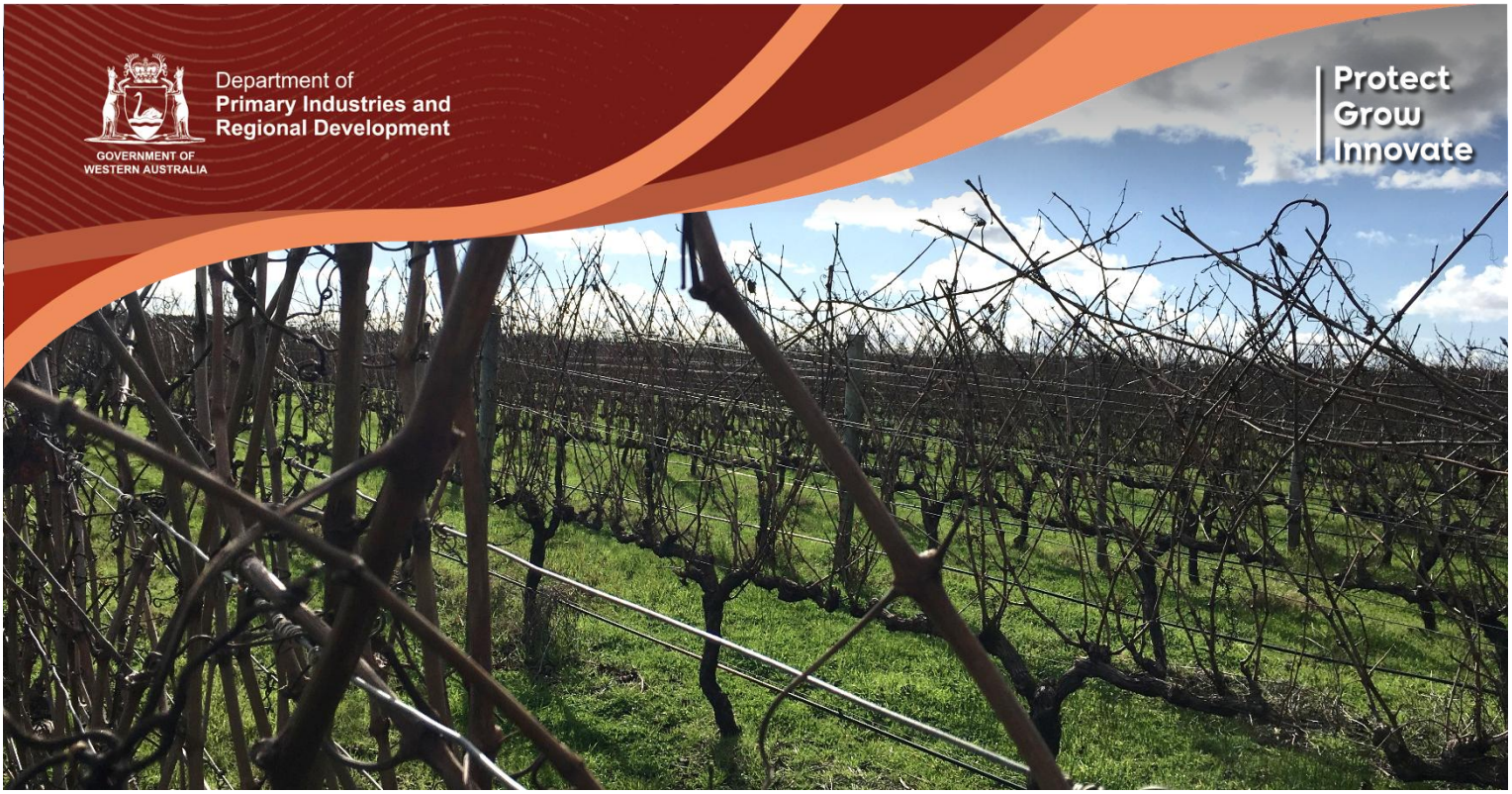

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Wine Industry Newsletter

Contents

Evaluation of Pinot Noir clones yielding results

The 2025 vintage marked the first season of evaluating Pinot Noir clones at a trial site in the Pemberton wine region. This exciting project is inspired by the success of a similar trial in Margaret River featuring Cabernet Sauvignon clones.

The project aims to observe the viticultural performance of the clones and produce small-lot wines to provide producers with information on the potential and suitability of these clones under WA growing conditions.

Established in 2021, the block consists of 14 different clones grafted onto 20 year old Sauvignon Blanc vines. The design of the trial features 3 replications per clones partially randomised across 6 rows.

Table 1: Positioning of Pinot Noir clones across the trial block

Row	Panel 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	115			D5V12A			777			MV6			G8V3 HT103			114A			G5V15		
	386			521			Droopy			D2V5			18GM			D2V6			777		
	114A			MV6			G8V3 HT103			115			D5V12A			Droopy			386		
	521			D2V5			667			114A			D2V6			MV6			G8V3 HT103		
	777			386			G5V15			D5V12A			667			115			18GM		
	G5V15			D2V6			18GM			Droopy			521			D2V5			667		

The clones included in this trial were sourced from the WA Vine Improvement Association (WAVIA) and ARM Nursery, all clones are available to industry via these public and private collections.

Table 2: Pinot Noir clones and their respective origins

Clone	Origin
MV6	Australia
18GM	Geisenheim, Germany
114A	Dijon, Côte-d'Or, France
115	
777	
667	
386	Champagne, Marne, France
521	
D5V12A	University of California, Davis
WA Droopy	
G8V3 HT103	

D2V5	Wädenswil, Switzerland
D2V6	
G5V15	

2024-25 observations

Over the growing season the department's wine research team walked through the block, observing the timing of key phenological stages across the clones (summarised below).

As table 3 shows, the clones had 4 to 5 days spread across the recorded phenological stages.

Table 3: Timing of key phenological stages

CLONE	Budburst					Flowering					Veraison				Harvest				
	SEP					NOV					JAN / FEB				MAR				
	16	17	18	19	20	17	18	19	20	21	31	1	2	3	7	8	9	10	11
MV6																			
18GM																			
114A																			
115																			
777																			
667																			
386																			
521																			
D5V12A																			
WA Droopy																			
G8V3 HT103																			
D2V5																			
D2V6																			
G5V15																			

At harvest, 20 kg of fruit was picked across the 3 replicates and measurements such as yield per vine, bunch numbers, bunch and berry weights were also taken. The data collected is illustrated in the figures below.

