virus management.

Work has already begun with Dr Kehoe undertaking a review of virus diversity, and beginning a program to monitor and sample a subset of vines every 3 months for the life of the project, aiming to pinpoint the most accurate and appropriate time of year, and type of tissue, to sample.

The project will run until April 2028. We look forward to providing you with further updates as the project progresses.

# Grapevine trunk disease testing services

While you're out and about pruning this winter, it's a good time to check your vines for symptoms of grapevine trunk disease (GTD). Grey or black discoloured wedges or spots visible on the cross section of fresh or old pruning cuts are typical symptoms of GTD.

The DPIRD Diagnostics and Laboratory Services (DDLS) plant diagnostics team have moved to a new modern facility in Bentley and are well set up to provide growers with diagnostic testing for the many various fungal pathogens that can cause GTD, or any other disease issue on the farm or around the home you're concerned about.

*Figure 1: Grapevine trunk disease symptoms on a cross section of a grapevine.*

We are more than happy to discuss your needs, and to provide you with a quote.

Contact Nick Pain (nick.pain@dpird.wa.gov.au) or Dominie Wright (dominie.wright@dpird.wa.gov.au) for more information on grapevine diseases specifically, or ddlsplantpathology@dpird.wa.gov.au for submission enquiries.

More information on our testing services and sample submission can be found here.

# New ‘Dog book’ released with key updates for vineyard agrochemical use

The 2026/27 edition of *Agrochemicals registered for use in Australian viticulture*—widely known as the ‘Dog book’—is now available online. Published annually, the guide remains an essential reference for grape growers and winemakers, supporting compliant agrochemical use and facilitating access to key export markets for Australian wine.

## What’s new in 2026/27

This year’s update includes several important changes that growers should review ahead of the coming season.

### New active constituent: folpet

A notable addition is the registration of folpet as a fungicide active ingredient. The product Folpan 800 WG (Adama Australia Pty Ltd) is now approved for the control of powdery mildew, downy mildew, botrytis, phomopsis and black rot in grapes. Recommended export harvest timing is no later than E-L 27 (early berry development).

### Updated export harvest intervals

Several commonly-used fungicides and products have revised export harvest intervals, including:

- Mefentrifluconazole (Belanty) – now back to E-L stage 25 (80% capfall).
- Fenpropidin + difenoconazole (Seeker Duo) – extended to E-L stage 25 (80% capfall).
- Pydiflumetofen (Miravis) – extended to E-L 27 (Setting; young berries > 2mm diameter, bunch at right angles to stem).
- Orange oil (Prev-Am) – shortened to 14 days before harvest.
- Eugenol, geraniol and thymol (Novellus) – shortened to 7 days before harvest.

These changes may affect spray planning and market compliance, particularly for export-focused vineyards.

### Fenitrothion removal

The use of fenitrothion in grapevines is no longer supported in Australia following a regulatory decision by the APVMA. The final date for use is 14 August 2026, after which any remaining product must be disposed of through approved programs such as ChemClear. The chemical has been excluded from the 2026/27 guide.

## Updated guidance for best practice

The new edition places additional emphasis on practical spray application and stewardship:

- **Spray coverage and dosing:** Effective disease control depends on applying the correct dose per canopy length and ensuring adequate penetration, particularly in the bunch zone.
- **Re-entry periods:** Greater detail is now provided, highlighting that products with the same active ingredient can have different re-entry intervals depending on formulation and label updates.
- **Resistance management:** The importance of using mixing partners with different modes of action is reinforced to reduce resistance risk and maintain efficacy of key agrochemicals.
- **Desuckering options:** Both mechanical and chemical approaches are outlined, with herbicides listed in the relevant tables.

# Staying up to date

While the print version remains widely used, the online ‘Dog book’ is the most current resource. Updates—such as newly registered products—are incorporated throughout the season in the digital version only, so growers are encouraged to bookmark it for regular reference.

Hard copies will be distributed with the July edition of *The Australian & New Zealand Grapegrower and Winemaker*. Alternatively, copies can be requested via the AWRI mailing list.

# Further information

The AWRI has also released complementary resources, including a powdery mildew grower guide and a fungicide resistance fact sheet, to support improved vineyard management practices. For assistance with agrochemical use or interpreting the ‘Dog book’, growers can contact the AWRI helpdesk on 08 8313 6600 or helpdesk@awri.com.au.

# Acknowledgements

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# Vitivoltaics summary

The final “Vitivoltaics in the Valley” extension event was held at Plume Estate vineyard in the Perth Hills wine region on 22 April 2026.

More than 20 people attended, representing the wine industry, horticulture growers, energy sector, research institutions (Curtin, UWA), Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), Grower Group Alliance (GGA), and the South-West WA Drought Hub.

