



Department of
**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**




PestFacts WA webinar


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

Acknowledgment 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.

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, wavy, curved shapes in various shades of blue, located in the bottom right corner of the page.

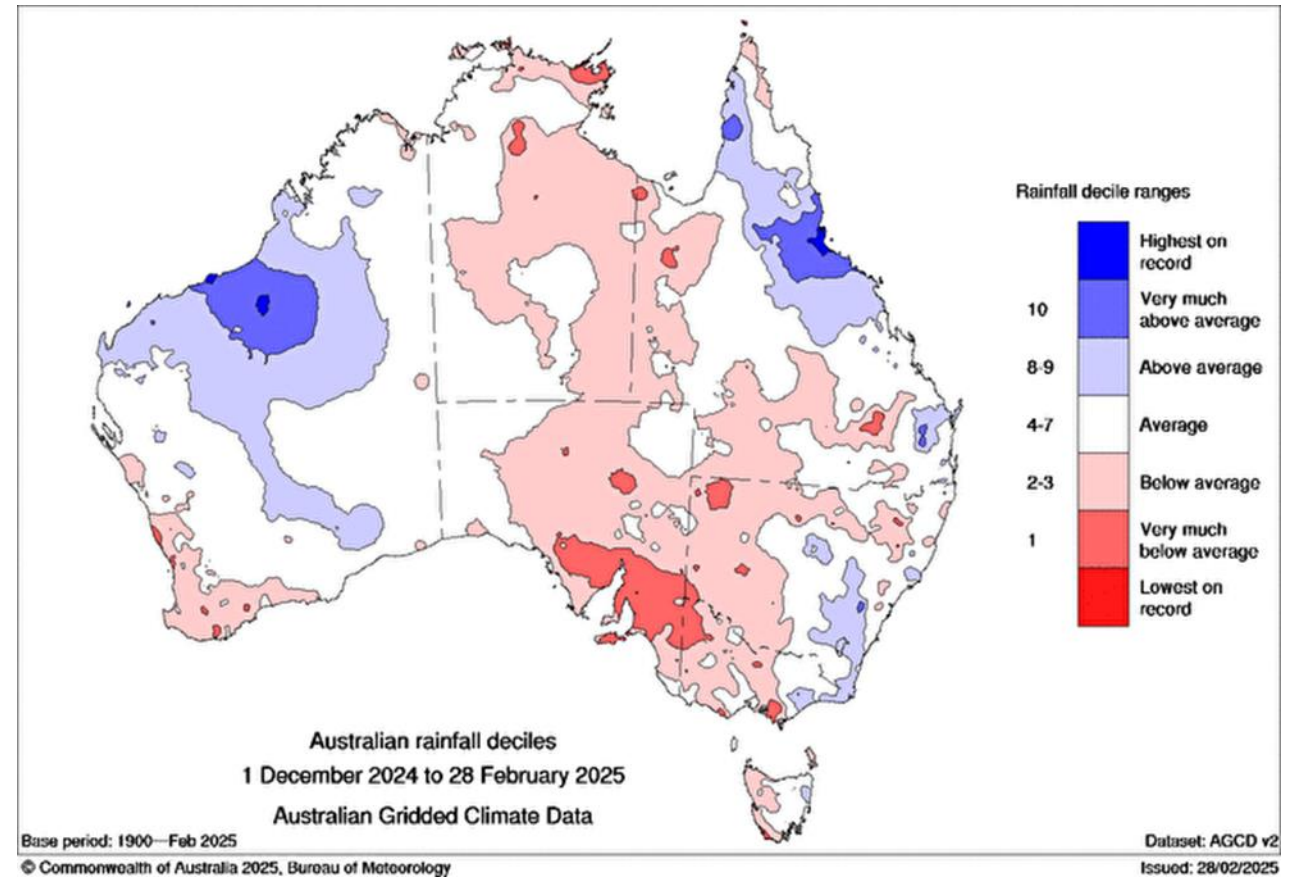
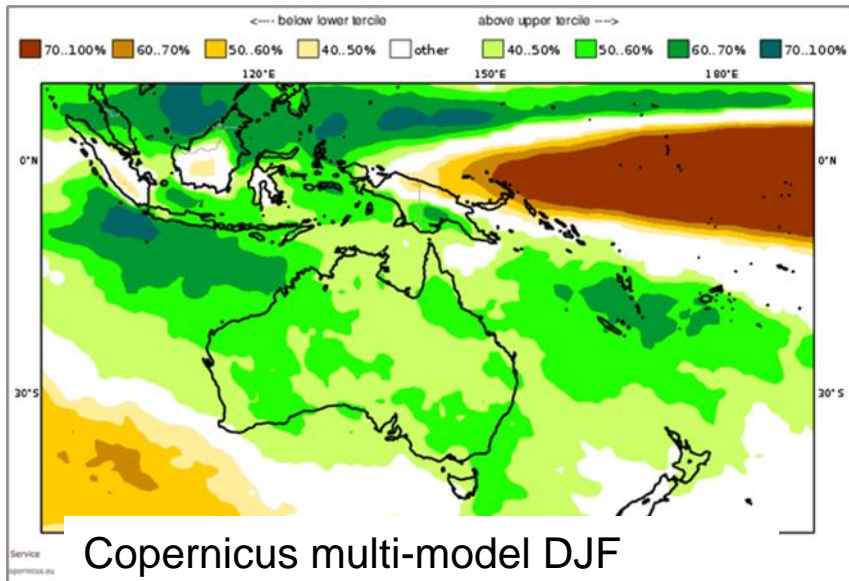
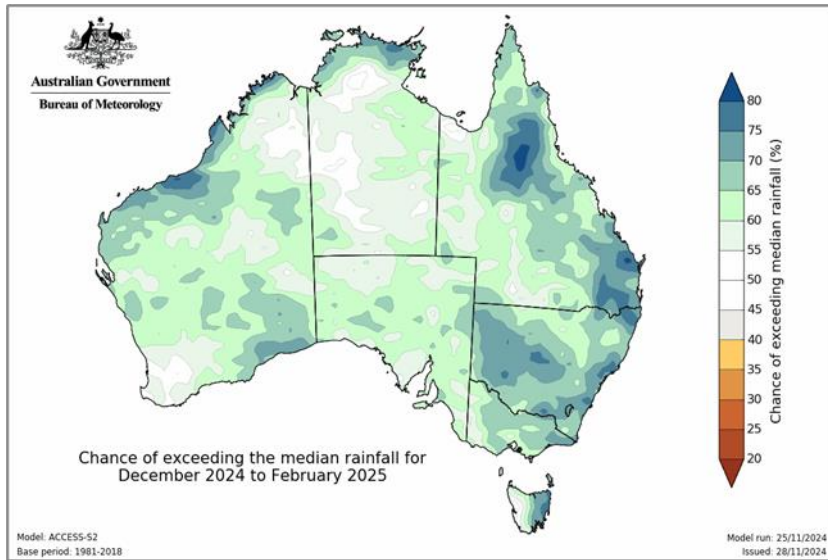
Webinar agenda

- WA's climate outlook. Ian Foster. DPIRD senior research scientist
 - Insect pests that growers need to look out for at crop establishment. Svetlana Micic. DPIRD senior research scientist
 - Green bridge and disease risk. Andrea Hills. DPIRD senior research scientist
 - Question and Answer session
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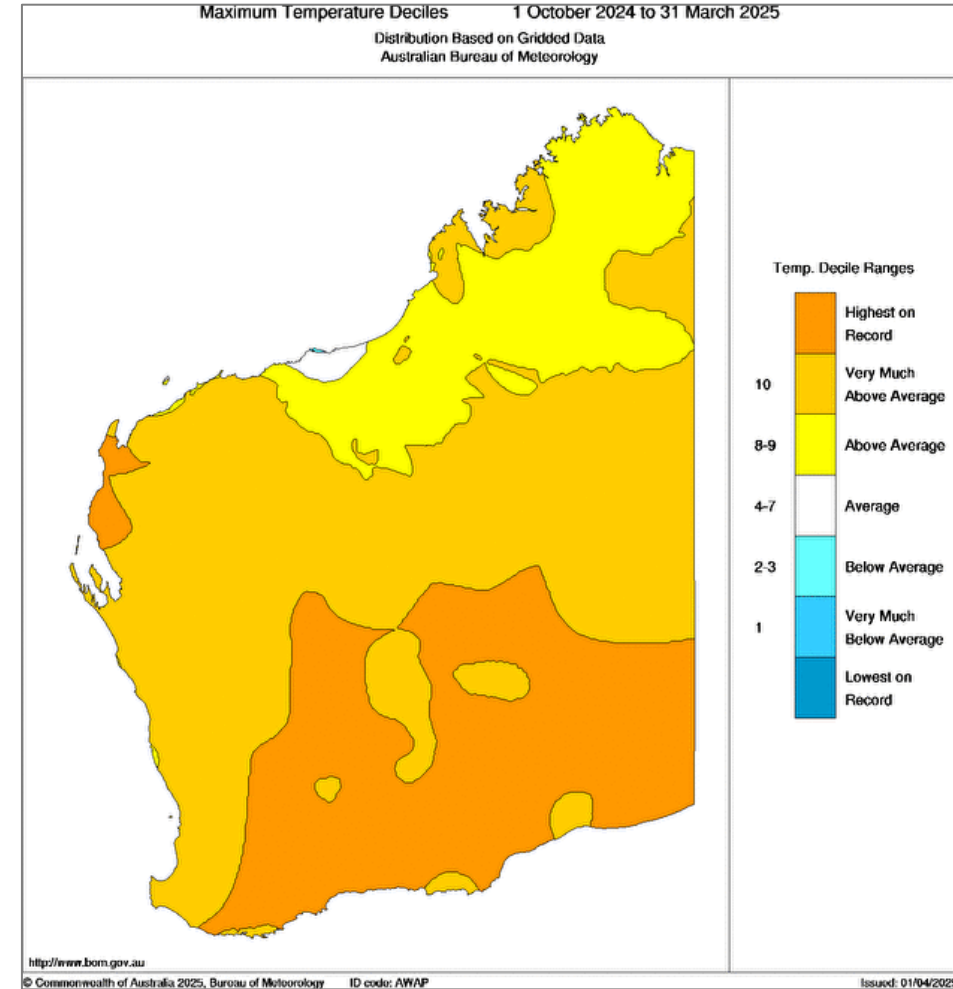
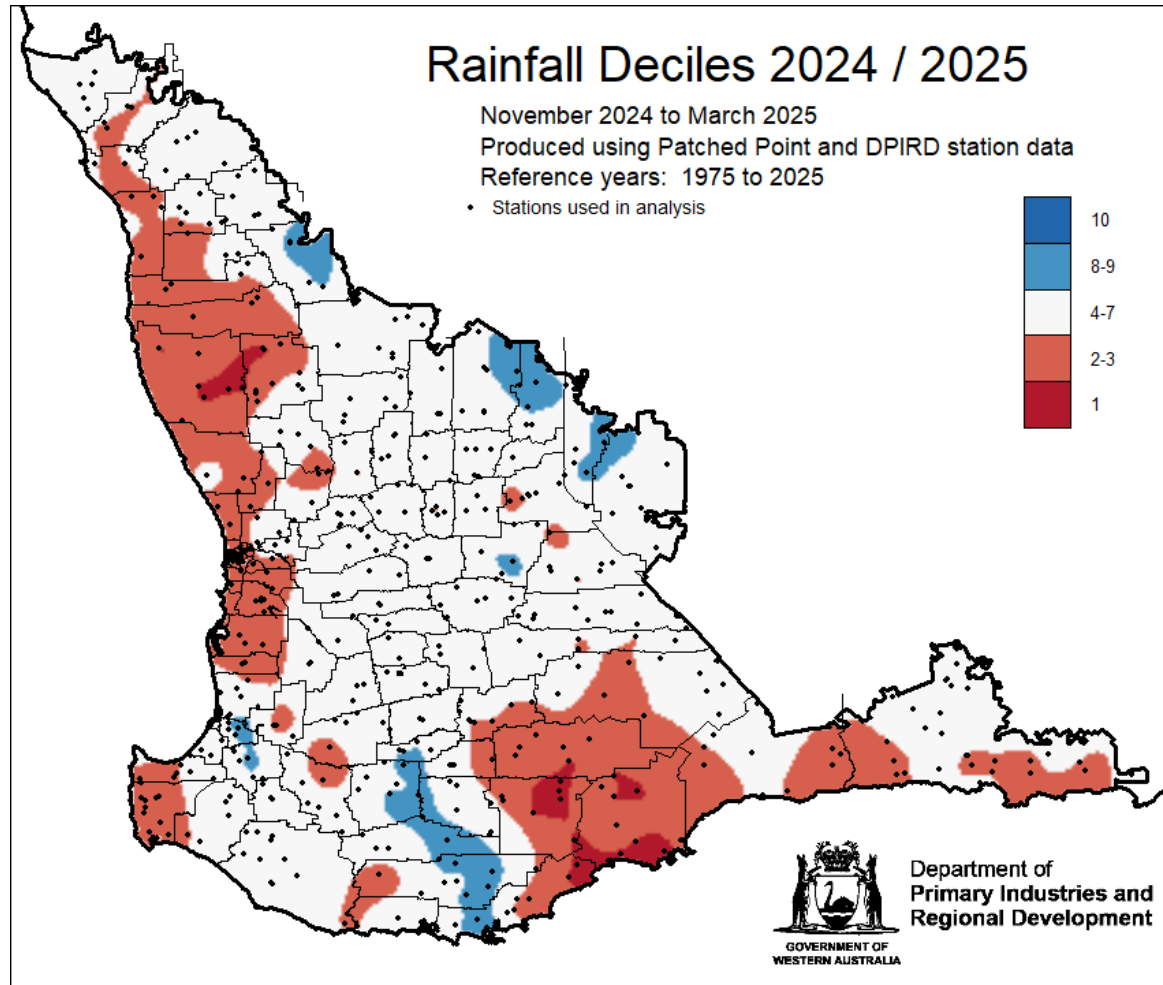
Outline