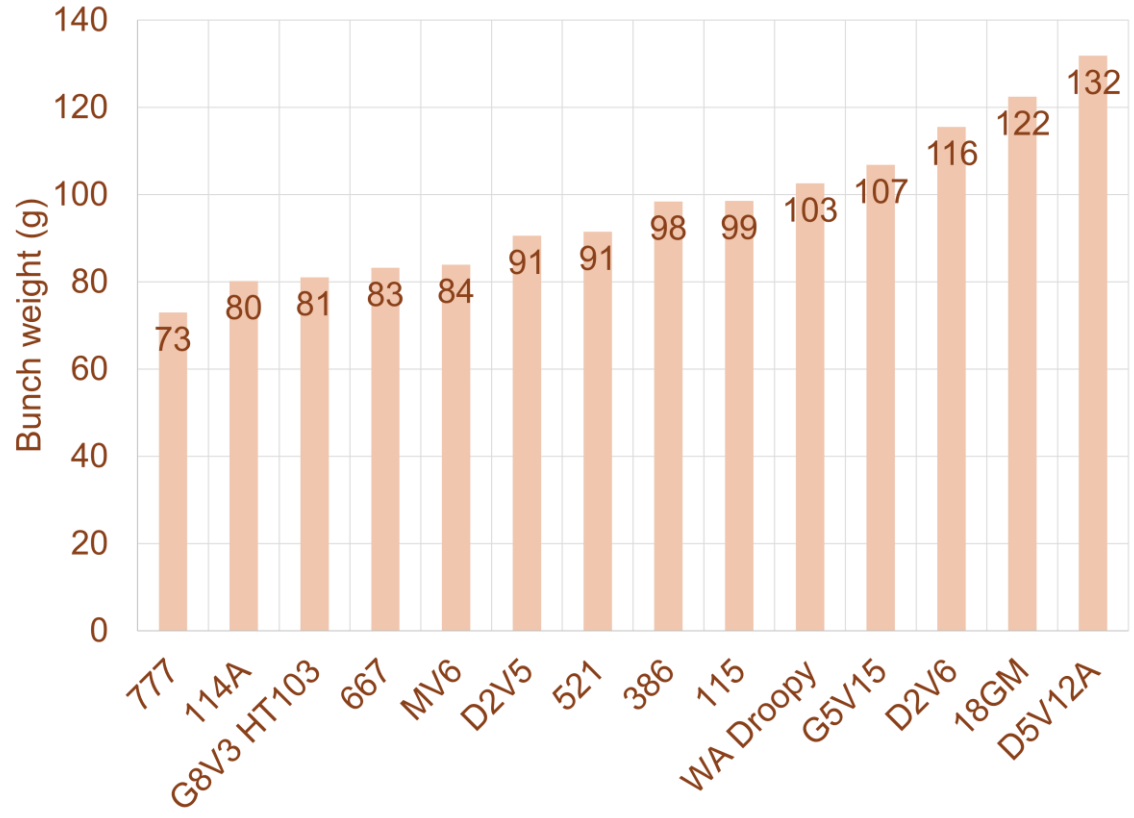


Figure 1: Average bunch weights per clone

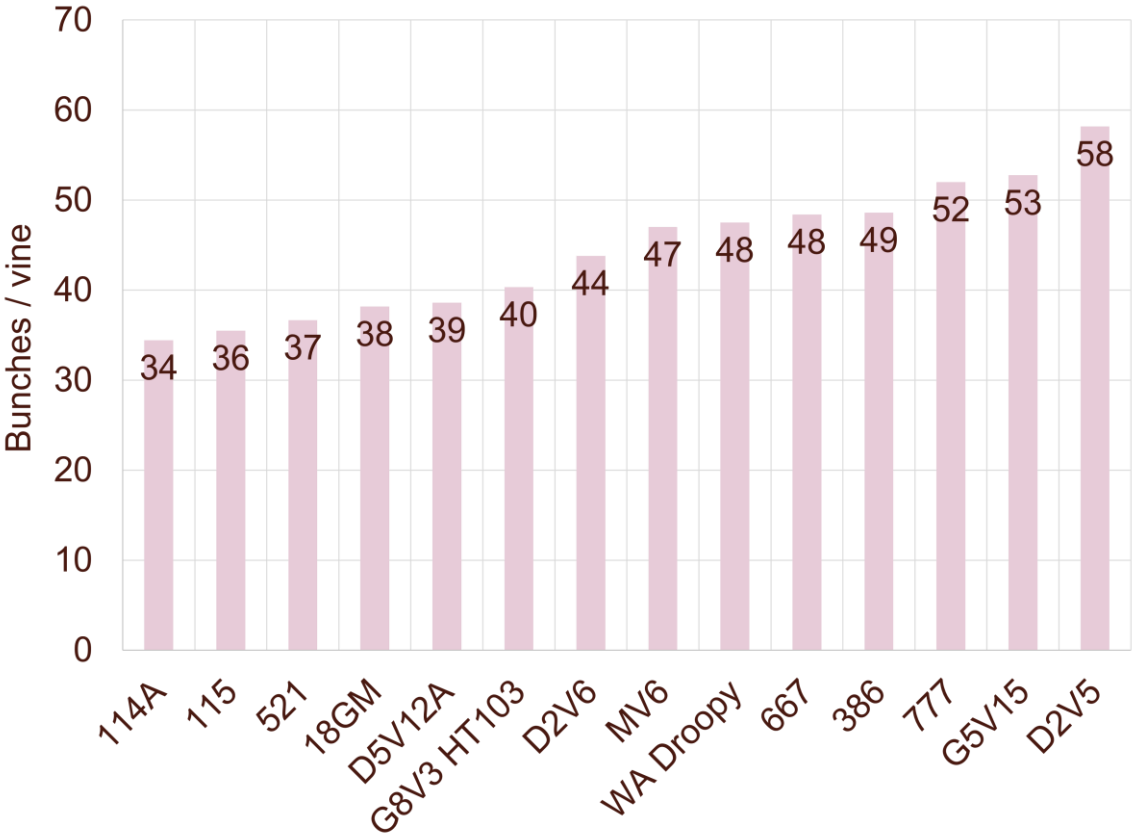


Figure 2: Average number of bunches per vine

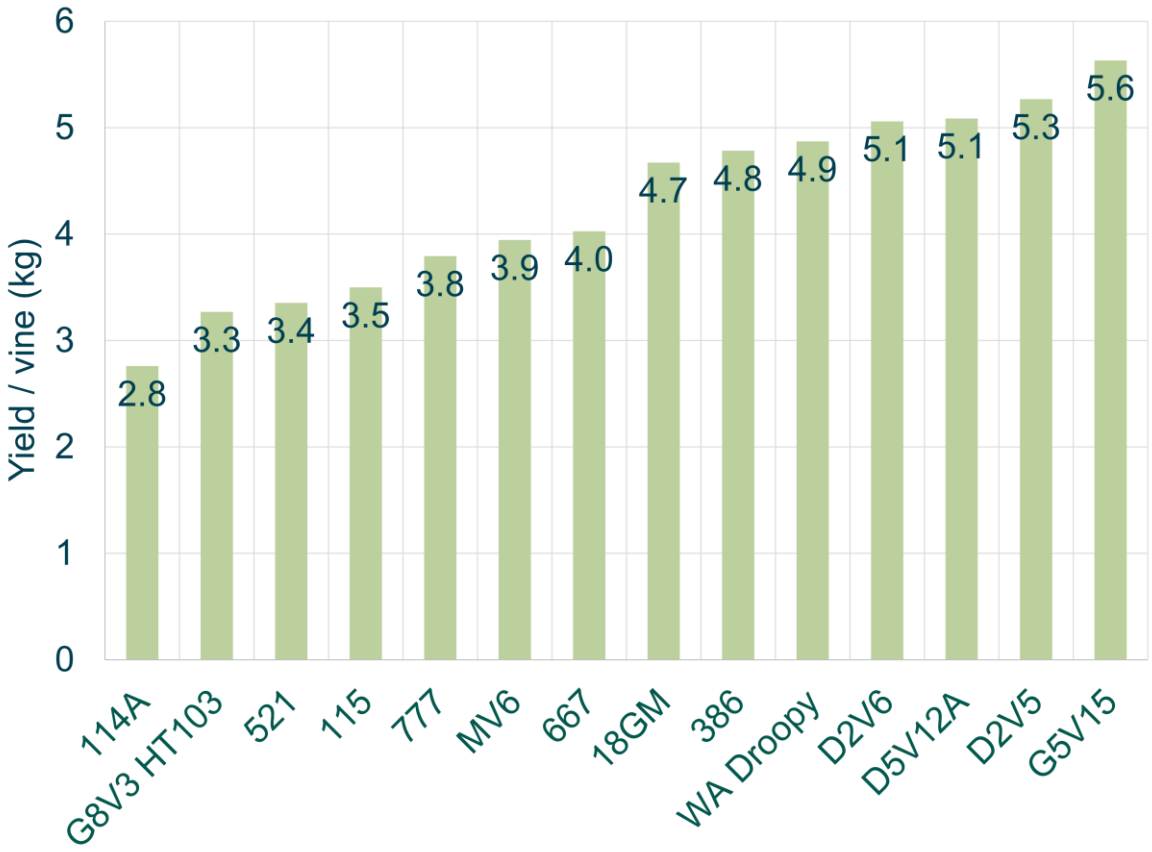


Figure 3: Average yield per vine

Preliminary observations show the clones had variation across their observed vineyard attributes:

- Highest yielding clone G5V15 produced twice as much fruit as the lowest yielding clone 114A.
- D5V12A had the highest average bunch weight, 80% heavier than the lowest clone 777.
- Clone 114A produced 40% fewer bunches per vine compared to the highest clone D2V5.

The fruit was processed at the department's Bunbury wine laboratory where the wines will be bottled in late July, followed by industry wine tasting workshops.

DPIRD technical officer Yu-Yu Liao harvesting Pinot Noir clones

A poster will be presented at the upcoming Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference to showcase this work.

This project has been a collaboration with DPIRD, Wines of Western Australia, 10 Chains Estate, WAVIA and ARM Nursery with funding received via the Wine Australia Regional Program.

Contact Yu-Yi Liao or Richard Fennessy for further information.

Updated seasonal climatic insights

DPIRD technical officer Yu-Yi Liao has prepared an update for the 2024-25 growing season across all 9 of WA's wine regions, following previous climate data published in the March 2025 WIN newsletter. This information provides insights for current and past growing seasons, assisting the understanding of vine and wine performance.

These regional 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 only current season daily rainfall is presented).

Swan District

Figures 4 and 5 show data collected from the BoM Millendon weather station (site number 9,281) representing the Swan District wine region.

After the dry conditions last season, the current season has accumulated a similar amount of rainfall (619 mm) as seasons 2021-22 and 2022-23. While winter and spring rainfalls are above average for the 4 seasons, 2024-25 hasn't received as much autumn rainfall as 2022-24.

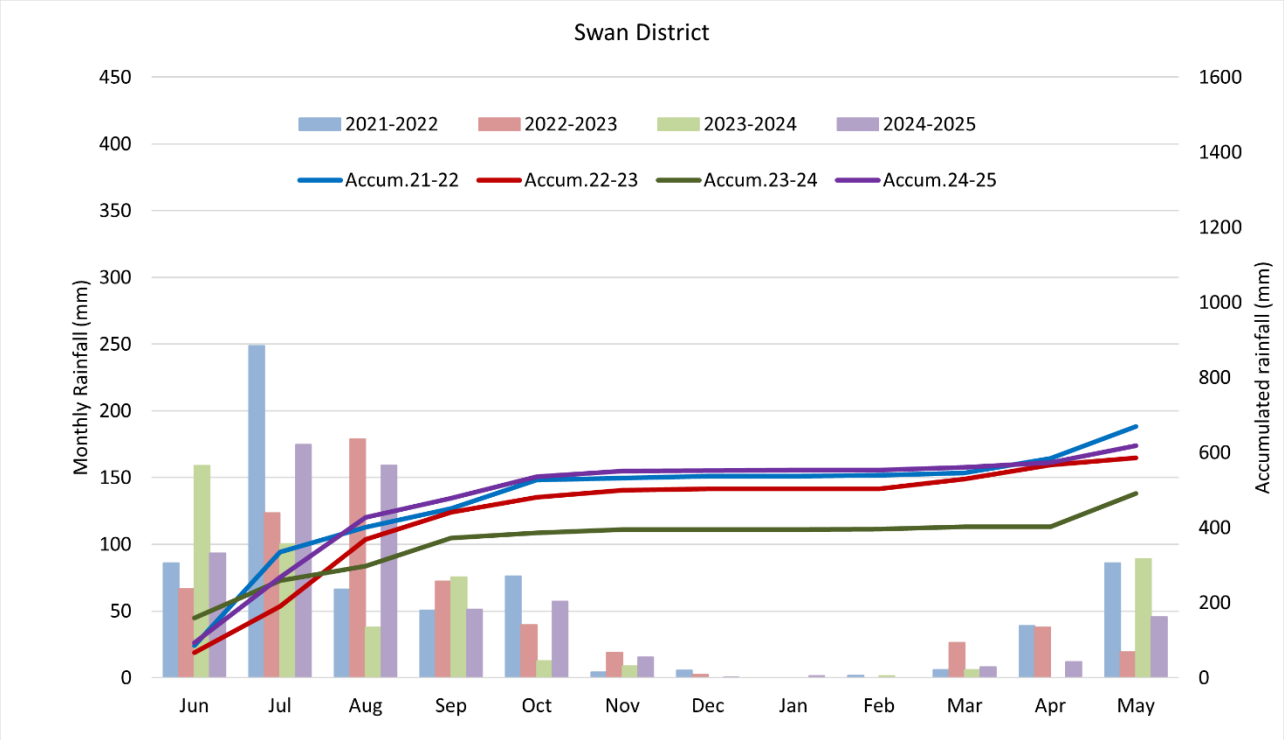


Figure 4 Swan District 2021-25 season monthly rainfall

Swan District accumulated 2,824 GDD units, which is the highest among the 9 regions. Although average monthly temperatures for December, January and March were fractionally higher than 2023-24, 2024-25 still marked 172 accumulated GDD units lower than 2023-24 (2,996).