Researchers, industry partners and Plume Estate owner Marcus Geisler, delivered presentations, followed by a field tour of the Agrisolar installation at Plume Estate.

Presentation by GGA/South-West WA Drought Hub staff Dr Jo Wisdom and Doug Hamilton covered key areas such as:

- What is Agrisolar
- Agrisolar/vitivoltaics projects happening around the world
- Climate pressure on wine regions
- Benefits of Vitivoltaics in adapting to climate variability
- The Agrisolar project and its outcomes and activities

Dr Caitlin Moore (UWA) presented on the climate sensors, data collection, and initial results, including the project’s impact on solar radiation and temperature. She also outlined the Agrisolar CRC and AgZNE CRC Agrisolar projects, highlighting how the infrastructure delivered through this project can support ongoing CRC research.

Dr Sabine Tausz-Posch from the University of Melbourne spoke about the preliminary vine, grape harvest and grape quality results from the 2-year Agrisolar trials at Dookie Campus, and the respective one-year trial results from Paxton Wines in South Australia, and Plume Estate in Western Australia.

While there was variability in yield between the control and treatments vines across the sites, which can be explained by experimental design and seasonal conditions, a key point was the convergence in quality across sites in the form of reduced pH and increased titratable acidity, which is particularly desired in white grape varieties.

Ganesh Pandey, from the University of Tasmania presented on work-to-date on modelling optimal vitivoltaic layouts and how this can help increase overall land-use productivity. Andrew Easton from Sunrise Energy, who installed the Agrisolar infrastructure at Plume Estate, talked through the design considerations and economics, with modelling showing up to 78% renewable energy content for the business and $5,500 per annum savings on power bills.

During the field tour of the Agrisolar demonstration site, Plume Estate owner Marcus Geisler spoke about his interest in the concept and willingness to support the project and the industry.

*Image: Attendees inspecting the solar panel installation within the Plume Estate vineyard. Credit: South-West WA Drout Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub.*

The event received positive feedback from attendees, with strong interest in the concept of Agrisolar and any subsequent projects. It was acknowledged there are still challenges scaling the research to accurately address site, crop and location specific questions for all the different agricultural sectors that Agrisolar could benefit.

Further information can be provided by contacting Doug Hamilton at the Grower Group Alliance.

# Future events

## Carbon Smart Workshop Series

As part of *WA Wine Industry Sustainability Strategy (WAWISS),* Wines of WA invites wine businesses to join the Carbon Smart Workshop Series — a hands-on program helping producers measure and reduce carbon emissions while boosting business efficiency and long-term resilience.

Participants will receive guided support using Carbonhalo, a wine industry-specific emissions platform that makes establishing your carbon baseline straightforward & practical.

- **Swan Valley/Perth Hills**
  Nikola Estate
  21 July, 9am-1.30pm
  Register: Swan Valley/Perth Hills
- **Southern Forests**
  Southern Forest Food Council, Manjimup
  23 July, 9am-1.30pm
  Register: Southern Forests
- **Great Southern**
  Regional Development Building, Albany
  29 July, 9am-1.30pm
  Register: Great Southern
- **Margaret River**
  Margaret River TAFE
  5 Aug, 9am-1.30pm
  Register: Margaret River

This program aligns with the WA Wine Industry Sustainability Strategy and supports producers to strengthen profitability, resilience, and sustainability positioning in an increasingly carbon-conscious market.

## The Cost of Safety – Agricultural Forum

- **Date**: Friday, 24 July 2026
- **Time**: 9.30am – 2.00pm
- **Location**: Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre, 2 Blair St Bunbury
- **Cost**: FREE.

This free forum focuses on the real costs of farm-related workplace incidents and how to improve safety in agricultural settings.

WorkSafe Commissioner Sally North will introduce presentations from WorkSafe Investigations, WorkCover WA, and St John WA, highlighting the consequences of poor safety systems. The WorkSafe agriculture team will outline practical steps to implement effective safety practices.

A farmer panel, chaired by Safe Farms WA, will share real-world experiences on creating safer working environments for workers, families, and themselves.

The event is held at the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre and ends with a networking lunch. It is aimed at farmers, agricultural professionals, students, and anyone interested in improving farm safety. Registration is free but required.

Further details and registration on the WorkSafe webpage.

## Finlayson Wine Roadshow - how to manage a wine business in challenging economic times

- **Date:** Monday, 30 November 2026
- **Time:** 1.45pm – 6.00pm
- **Location:** Howard Park Wines, Cowaramup

Finlaysons Wine Roadshow 34 shows you practical steps to tackle oversupply and softer export demand squeezing wine businesses across Australia. With experts from Wine Australia, AGW and KPMG, Finlaysons share cost-cutting strategies to improve financial performance, understand your legal obligations, and explore collaboration opportunities.

Tickets can be purchased here.