- Recap of summer rain
- Rain to date 2025
- Seasonal climate outlook for winter 2025
- Atmospheric pressure and sea surface temperature outlooks

Summer rain 2024/25

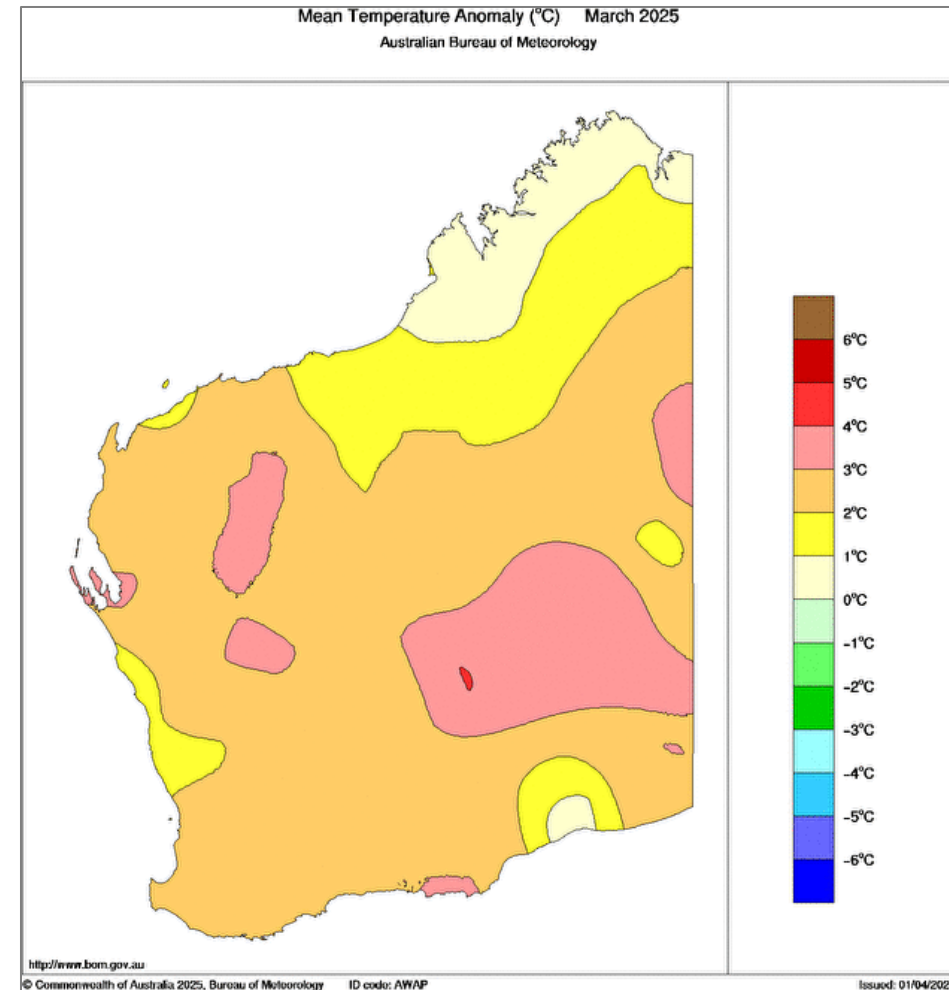
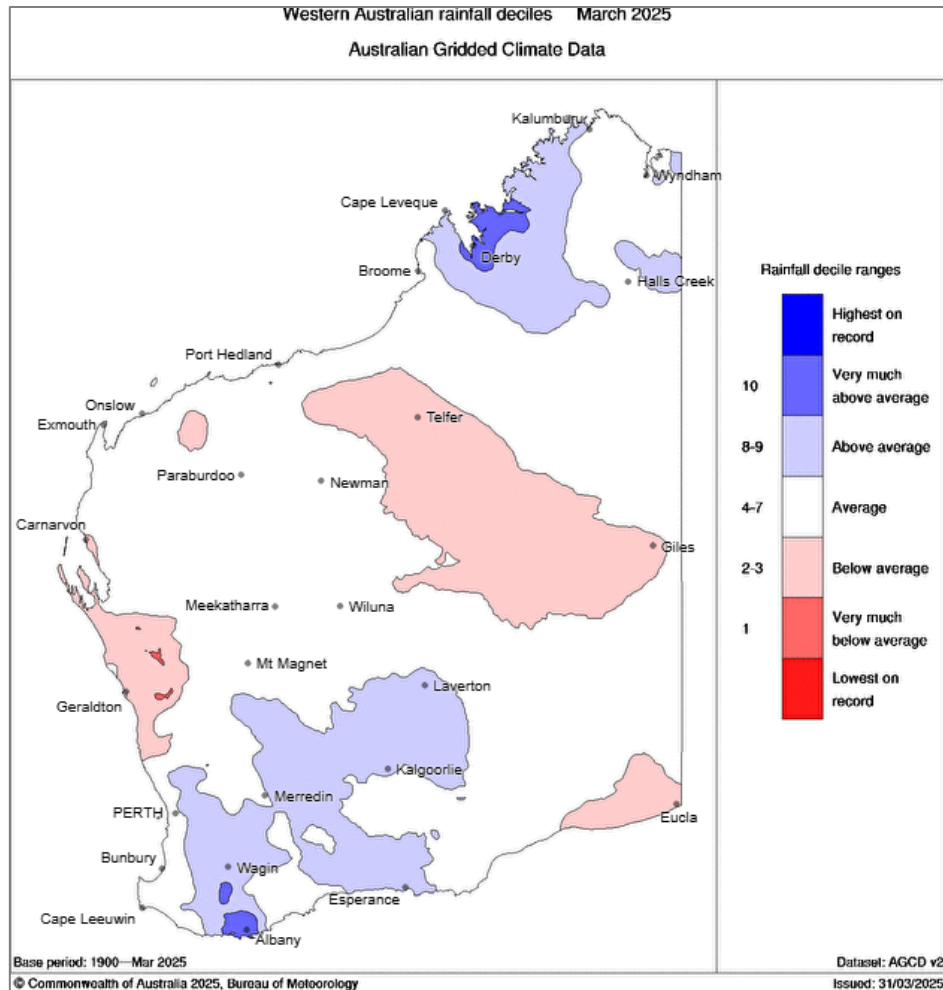


Warm season rain and temperature

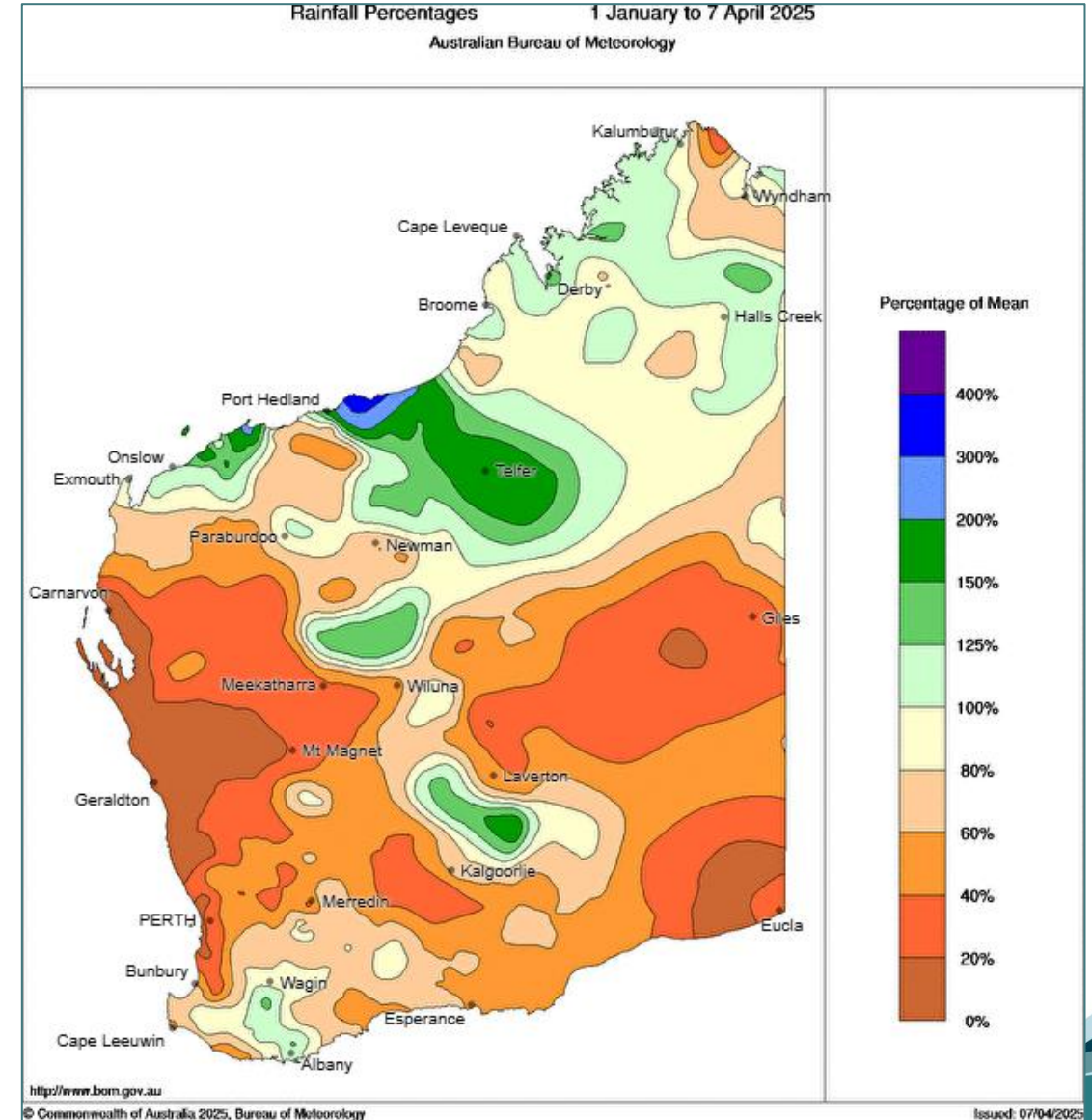
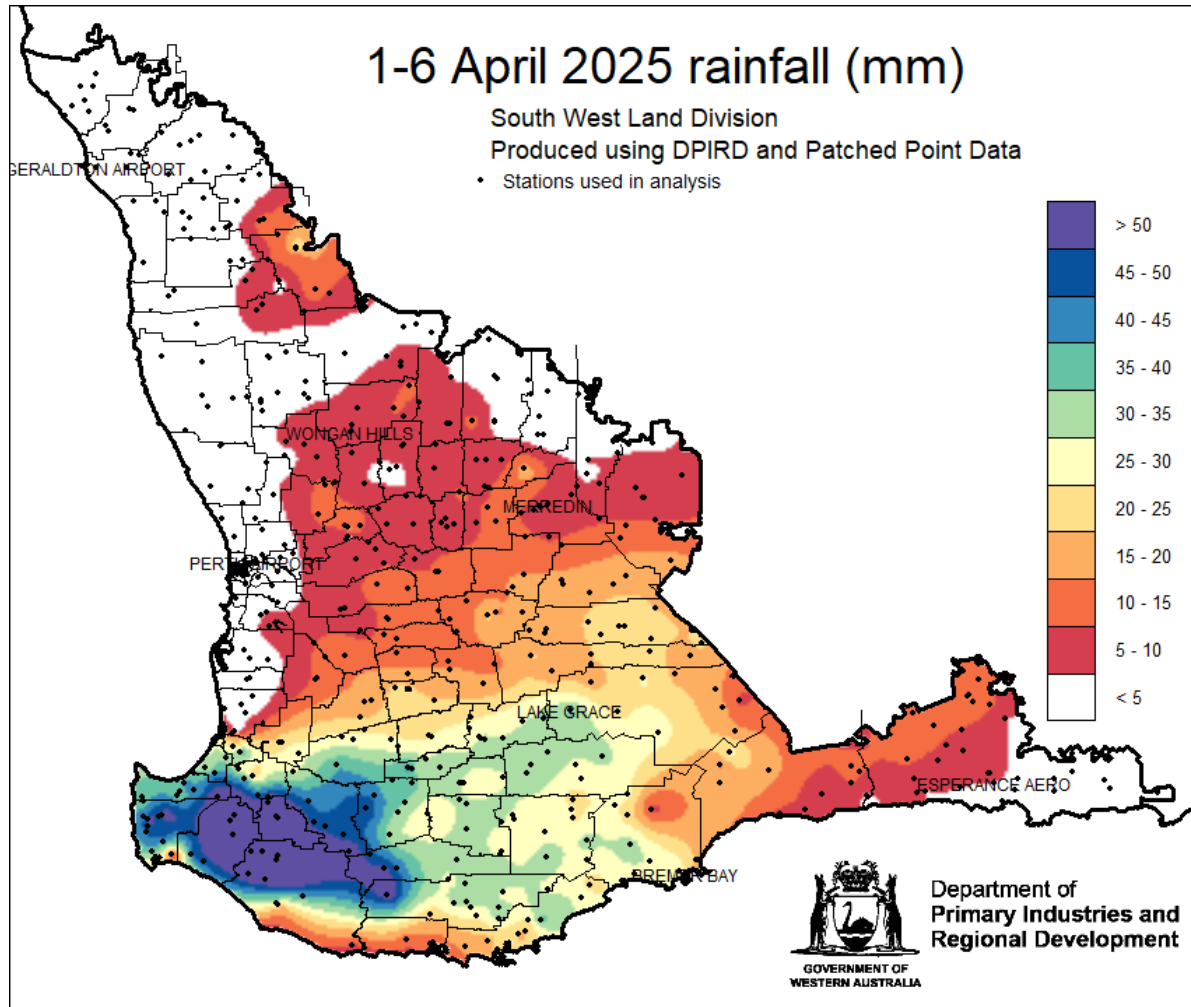