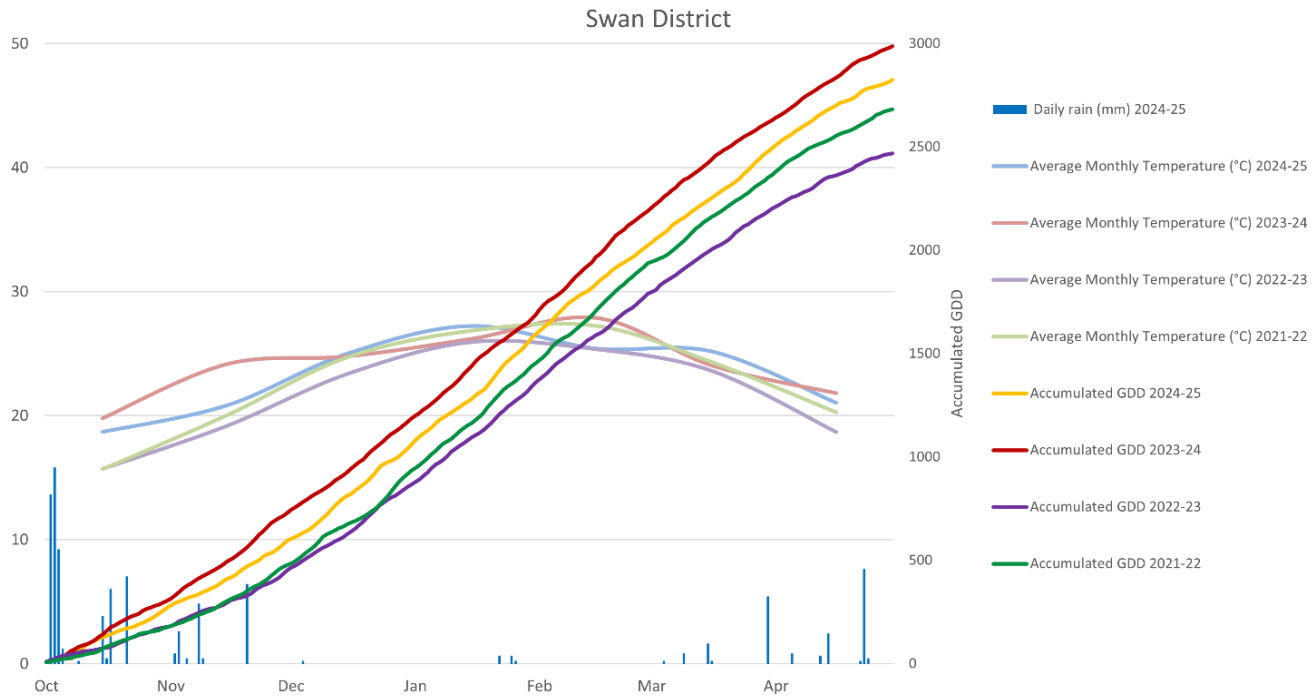


Figure 5 Swan District 2021-25 growing degree days and average monthly temperature comparisons between 4 seasons and daily rainfall in season 2024-25

Perth Hills

Perth Hills region data in Figures 6 and 7 are produced from 2 weather stations, BoM station Bickley (site number 9,240) and DPIRD station Glen Eagle.

2024-25 experienced the highest winter rainfall (747 mm), and below average autumn rainfall (119 mm), making the accumulated rainfall just above average for the last 4 vintages.

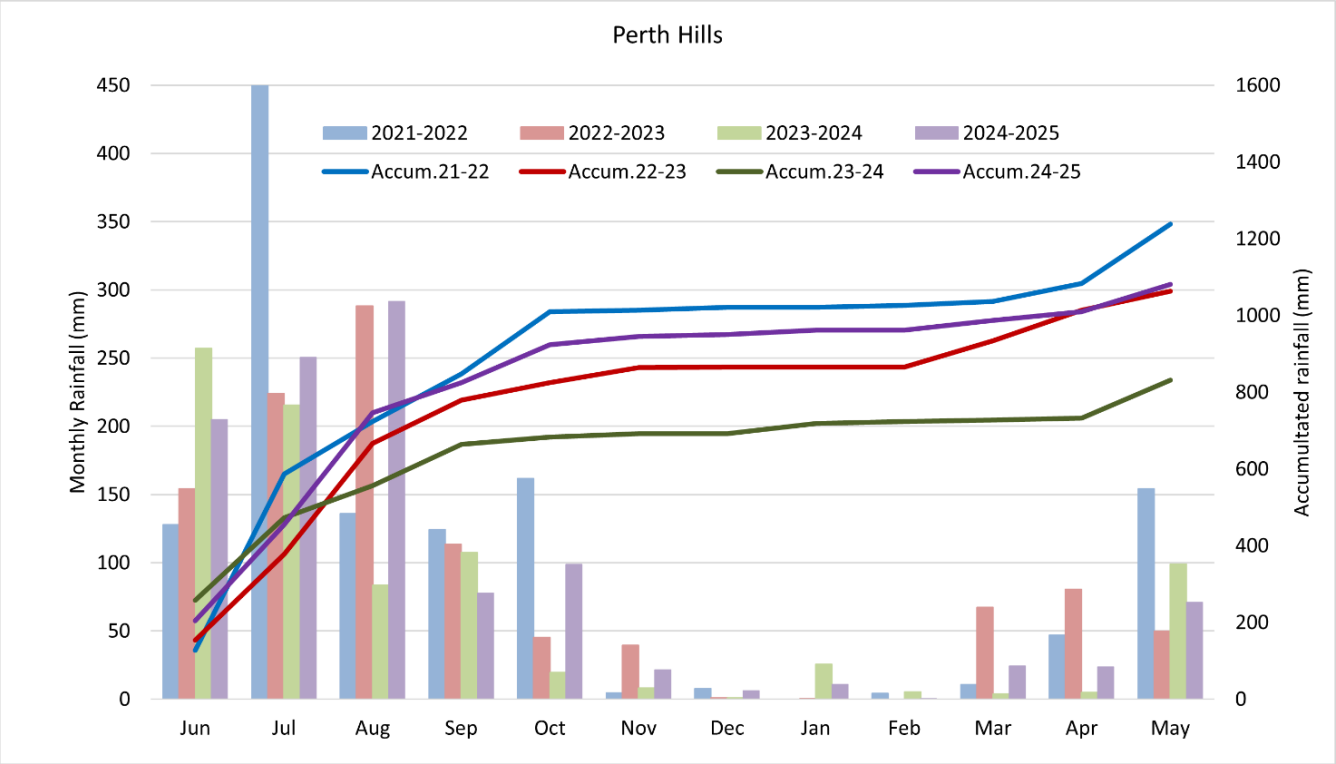


Figure 6 Perth Hills 2021-25 season monthly rainfall

Perth Hills region followed a similar trend to the Swan District, accumulating 2,471 units by the end of April 2025, which is 185 units lower than 2023-24. There was a notable 33.7 mm rainfall event on 3 October and some scattered rainfall at the end of January (3.5 mm on 18 January and 5.8 mm on 25 January), but overall relatively dry during the ripening period.

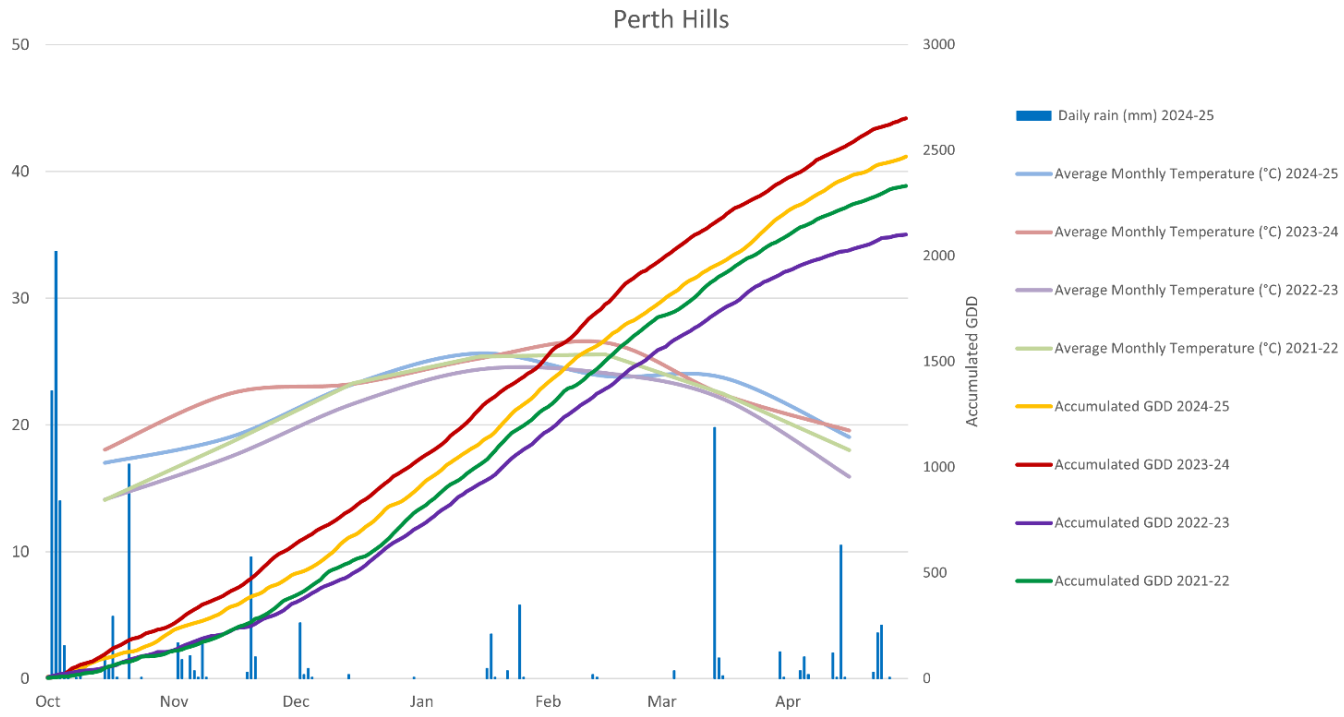


Figure 7 Perth Hills 2021-25 growing degree days and average monthly temperature comparisons between 4 seasons and daily rainfall in season 2024-25

Peel

Peel's data in Figures 8 and 9 is sourced from BoM Dwellingup weather station (site number 9,538).

During the current season, the Peel region experienced the lowest accumulated seasonal rainfall (720 mm), which could be attributed to the driest winter (466 mm), summer (3 mm) and autumn (89 mm) in the last 4 years.