High temperatures were predicted

March rain and temperature

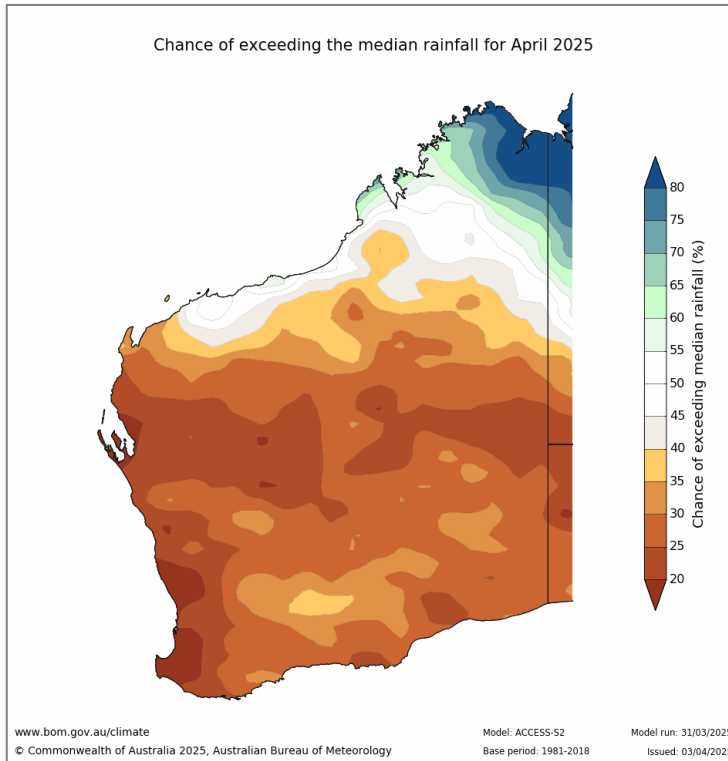


April and 2025 rain to date

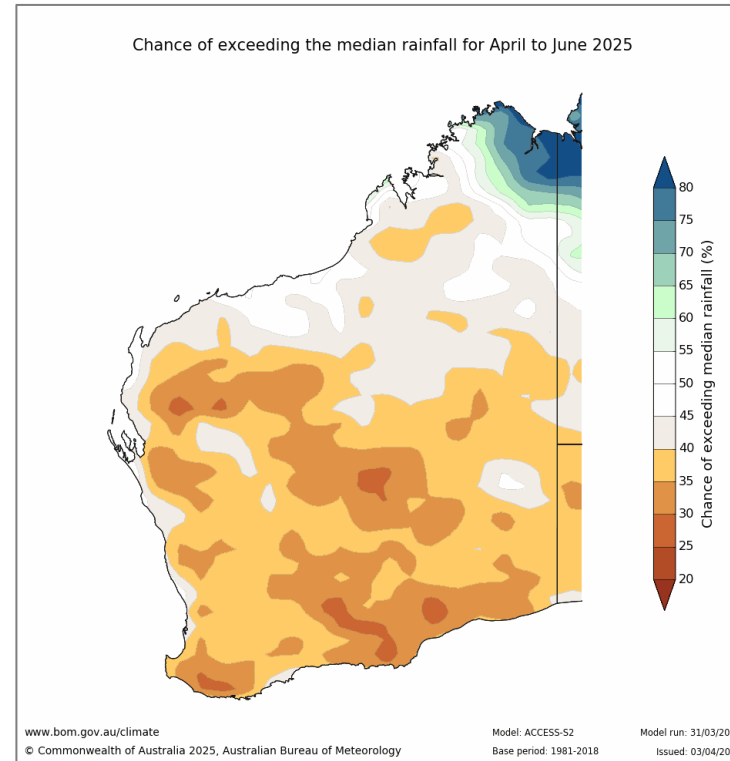


Autumn/winter rain outlook 2025

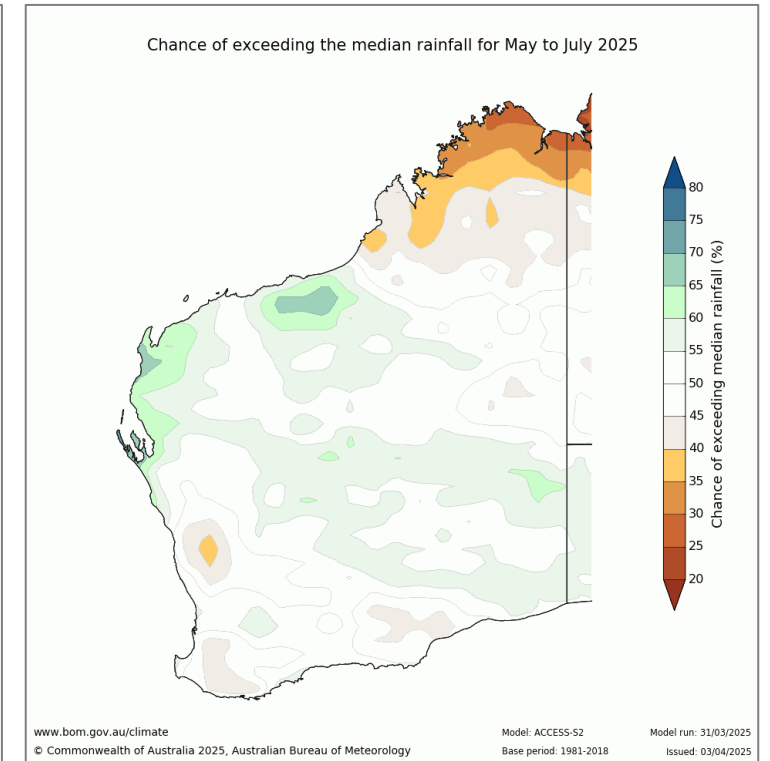
Chances of exceeding median rainfall



April



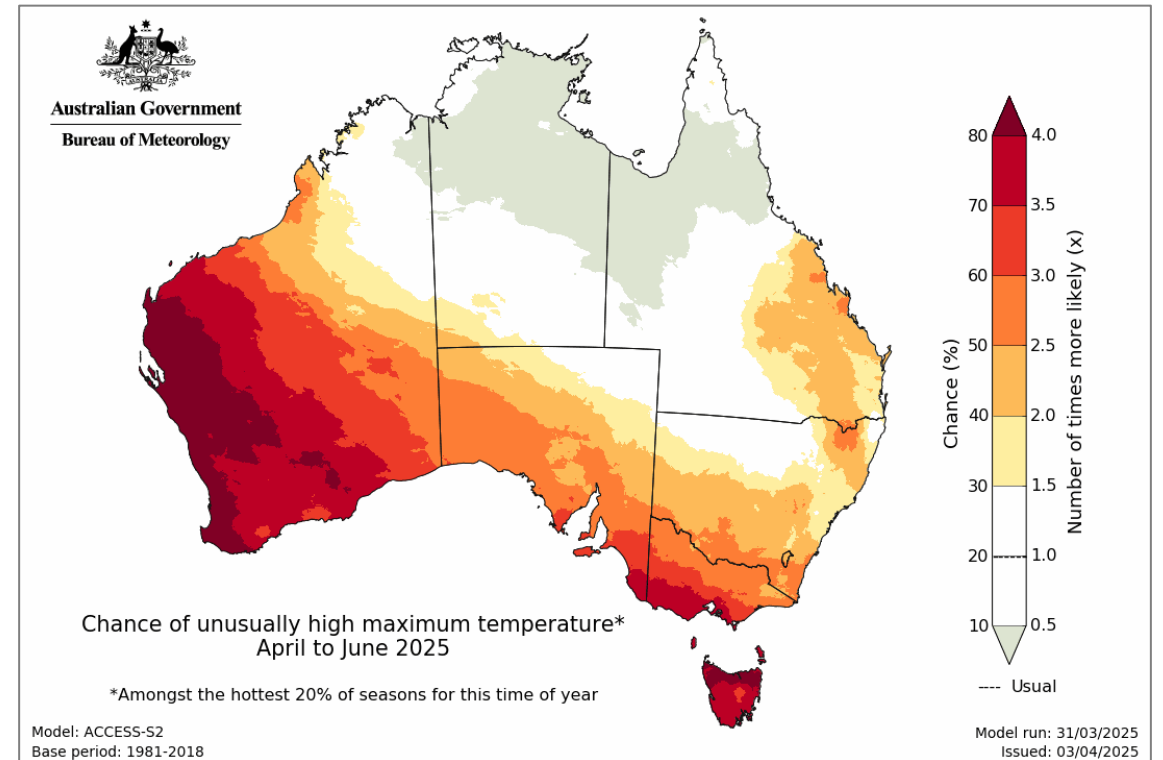
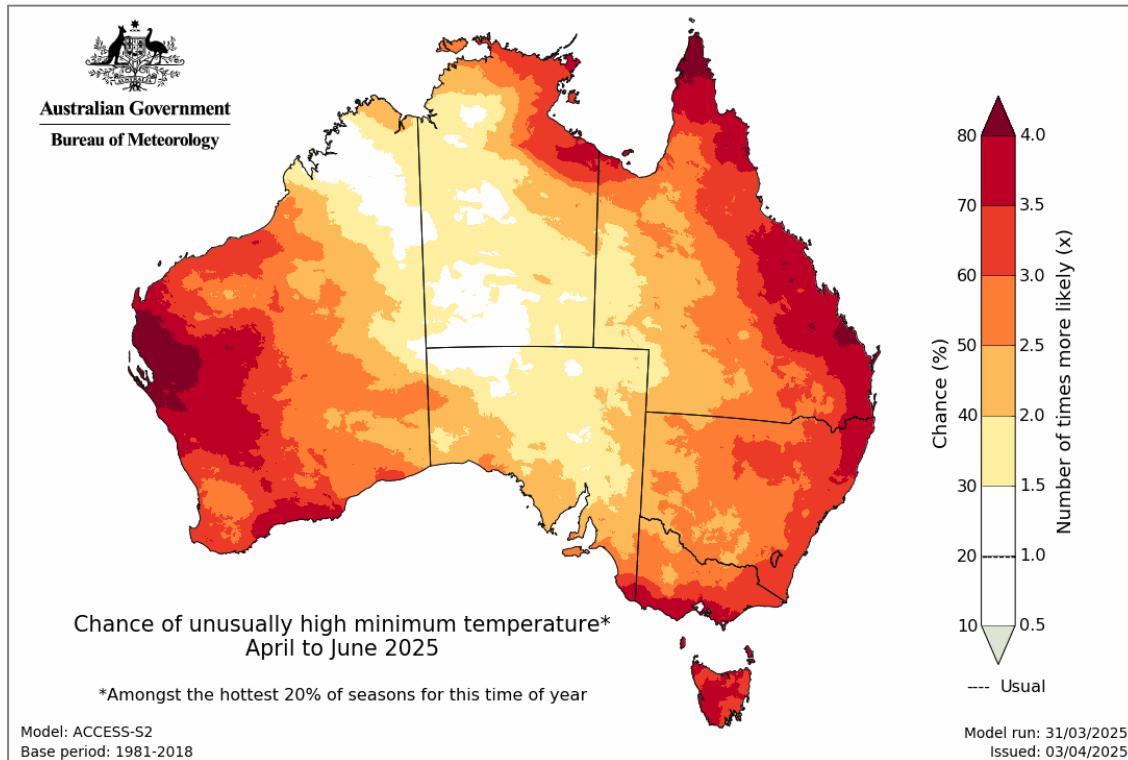
April - June



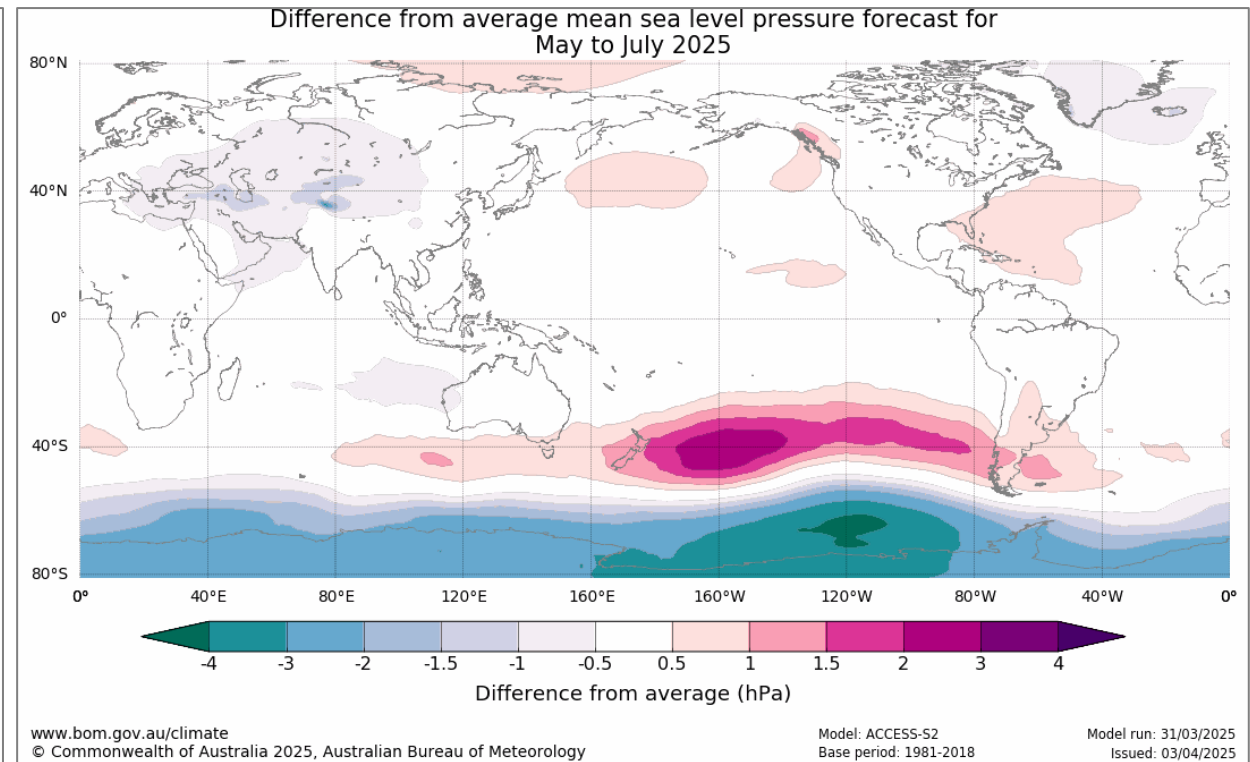
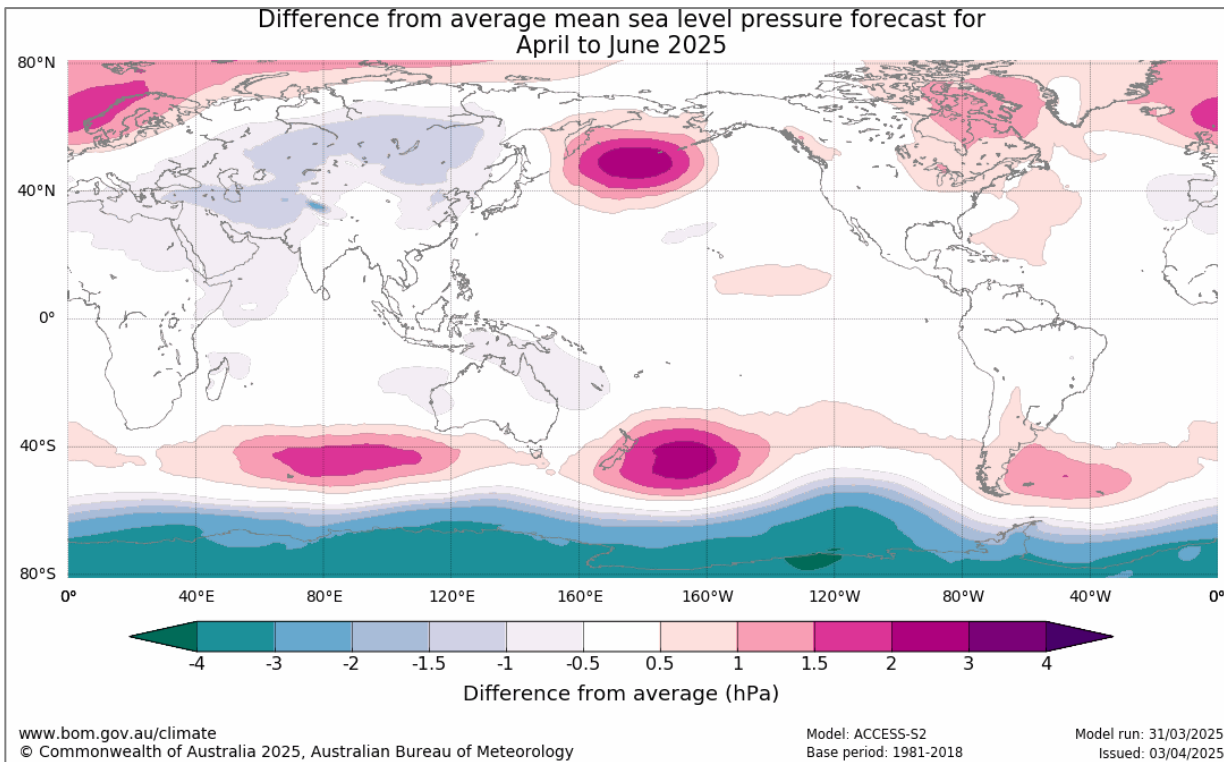
May - July

Issued 3 April 2025

Temperatures



Sea level pressure outlook 2025

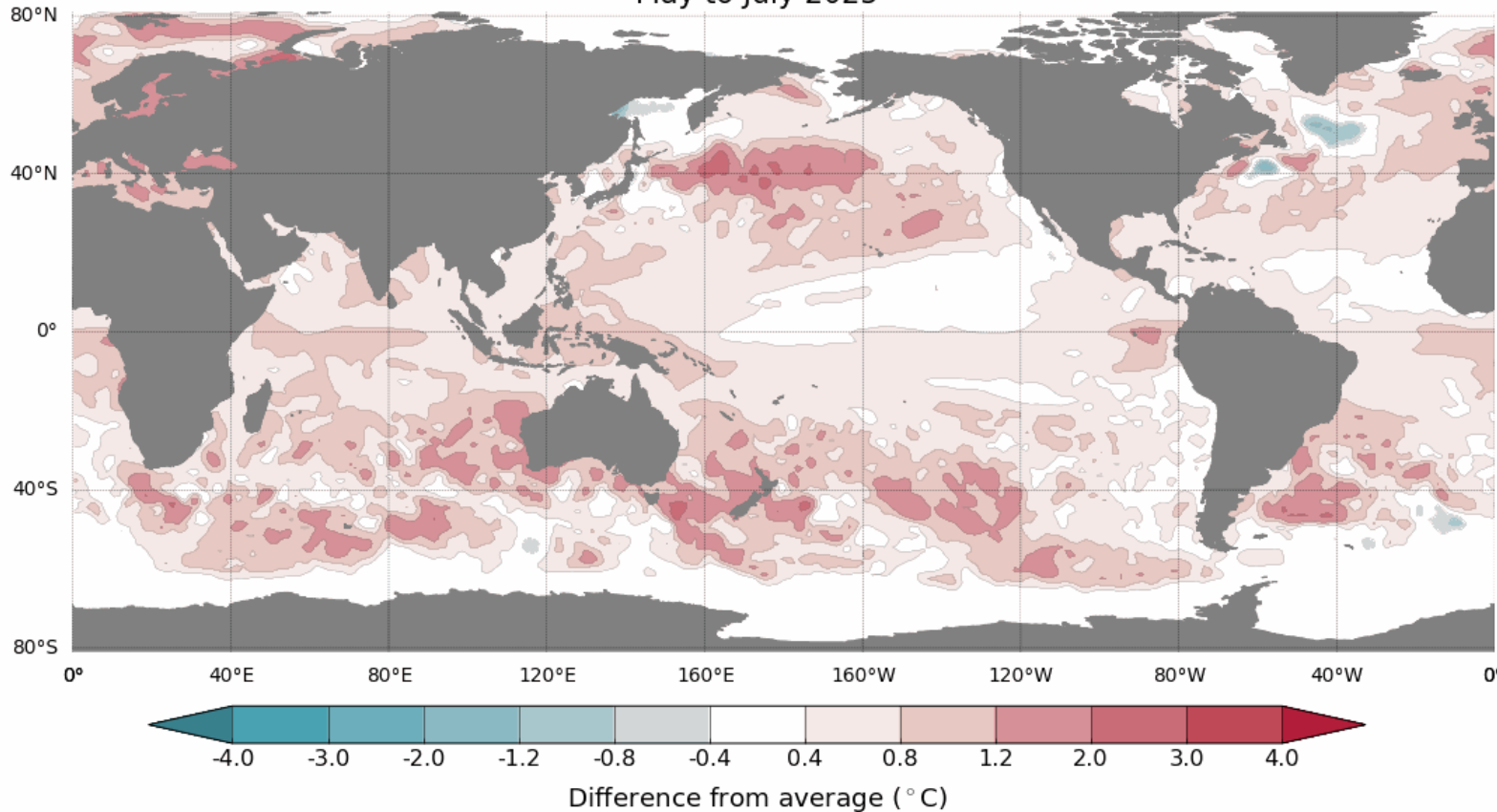


Red: higher pressure
Blue: lower pressure

Source: Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Sea surface temperatures 2025

Difference from average sea surface temperature forecast for
May to July 2025



www.bom.gov.au/climate
© Commonwealth of Australia 2025, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Model: ACCESS-S2
Base period: 1981-2018

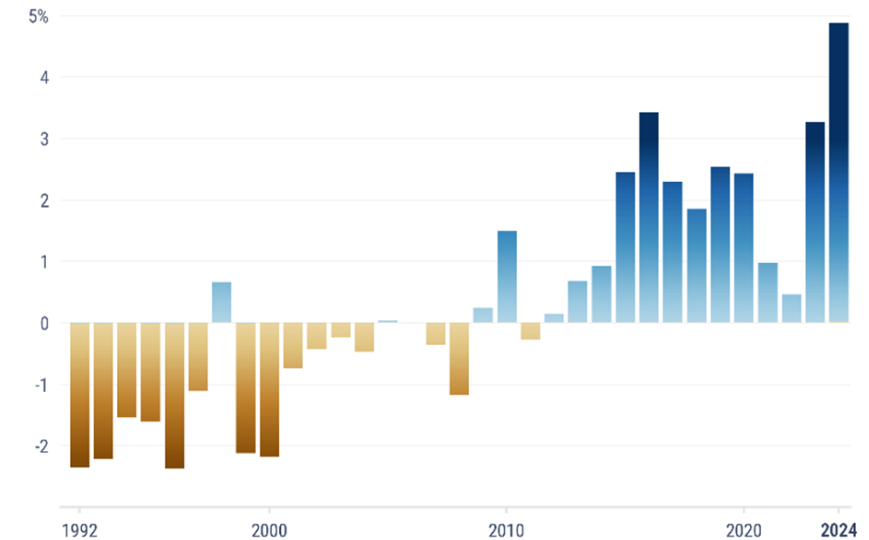
Model run: 31/03/2025
Issued: 02/04/2025