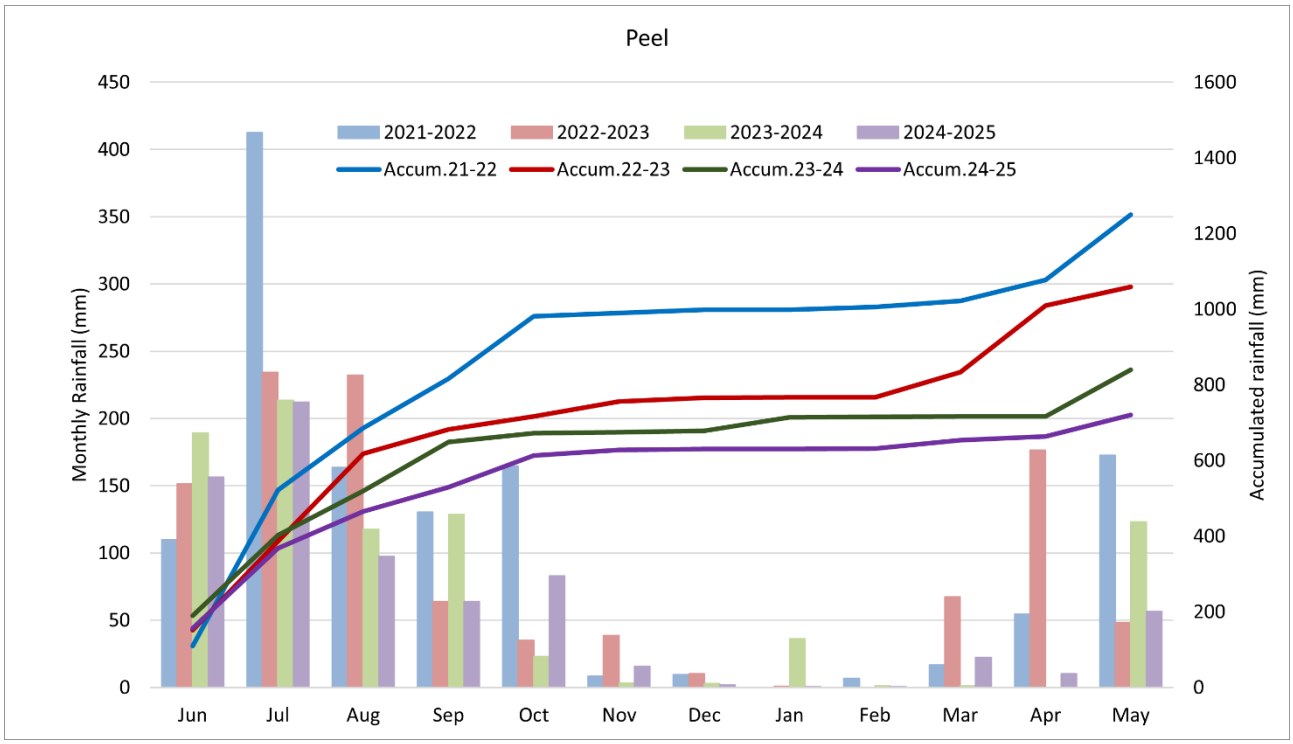


Figure 8 Peel 2021-25 season monthly rainfall

Peel had accumulated 2,264 GDD units, 138 units lower than season 2023-24. A consecutive 6-day heatwave from 24 to 29 March contributed to the fast accumulation of GDD towards the end of the growing season.

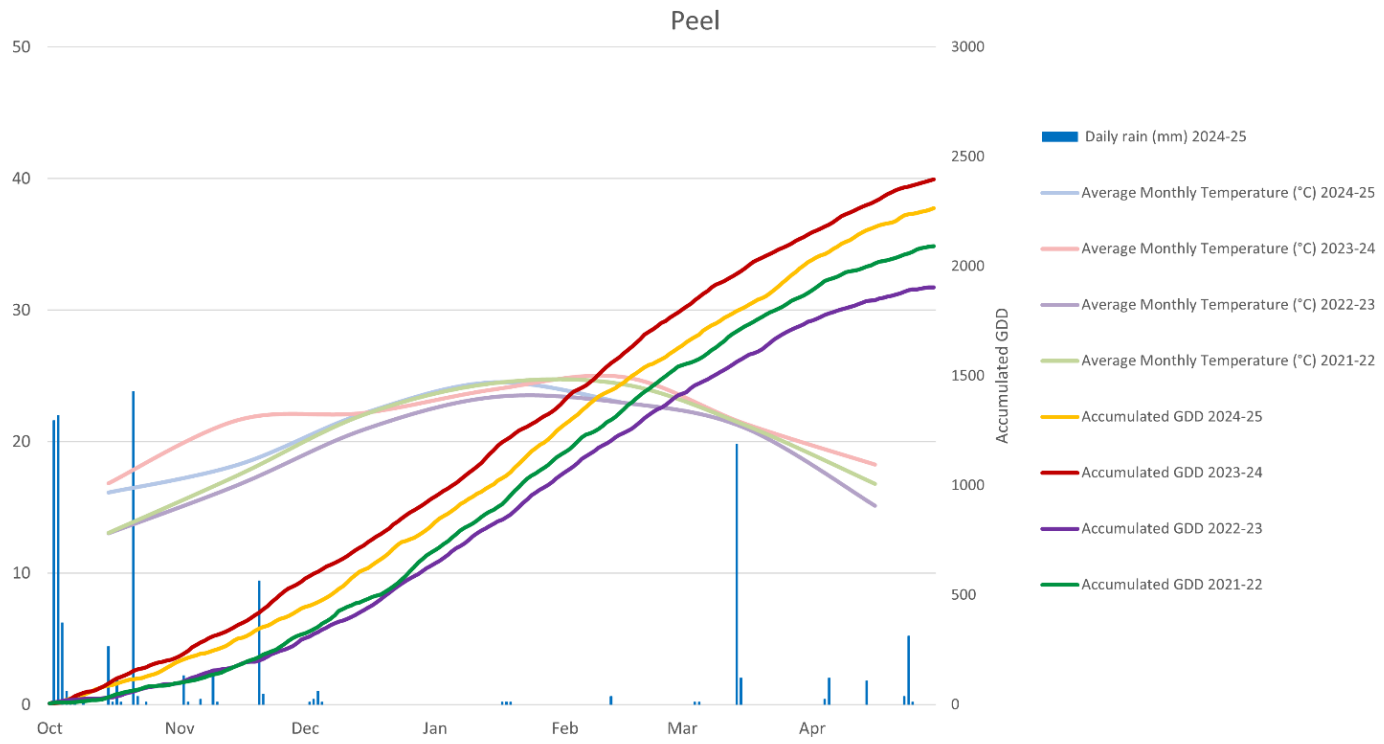


Figure 9 2021-25 growing degree days and average monthly temperature comparisons between 4 seasons and daily rainfall in season 2024-25

Geographe

Data derived from DPIRD's weather stations, Capel, Donnybrook and Dardanup 2, were compiled to represent Geographe in Figures 10 and 11.

During 2024-25 season, the region had the highest winter rainfall (606 mm) compared to the last 4 years; however, with average spring and lower autumn rainfall, the 2024-25 season has accumulated similar rainfall (895 mm) to 2021-22.

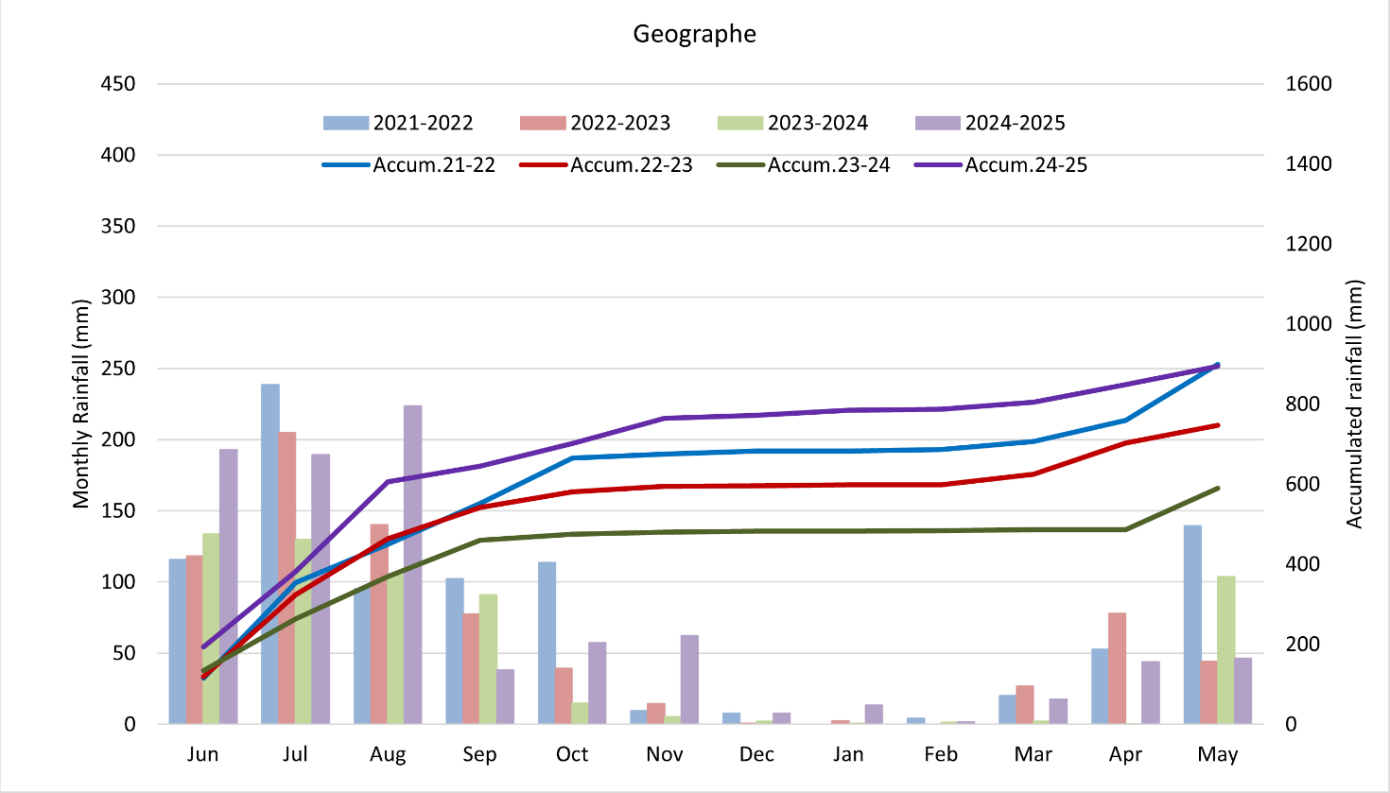


Figure 10 Geographe 2021-25 season monthly rainfall

The current season's accumulated GDD totalled 2,277 units, which is 217 units lower than the season 2023-24 at the end of April. There was a significant 55 mm rainfall event on 20 November.