Record amount of water vapour in the atmosphere in 2024

Annual global mean total column water vapour anomalies for 60°S–60°N

Data: ERA5 • Reference period: 1992–2020 • Credit: C3S/ECMWF



PROGRAMME OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION



Take home messages

Mixed summer rainfall across the region

Southern parts have had rain in March and April

Rain outlooks tend to be drier for April to June and improve from May

Still expected to be warmer than normal

Seasonal Pest Update

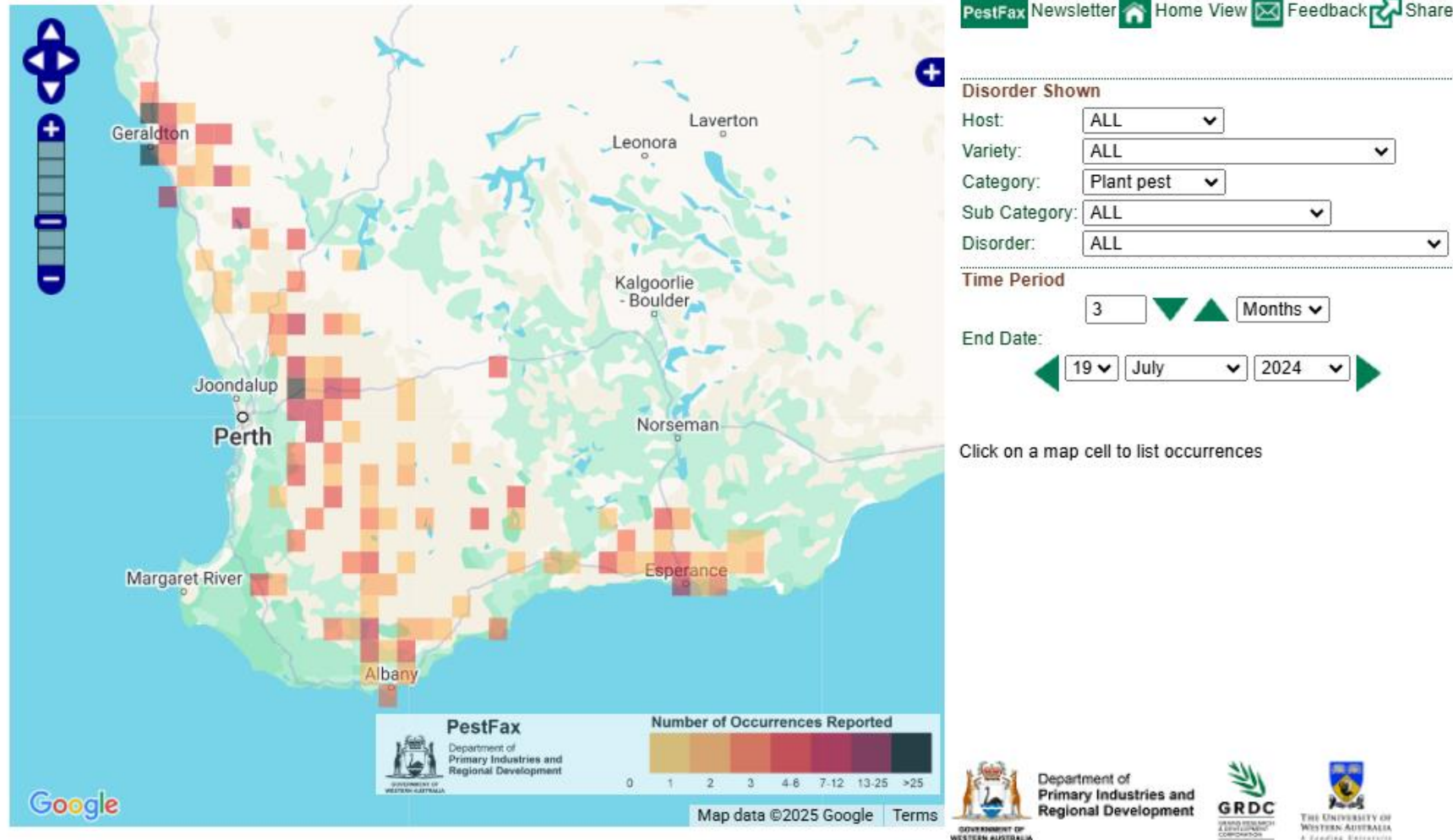
- Looking back on the year that was
- Resident pests
- Fly in Fly Out (FIFO) pests



Canola seedling

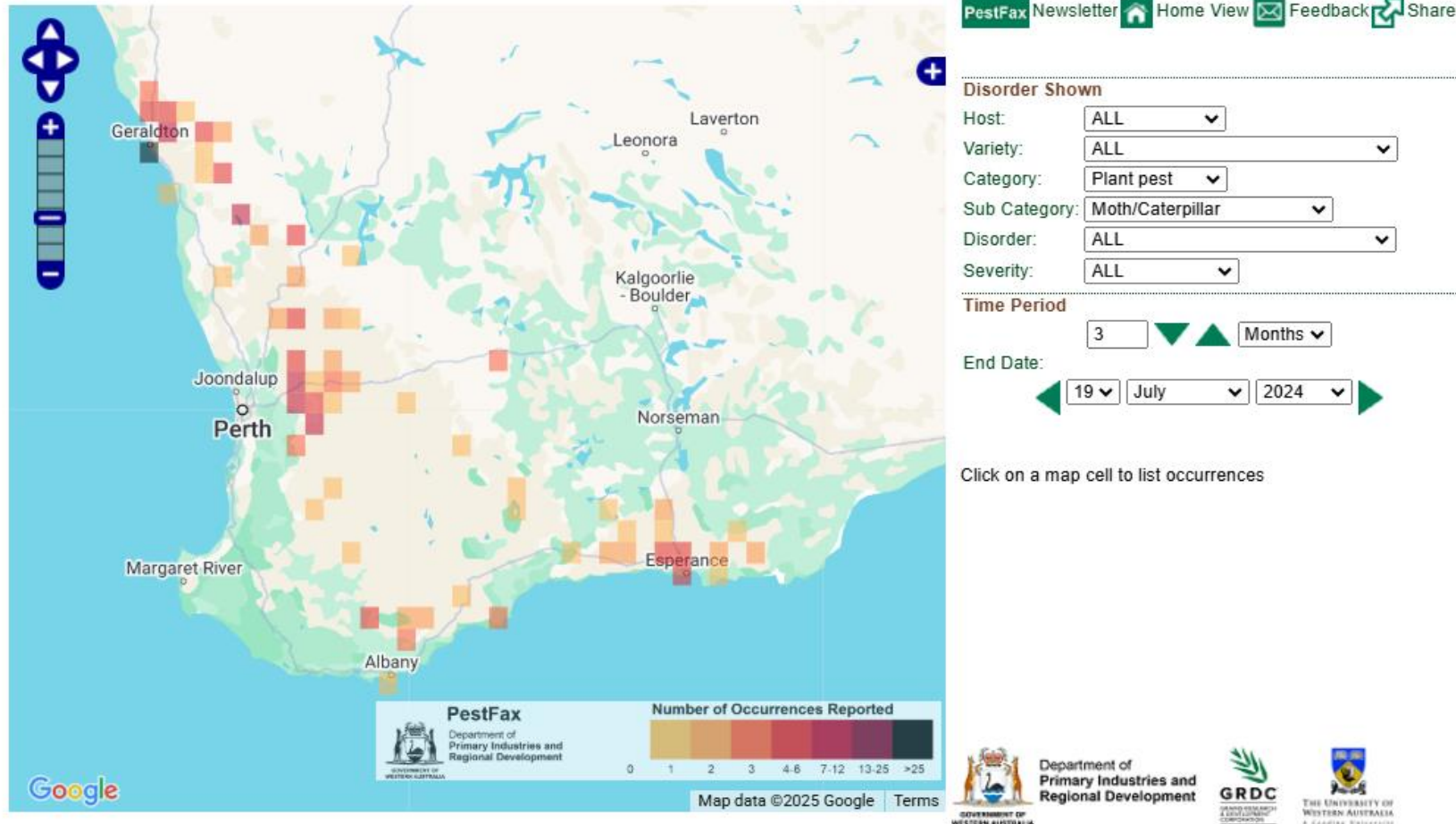
The year that was - 2024

www.agric.wa.gov.au/diseases/pestfax-map



The year that was - 2024

www.agric.wa.gov.au/diseases/pestfax-map



Looking back at 2024

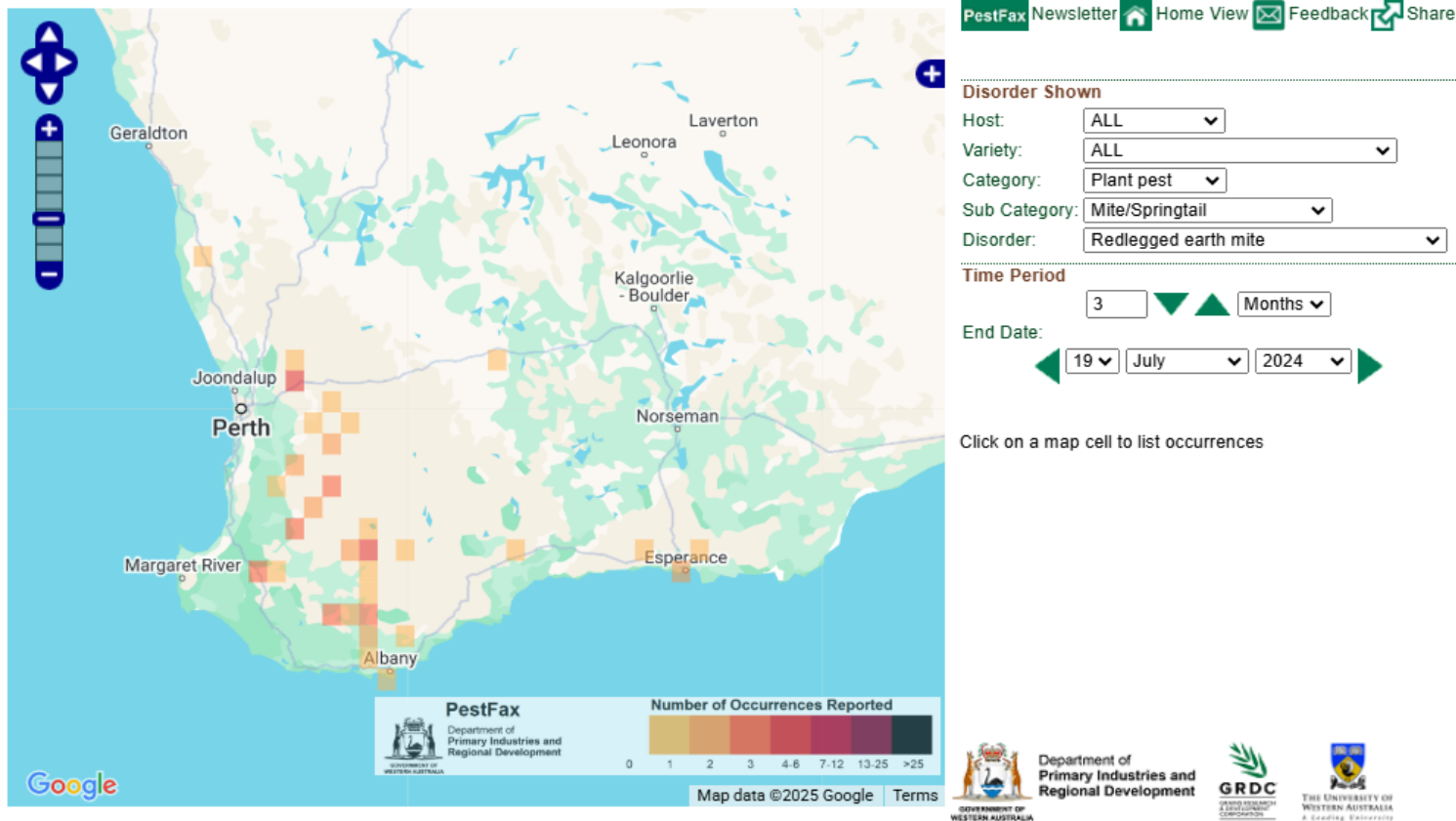
- Late break
- Warmer than average growing conditions
- Faster life cycles for caterpillars
- Different pest complexes
- Fall armyworm at Cuballing
- Cabbage centre grub



Canola seedling

The year that was - 2024

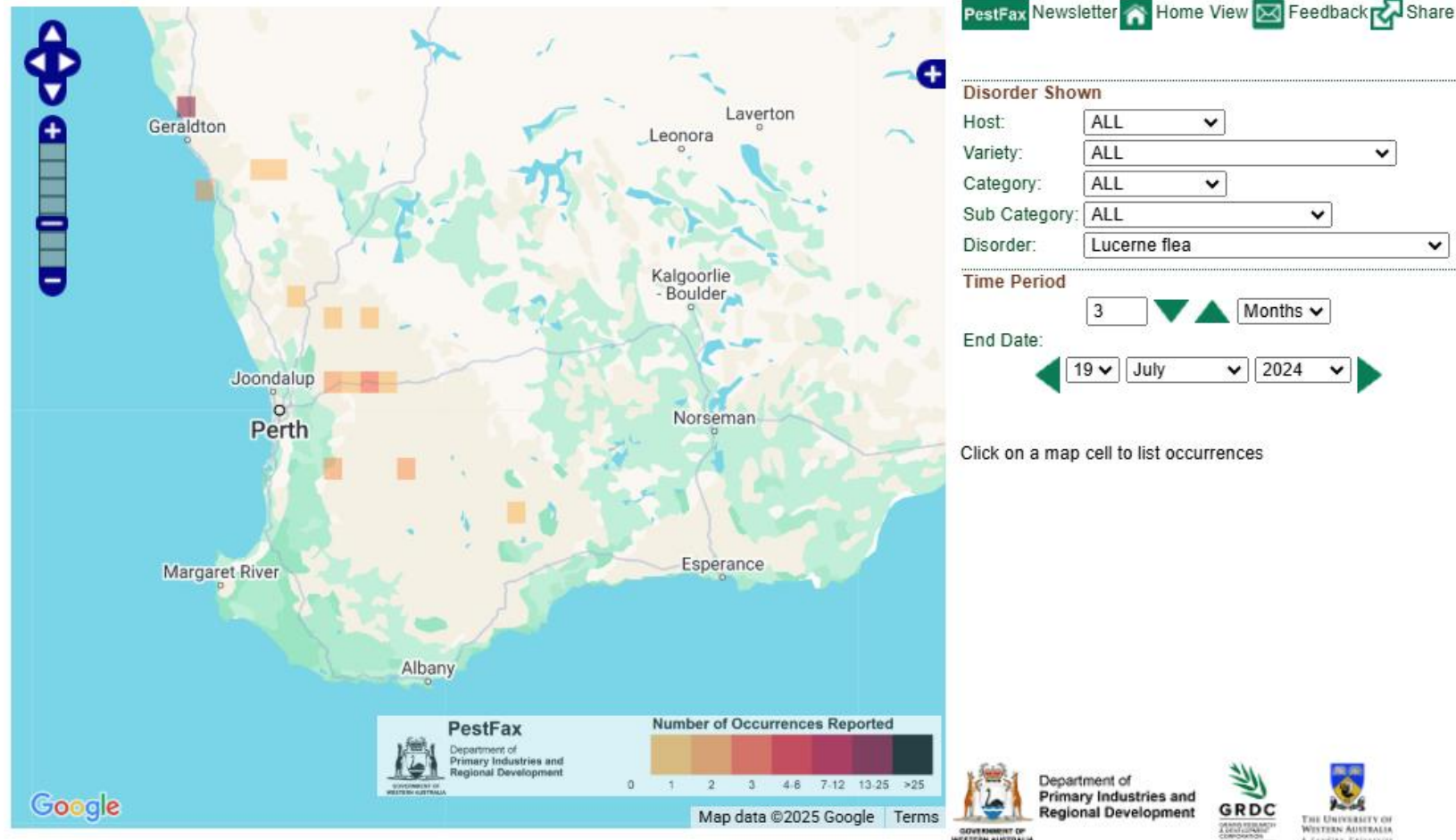
www.agric.wa.gov.au/diseases/pestfax-map



Redlegged earth mite on lupin

The year that was - 2024

www.agric.wa.gov.au/diseases/pestfax-map



Lucerne flea

What to expect in 2025 - resident pests

- Early break
- Green bridge
- Expect warmer winter growing conditions



Canola with stem chewing

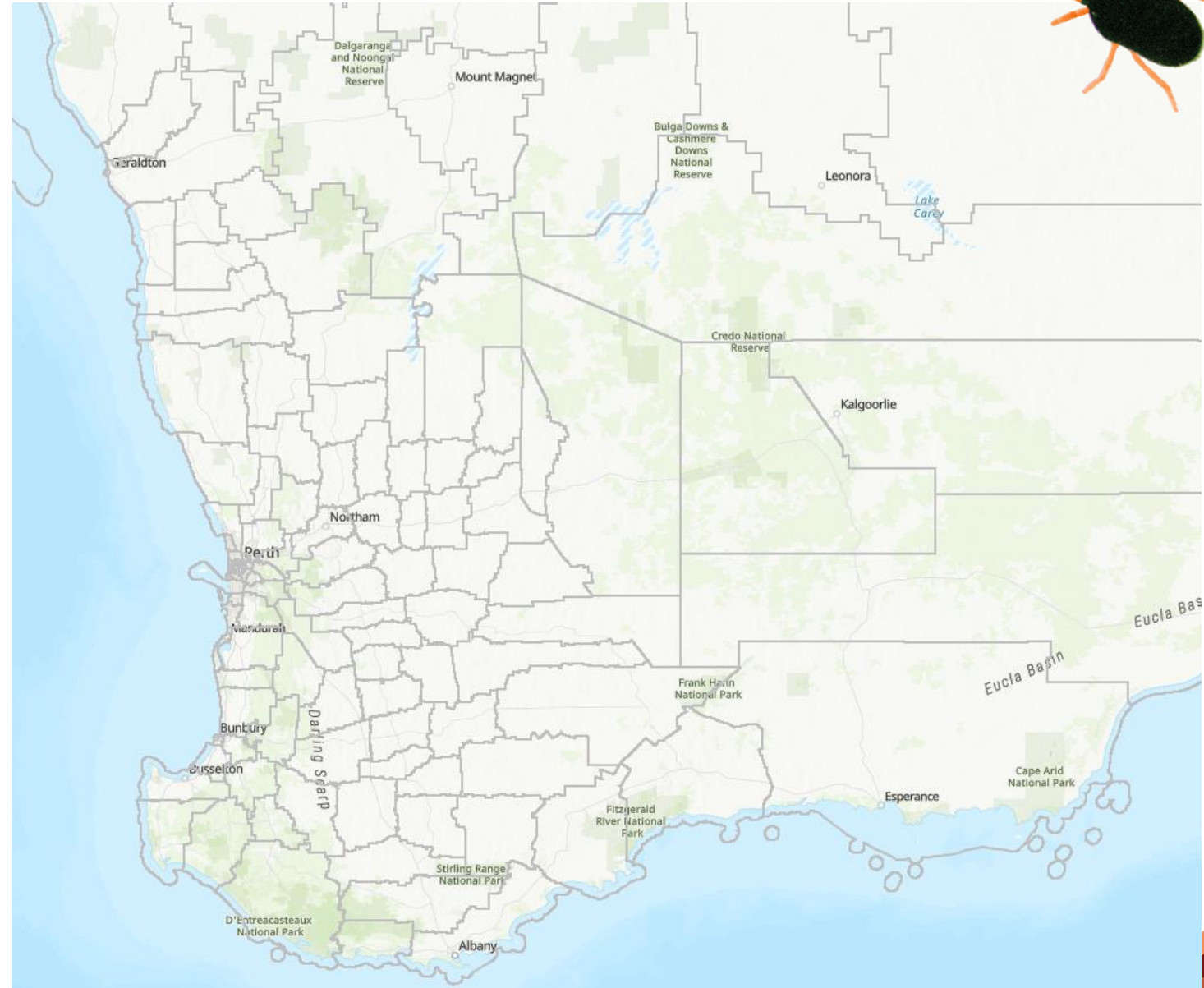
Predicting hatching dates for RLEM

OFFICIAL



<https://cesaraustralia.shinyapps.io/RLEM-hatch>

Cesar Australia:
RLEM hatch
timing tool.



Predicting hatching dates for RLEM

<https://cesaraustralia.shinyapps.io/RLEM-hatch>

Average hatch dates:

Esperance shire: 23 - 29 April

OFFICIAL



Predicting hatching dates for RLEM

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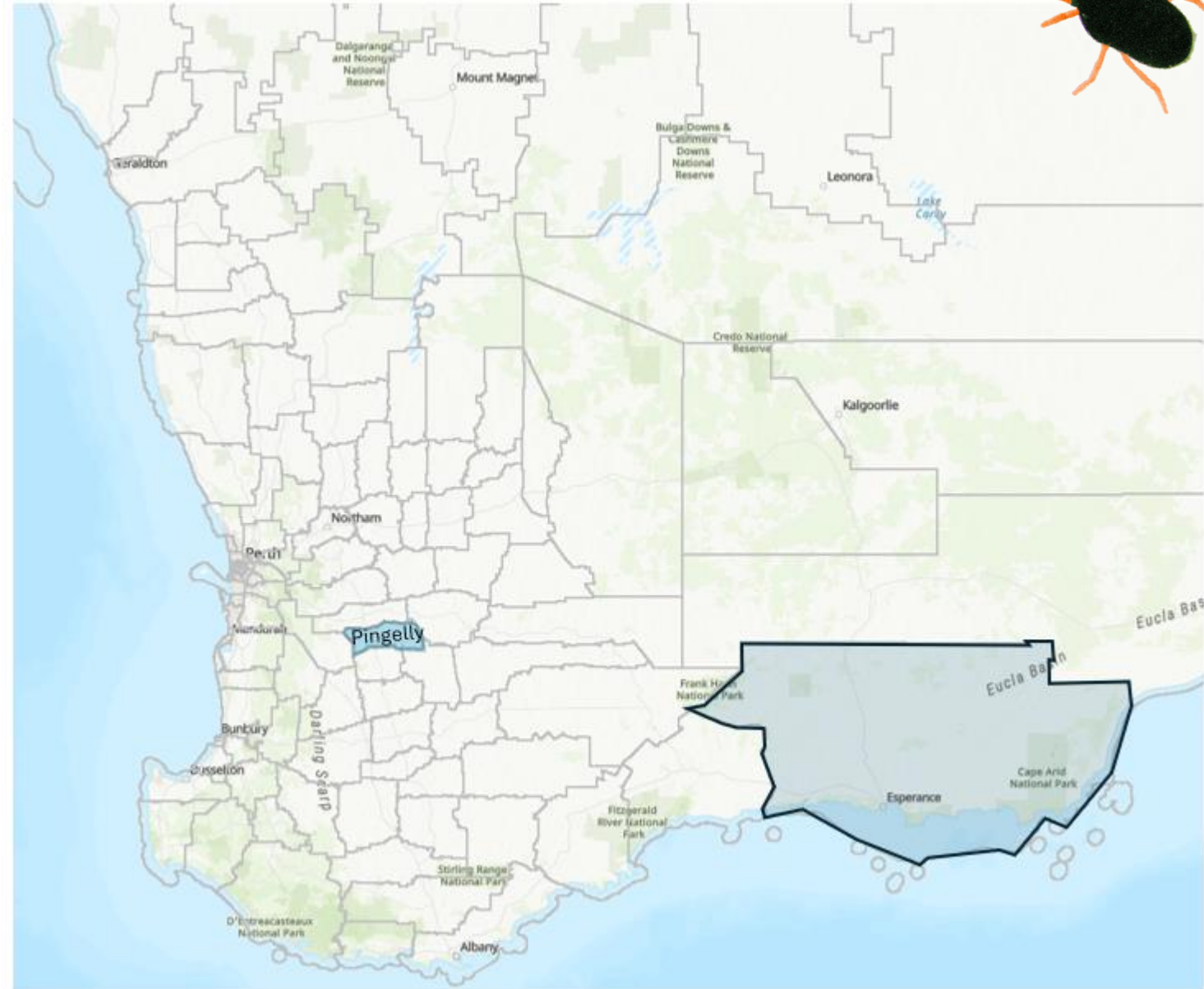


<https://cesaraustralia.shinyapps.io/RLEM-hatch>

Average hatch dates:

West – East Pingelly: 2 - 4 May

Esperance shire: 23 - 29 April



Predicting hatching dates for RLEM

<https://cesaraustralia.shinyapps.io/RLEM-hatch>

Average hatch dates:

Dandaragan shire: 17 - 19 May

West – East Pingelly: 2 - 4 May

Esperance shire: 23 - 29 April

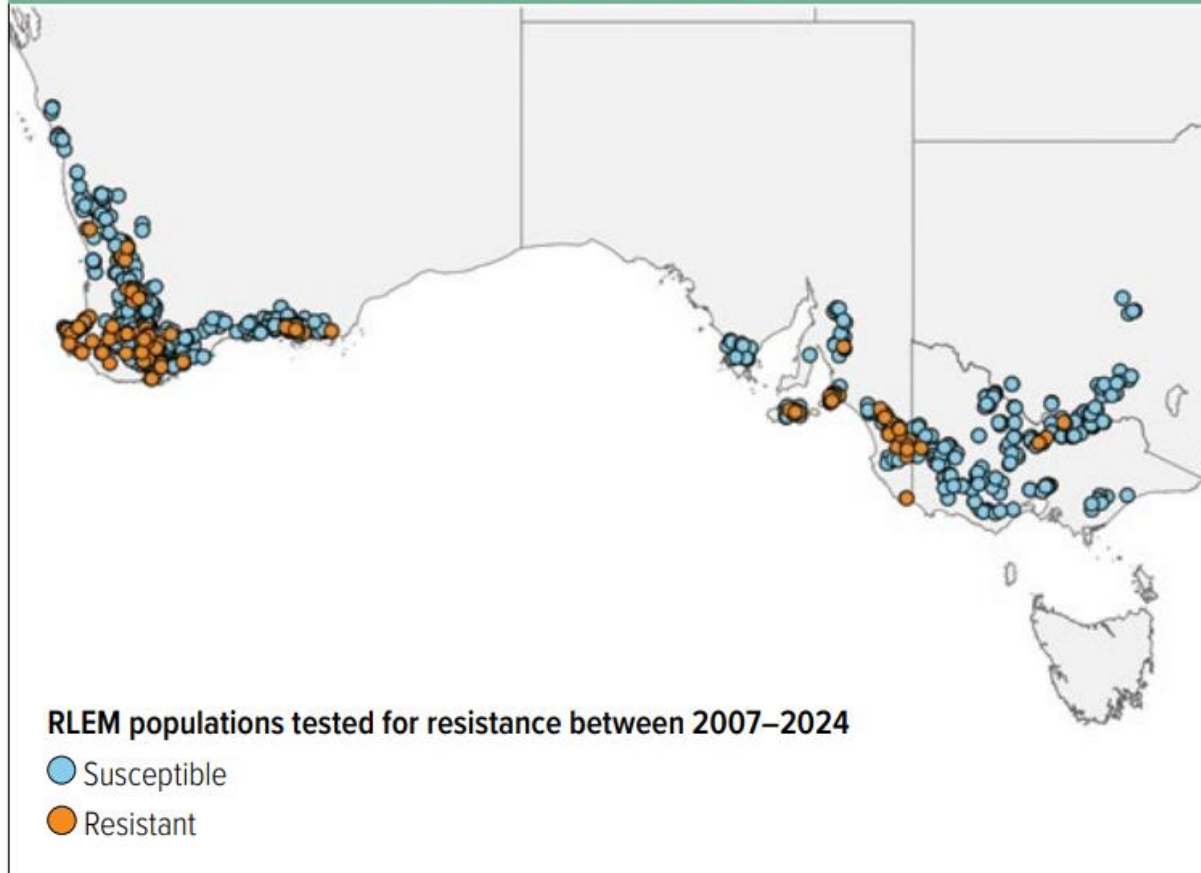


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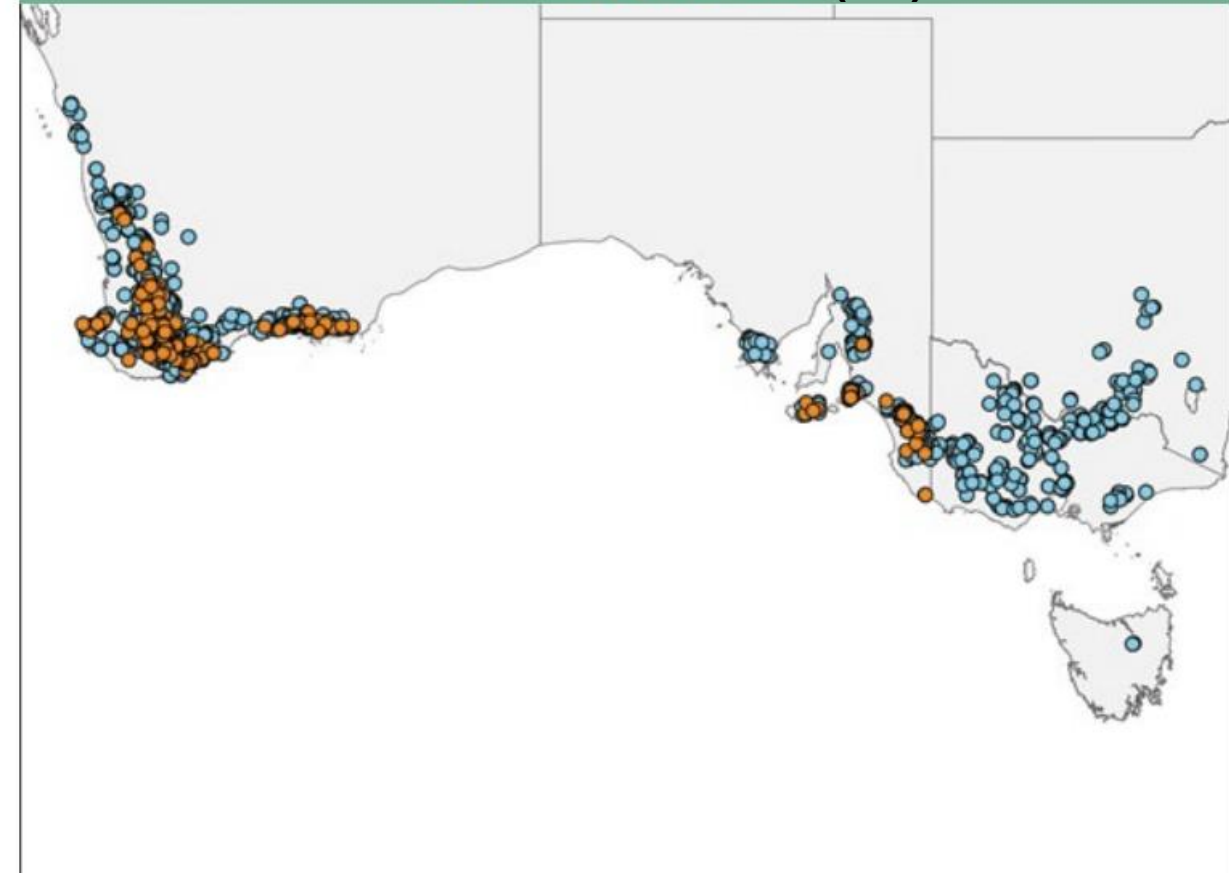
Snapshot of resistance in RLEM



Organophosphates (OP)



Synthetic pyrethroids (SP)



SOURCE: CESAR AUSTRALIA, JULY 2024

Resistance testing of RLEM

Contact PestFacts WA team:
pestfactswa@dpiird.wa.gov.au



Predicting hatching dates for lucerne flea

- Opening rains in Autumn = hatching
- Surveillance reports in PestFacts WA
- Monitor crops



Damage to crop by lucerne flea

Resident pests – beetle pests (e.g. weevils)

- Green bridge = host plants
- Controlled the green bridge?
- Still monitor



Desiantha weevil

Resident pests – slugs

- Survive hot dry summers
- Active now in the south
- Can bait straight after seeding



Black keeled slug

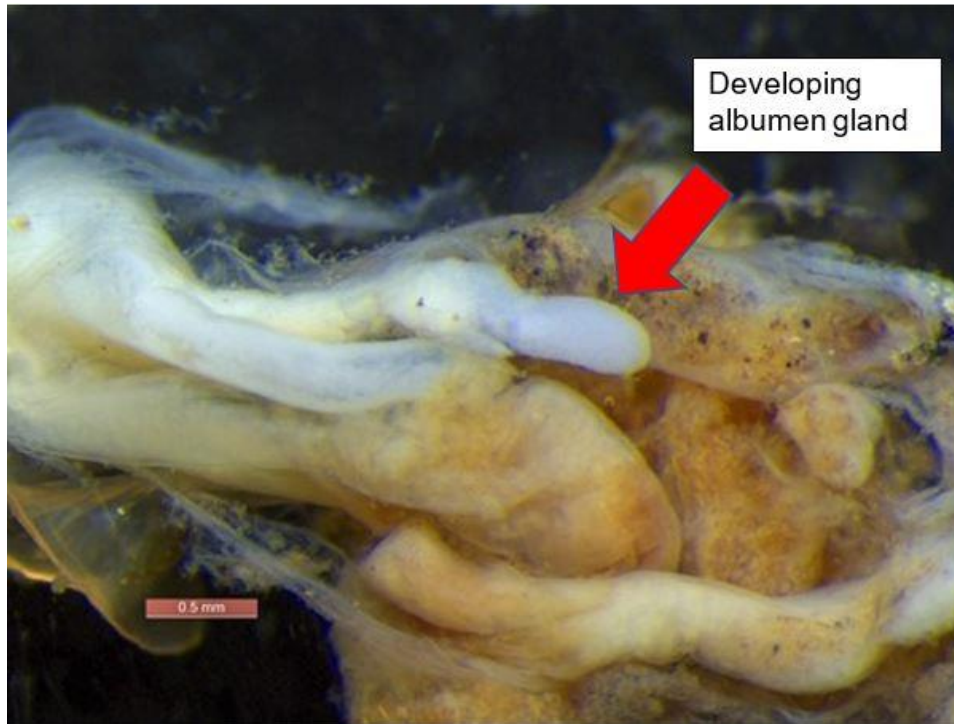
Resident pests – snails

- Survive hot dry summers
- Readily found under weeds
- Can't find live snails?



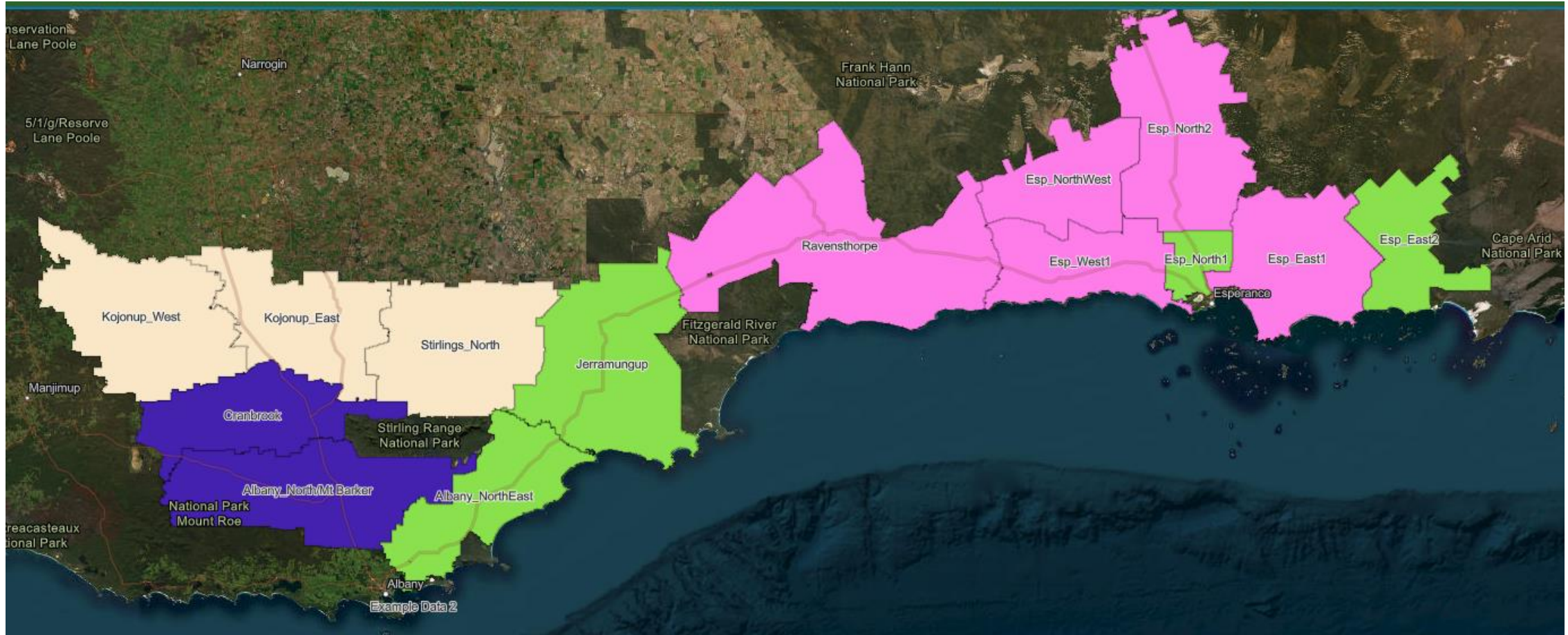
Small conical (pointed) snail

Snail dissections - Albany Port Zone



When is the best time to bait for snails?

<https://bit.ly/snails-map>



‘NGN – Snails Surveillance project for the South Coast’ in partnership with GRDC, Stirlings to Coast Farmers (SCF) and DPIRD.

What to expect in 2025 - FIFO pests

- Early break
- Green bridge
- Warmer winter growing = faster life cycles
- Uncommon pests turning up



Russian wheat aphid

FIFO pests

Green peach aphids – virus risk?

- Cannot survive without plant hosts
- Virus risk low - dry summer
- Green bridge control?
- Migration into crops?
- Resistance and seed dressings
- Surveillance in grain growing areas of WA
- Reports in PestFacts WA



Green peach aphid

FIFO pests

Diamondback moth (DBM)

- Can't survive without host plants
- Warmer winter = shorter lifecycle
- Surveillance occurring, will be reported in PestFacts WA
- Monitor



Diamondback moth

FIFO pests

Native budworm

- Migrates into broadacre regions
- Widespread rainfall in pastoral areas this summer
- Expect earlier flight patterns
- Surveillance – reports in PestFacts WA
- Thresholds!



Native budworm comes in a range of colours

Key messages

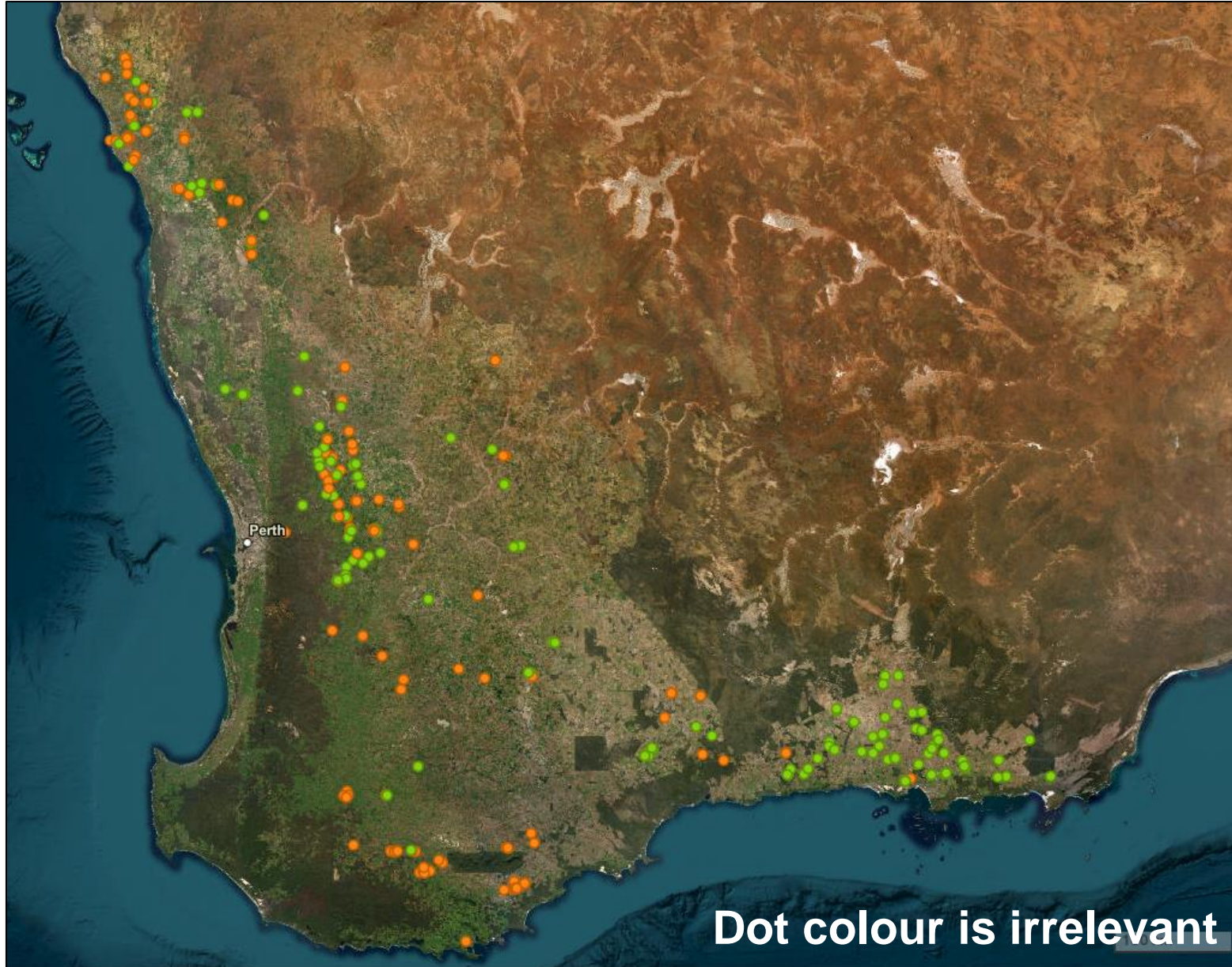
- Expecting similar pest pressures to 2024 but over a longer growing season
- Target monitoring
- Warmer winter temperatures = faster lifecycles in aphids, caterpillar pests
- Report to PestFacts WA