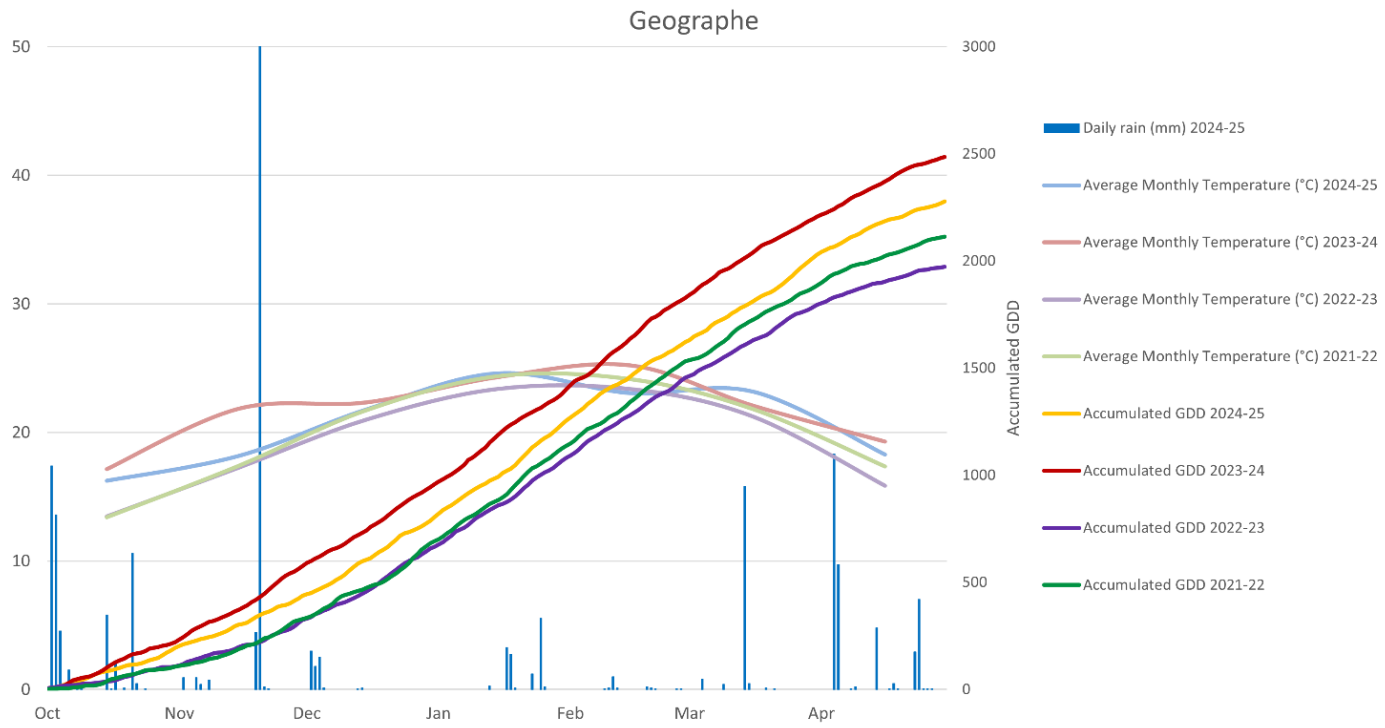


Figure 11 Geographe 2021-25 growing degree days and average monthly temperature comparisons between 4 seasons and daily rainfall in season 2024-25

Margaret River

Figures 12 and 13 illustrate Margaret River's seasonal data from DPIRD's Vasse, Wilyabrup, Margaret River, Rosa Brook and Karridale weather stations.

With the wettest winter (649 mm rainfall) in 4 years, 2024-25 accumulated rainfall tracked the highest among the 4 vintages until autumn due to the lower spring and autumn rainfall, ending with 956 mm which is similar to 2021-22 and 2022-23.

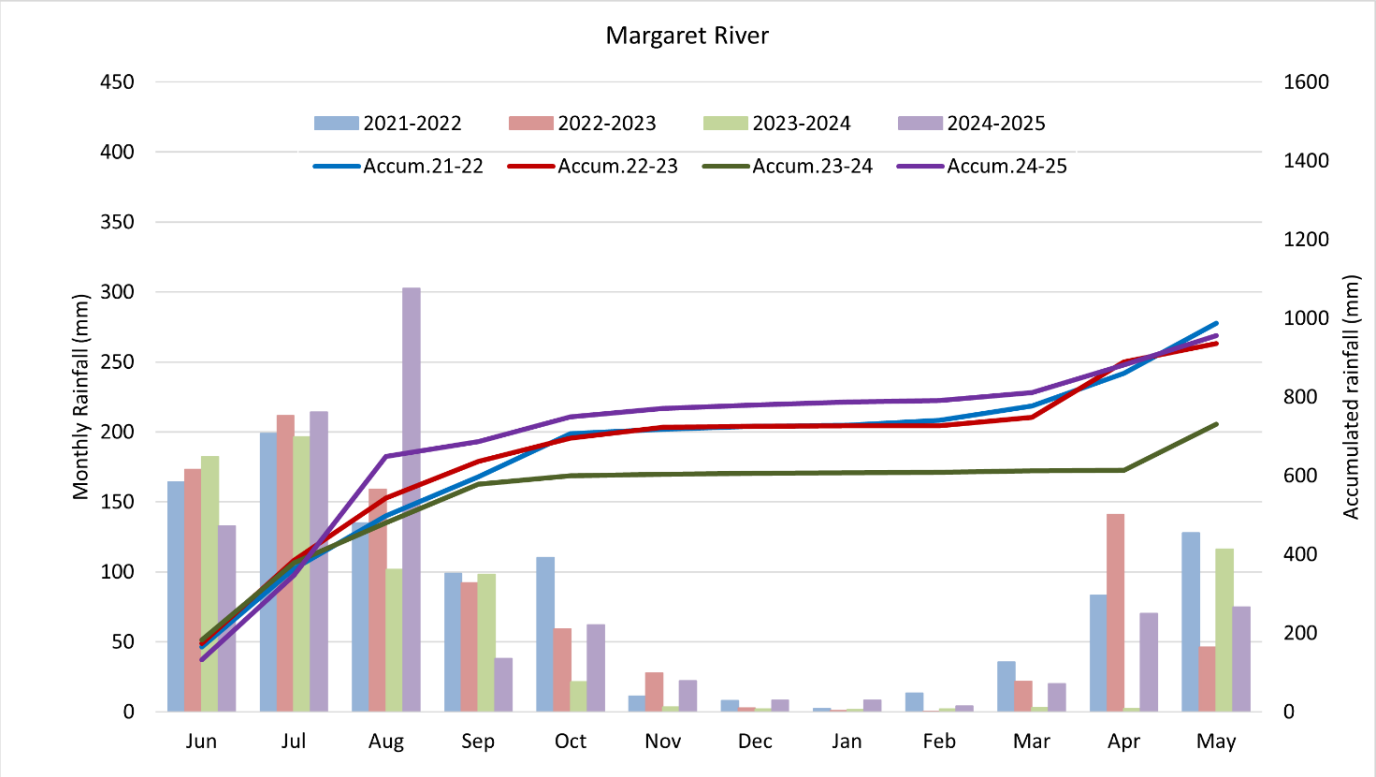


Figure 12 Margaret River 2021-25 season monthly rainfall

As of the end of April 2025, the current season had accumulated 1,925 GDD units. The trend was tracking slightly higher than season 2021-22 until mid-January, eventually marking the second lowest amongst these 4 seasons.

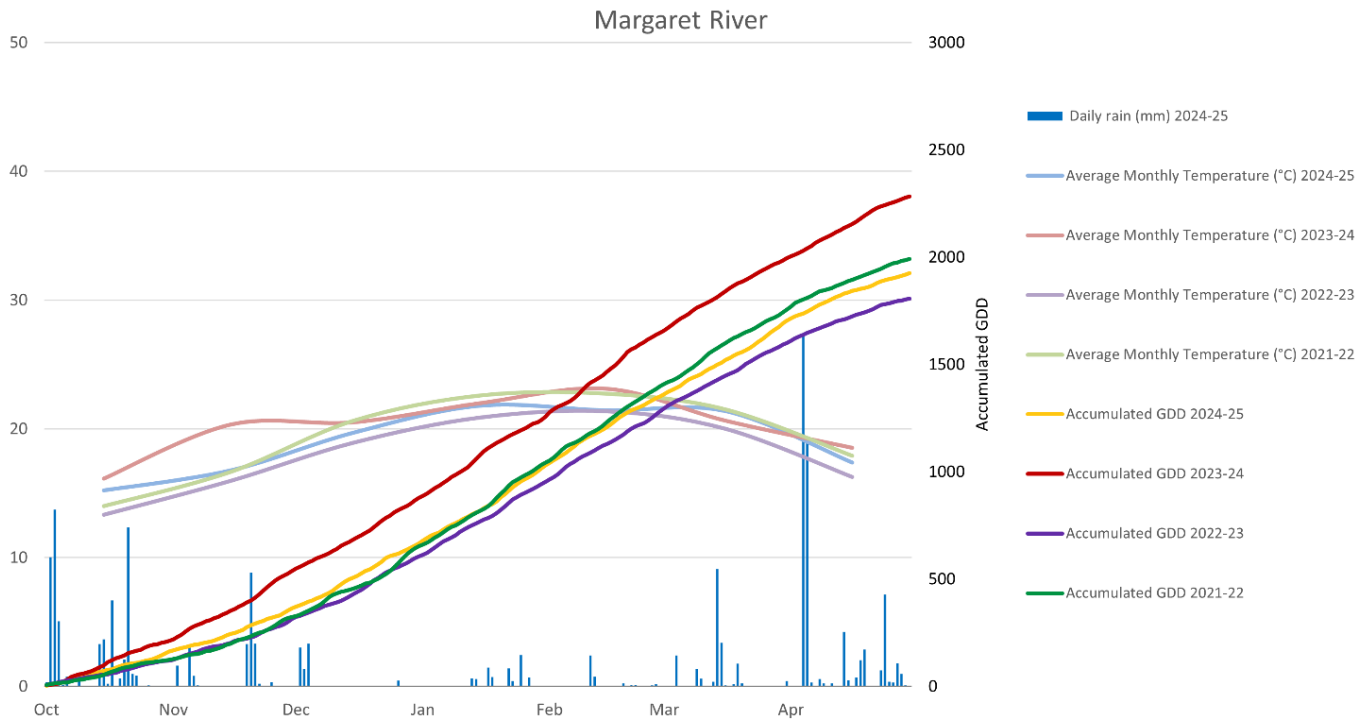


Figure 13 Margaret River 2021-25 growing degree days and average monthly temperature comparisons between 4 seasons and daily rainfall in season 2024-25

Blackwood Valley

The data from BoM Bridgetown weather station (number 9,617) and DPIRD station Nannup are illustrated in Figures 14 and 15, representing the Blackwood Valley wine region.

Blackwood Valley experienced high winter rainfall in 2024-25 due to August recording 243 mm. Spring was slightly drier than previous seasons, with autumn receiving the highest rainfall again. This all contributed to the highest accumulated seasonal rainfall in 2024-25.

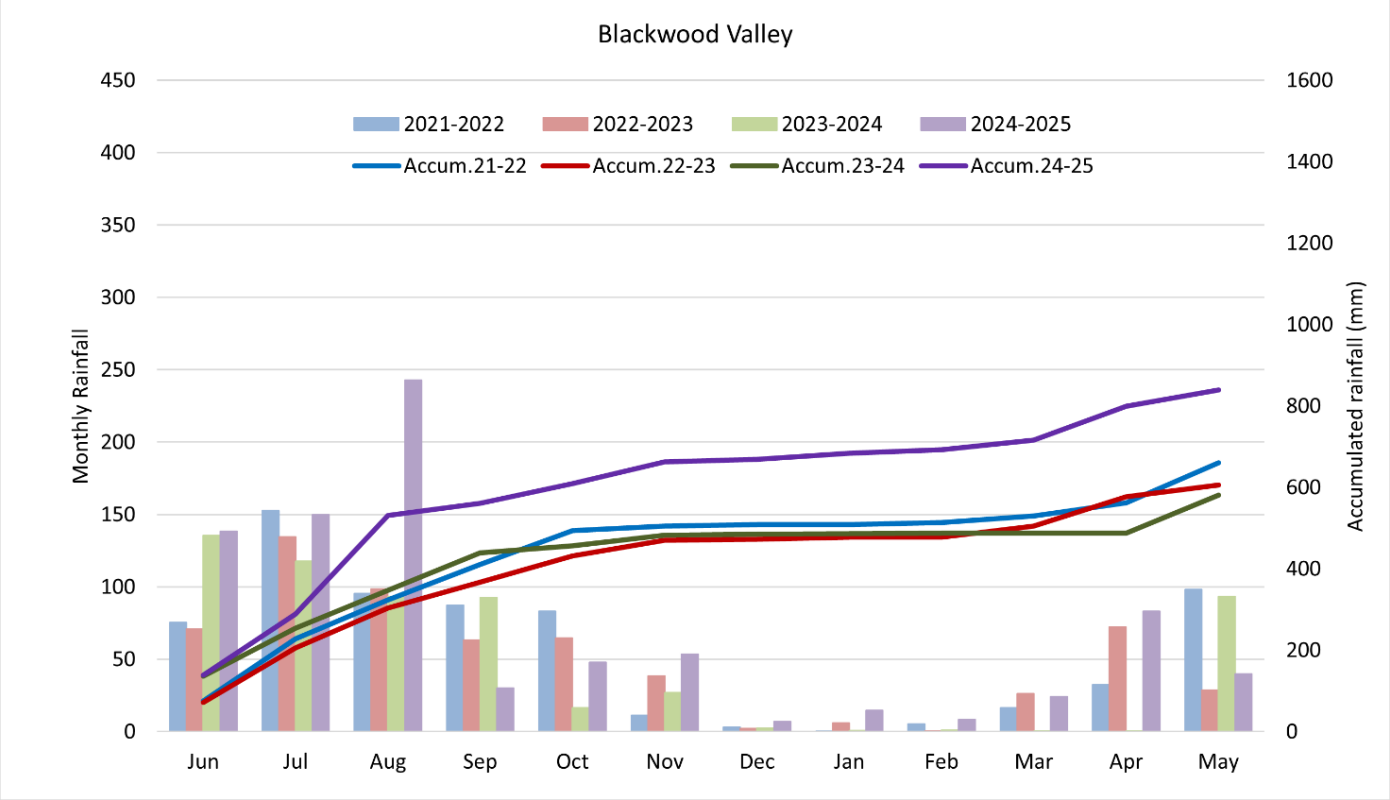


Figure 14 Blackwood Valley 2021-25 season monthly rainfall

2024-25 accumulated 2,158 GDD units by the end of April, which is 110 units lower than 2023-24 (2,268 units). Two notable rainfall events were 43 mm on 20 November and 45 mm on 4 April.

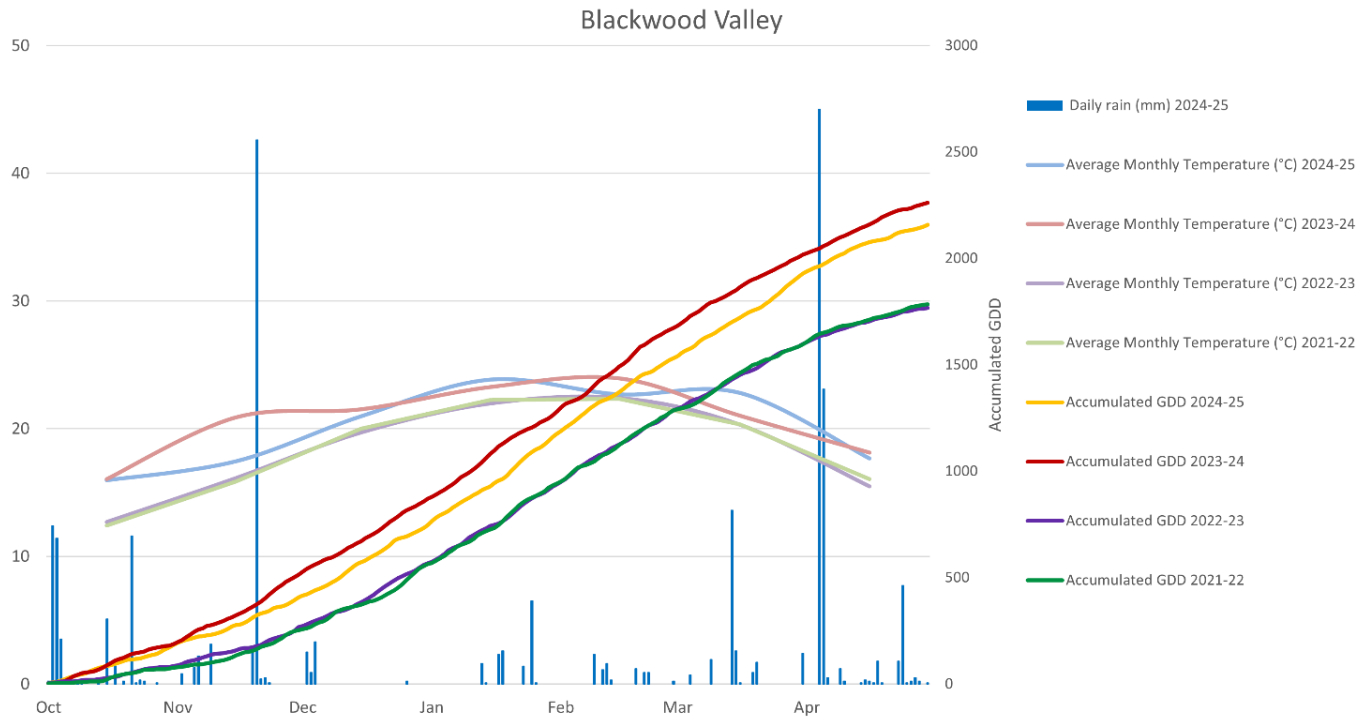


Figure 15 Blackwood Valley 2021-25 growing degree days and average monthly temperature comparisons between 4 seasons and daily rainfall in season 2024-25

Manjimup

The BoM weather station at Manjimup (site number 9,573) and DPIRD's Manjimup HRS station provided data to represent the growing seasons in Figures 16 and 17.

In addition to the wetter winter the Manjimup region experienced (total 555 mm), this season has received the highest rainfall in spring, summer and autumn, resulting in the highest accumulated rainfall (1,114mm) across all 4 seasons.

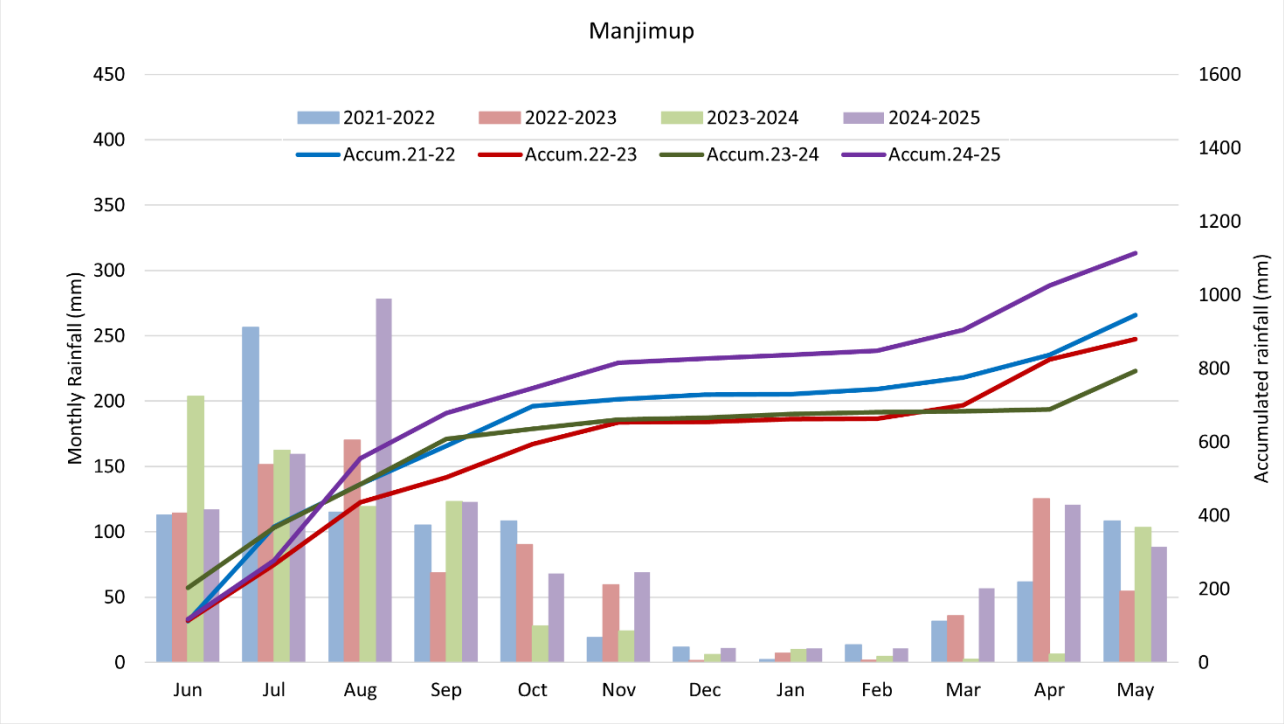


Figure 16 Manjimup 2021-25 season monthly rainfall

Manjimup marked 1,939 GDD units by the end of April in 2024-25,115 units less than the previous season.