Green bridge and disease outlook

- What we saw in 2024
- Disease risks
- Forecasting tools

2024 DPIRD crop surveillance sites



2024 Season

- More scald occurring in barley (59% of crops)
- More canola blackleg in northern areas
- Barley loose smut, wheat flag smut
- Lupin sclerotinia



2025 Green bridge risk

- **Low-moderate:** Great Southern - Mt Barker

Older plants carry more disease than seedlings

Nematodes will be out feeding – starve them out

- **Low:** remainder of WA



Root & nematode disease outlooks

Root & nematode disease outlooks

Disease	Crop	Risk after dry summer	Increased risk factors
Rhizoctonia root rot, rhizoctonia hypocotyl rot (damping off)	Cereals, lupins, canola	High	Cold, dry soil
Crown rot	Cereals	High	Wet start
Nematodes	All crops	Similar	

Tools to consider

Bioscout – daily disease spore numbers

bioscout.com.au/



- Blackleg
- Powdery mildew (all cereals)
- Botrytis
- Rusts (all cereals)
- Alternaria (all crops)

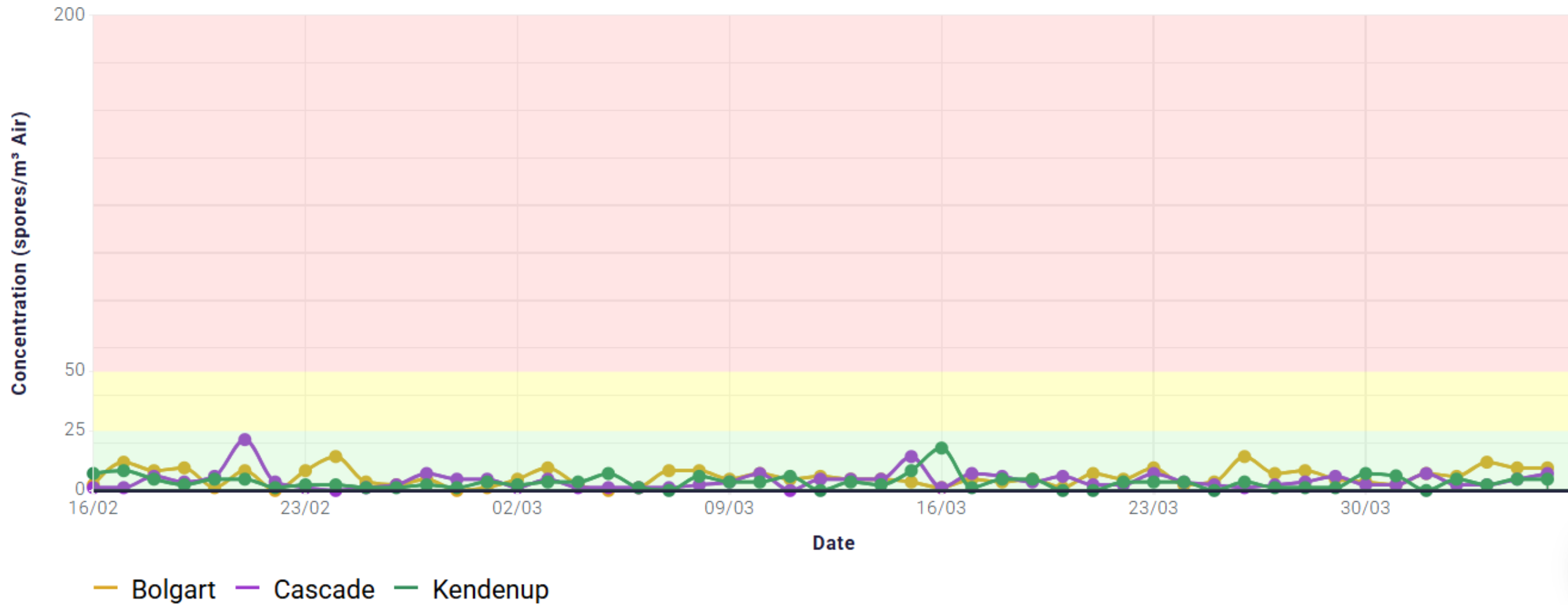


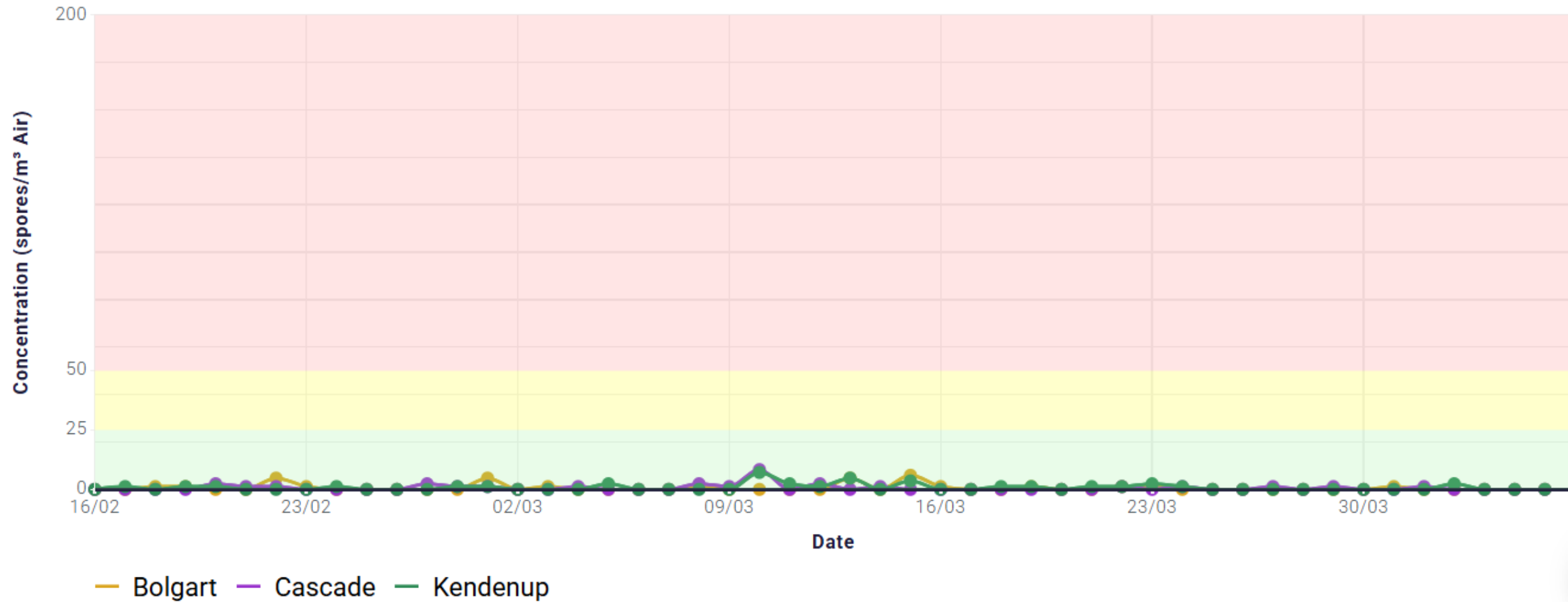
Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



BIS2305-001RTX *Scaling commercial technology for disease spore trapping*







DPIRD disease tools

- Blackleg spore forecast – DPIRD website (4-6 leaf sprays)
- Blackspot manager - text 'blackspot', your name and nearest weather station to 0475 959 932
- PestFacts WA – newsletter, app to report, online maps

Key points

- Control the green bridge - SW corner of the grainbelt
- Prevent smuts with a seed treatment
- Sow problem rhizo paddocks early, consider seed/in-furrow options
- Forecasting tools

Have a great season!

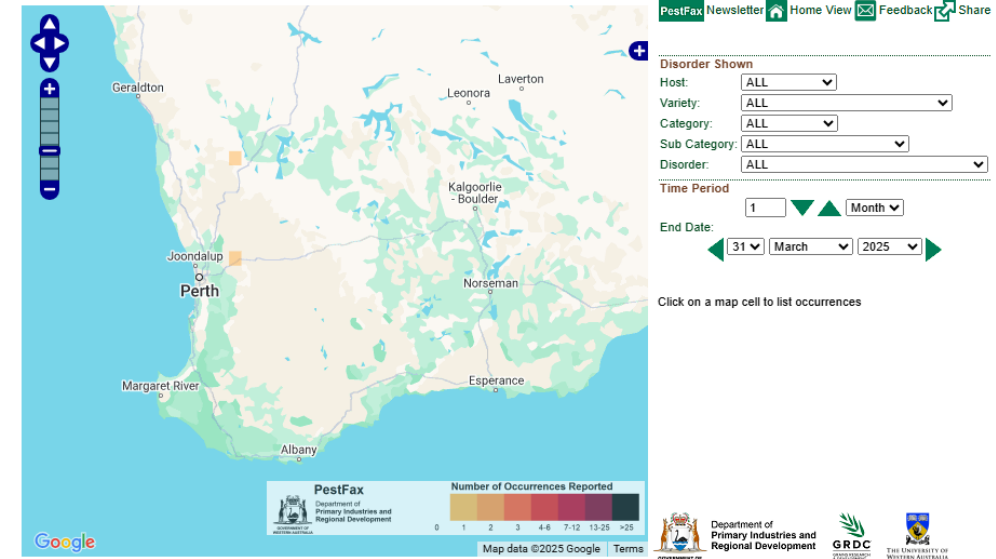
Surveillance involves all of us - get in touch if you see something unusual – Geoff Thomas, Kith Jayasena, Ciara Beard, Zia Hoque

Workshops in 2025:

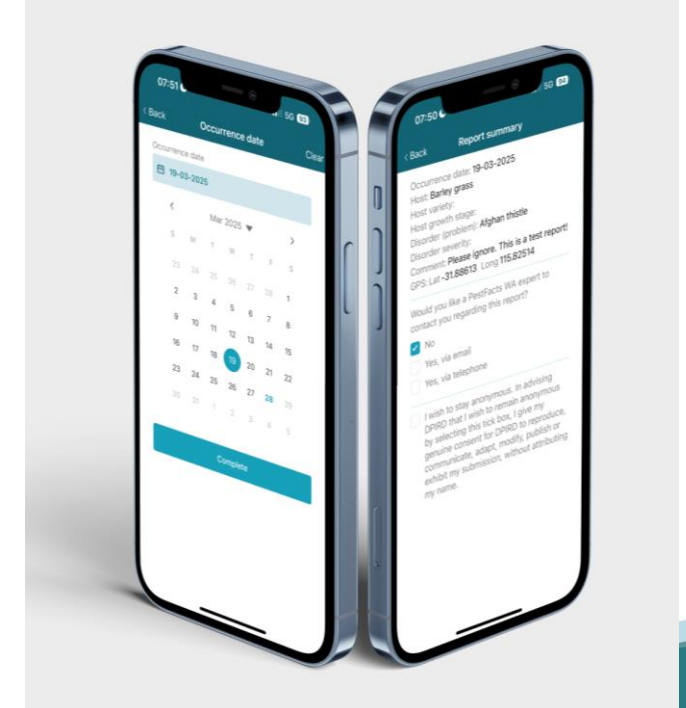
- AFREN Fungicide resistance workshops - Geraldton & Perth
 - DPIRD Disease & Pest ID Course – Perth

PestFacts WA service

- See what's being reported in your area on the PestFacts WA map
<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/diseases/pestfax-map>



- Use the PestFacts WA Reporter app to report insects and diseases or request a free diagnosis
<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/apps/pestfacts-wa-reporter-app>



Question and Answers session



- Use the “Q&A” tool to ask your question.
- 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 @DPIRDbroadcast on X (formerly Twitter) for #PestFactsWA posts.

Thank you

dpird.wa.gov.au



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