Similar to the Blackwood region, Manjimup experienced 2 notable rainfall events on 20 November (43 mm) and 5 April (56 mm).

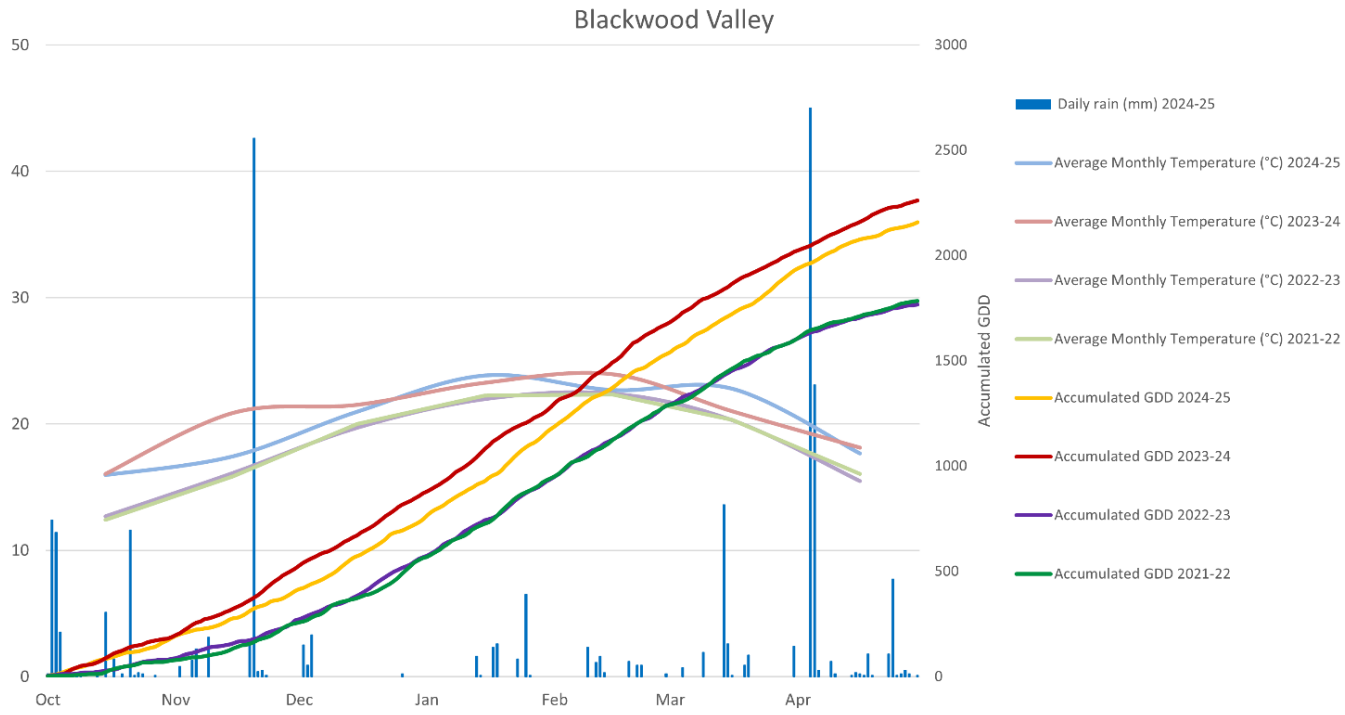


Figure 17 Manjimup 2021-25 growing degree days and average monthly temperature comparisons between 4 seasons and daily rainfall in season 2024-25

Pemberton

Data from DPIRD Pemberton weather station was collated in Figures 18 and 19.

In addition to the high precipitation in August (362 mm), Pemberton's summer rainfall for the current season is above average compared to the last 3 seasons. The region received between 15 mm and 18 mm of monthly rainfall from December to February.

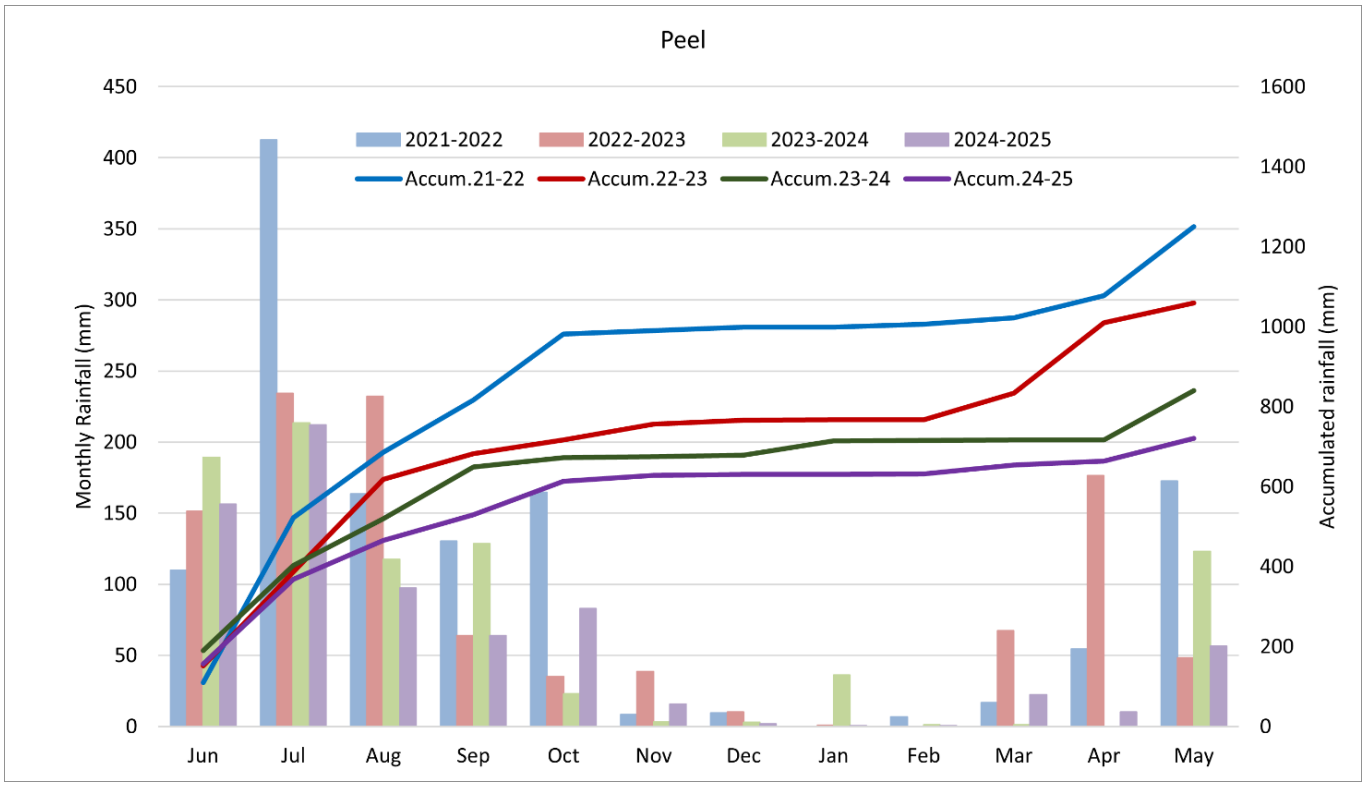


Figure 18 Pemberton 2021-25 season monthly rainfall

Following a similar trend to Manjimup, the Pemberton region accumulated 1,845 GDD units by the end of April in 2024-25, which is 165 units lower than 2023-24.

It is also interesting to compare the daily rainfall between Manjimup and Pemberton. Although Manjimup had 2 heavy rain events in November and April, Pemberton experienced regular rain that accumulated to 1,308 mm of rainfall, which is the highest of the 9 wine regions.

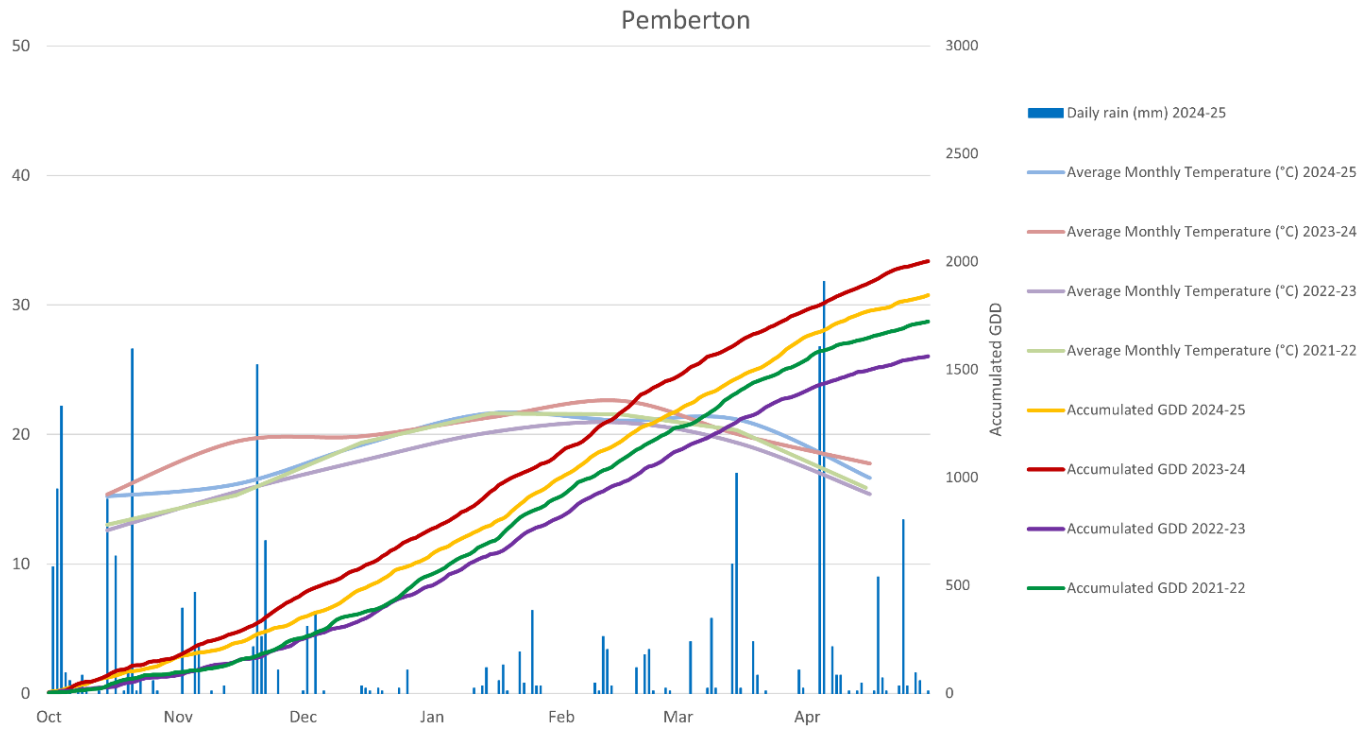


Figure 19 Pemberton 2021-25 growing degree days and average monthly temperature comparisons between 4 seasons and daily rainfall in season 2024-25

Great Southern

Data from BoM's Albany Airport (9,741) and Rocky Gully (9,964), Water Corporation's Quickup Dam and DPIRD's Denmark, Mt Barker, Stirlings South, Frankland North and Frankland weather stations were combined to produce Figures 20 and 21, representing each of the subregions of the Great Southern wine region.

In comparing accumulated rainfall across the past 4 seasons, 2024-25 can be considered a relatively dry season along with 2023-24, as the other 2 seasons had recorded around 30% more total rainfall.

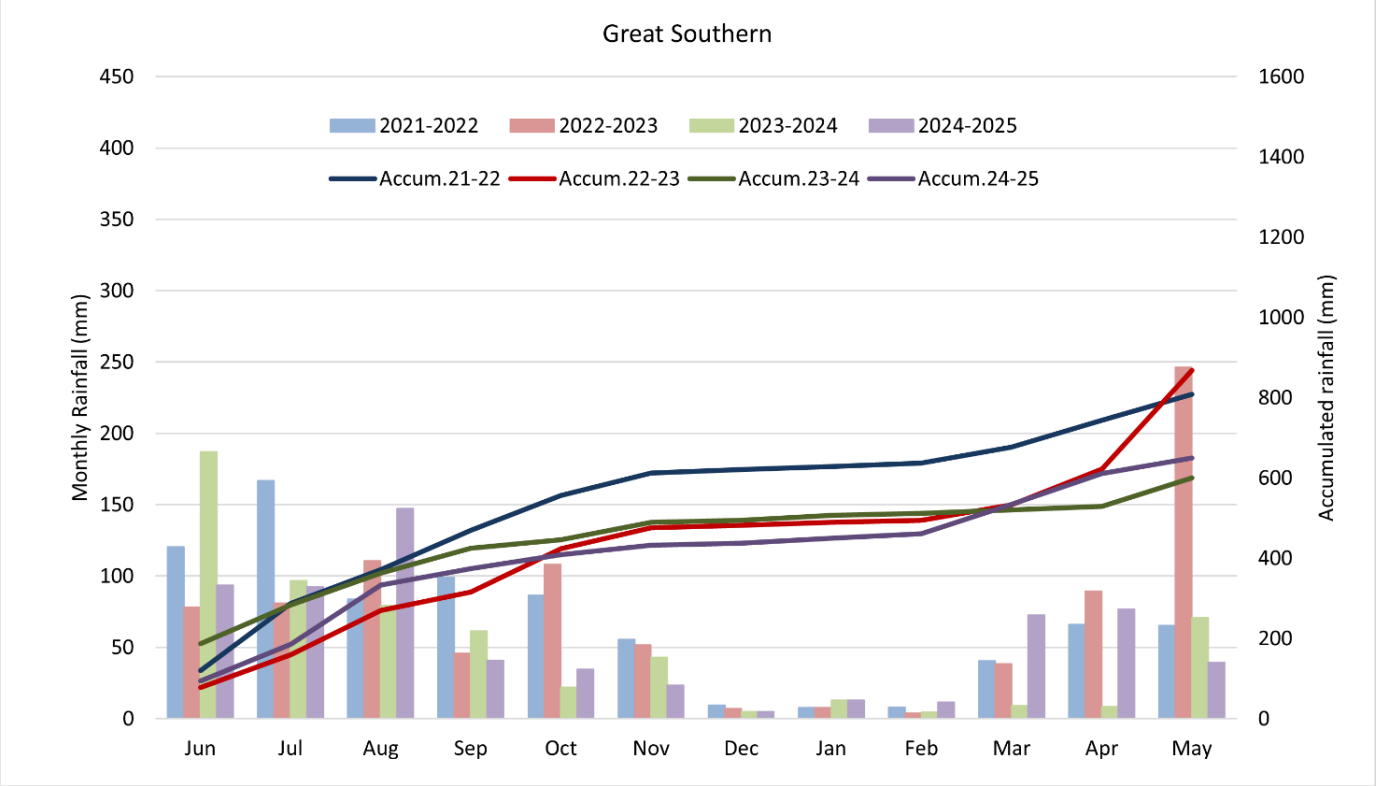


Figure 20 Great Southern 2021-25 season monthly rainfall

The Great Southern experienced a similarly warm season compared to 2023-24 (1,876 GDD units), accumulating 1,909 GDD units. In terms of daily rainfall, a notable high event (55 mm) occurred on 14 March.

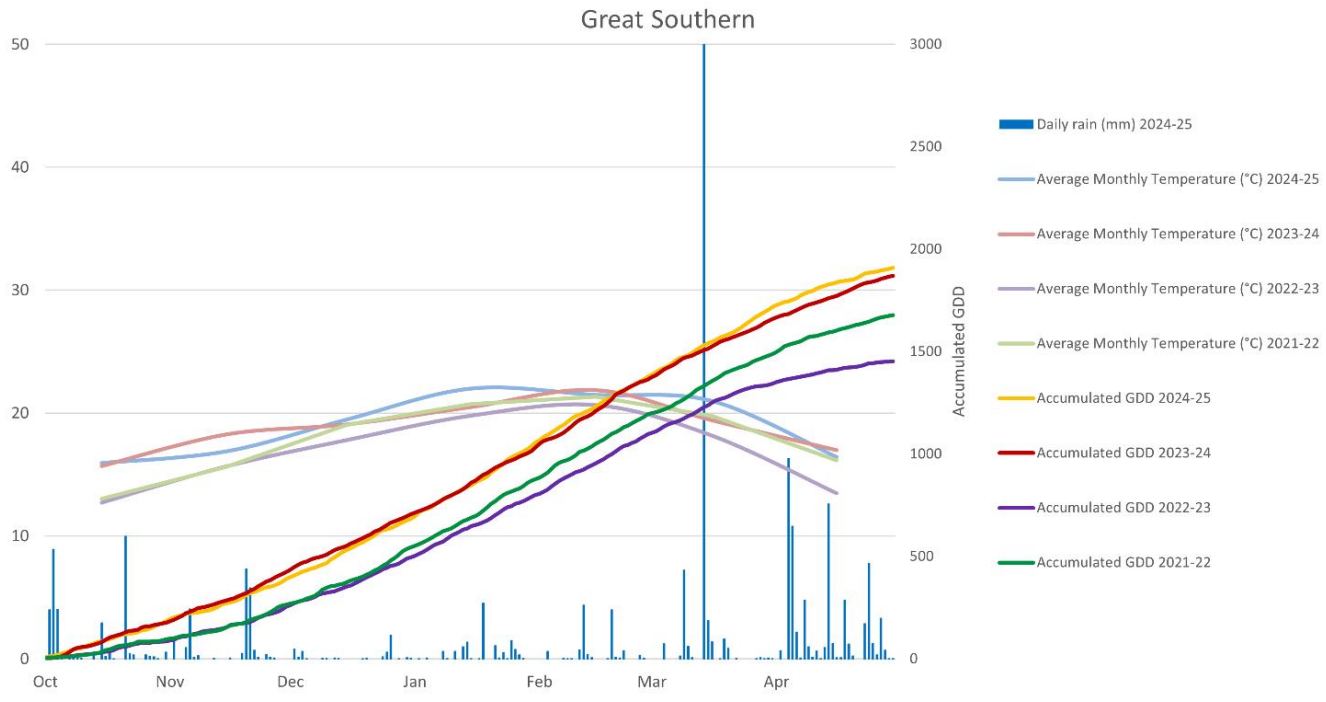


Figure 21 Great Southern 2021-25 growing degree days and average monthly temperature comparisons between 4 seasons and daily rainfall in season 2024-25

Summary of extreme heat days and heat waves over the past 4 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 2. There were fractionally fewer days over 38°C in 2024-25 compared to season 2023-24.

Table 2 Number of days with maximum temperature ≥ 38°C

Number of days with maximum temperature ≥ 38°C				
Wine region	**Growing season**			
	2021-22	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25**
Swan District	26	9	26	26
Perth Hills	19	3	18	17
Peel	11	1	12	10
Geographe	13	2	13	11
Margaret River	4	0	4	1
Blackwood Valley	7	0	13	14
Manjimup	6	0	7	3
Pemberton	6	0	3	2
Great Southern	2	0	3	1

To further delve into this data, a summary of the occurrences of heatwaves, defined as 5 or more consecutive days with a maximum temperature of 35°C and above, is presented in Table 3.

There are similar numbers of heatwave occurrences in seasons 2021-22, 2023-24 and 2024-25. Worth noting, the Swan District wine region recorded a 12-day heatwave from 28 Jan to 8 Feb 2025 and 4 of the 5 heatwave events of 2024-24 occurred between December and February.

Table 4 Number of heatwaves

Number of heat waves				
Wine region	**Growing season**			
	2021-22	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25**
Swan District	3	3	4	5
Perth Hills	3	1	3	4
Peel	3	1	2	1
Geographe	2	0	1	1
Margaret River	1	0	0	0
Blackwood Valley	2	0	1	1
Manjimup	1	0	0	0
Pemberton	1	0	0	0
Great Southern	0	0	0	0

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

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

Final season of Cabernet clonal evaluation

The 2024-25 growing season marks the fourth and final season of observations and small-lot winemaking at the Cabernet Sauvignon clonal trial site located at Howard Park's Leston Vineyard in Margaret River.

As described in previous WIN editions, this work was instigated to understand the characteristics of different clones across multiple vintages, focusing on field performance and wine qualities. The data collected over 4 seasons has provided insights into some vineyard traits expressed by the clones.

Table 5 Observations for the 2024-25 growing season

Clone	Budburst	Flowering	Veraison	Harvest
Roche 5-2	2-Oct	22-Nov	24-Jan	1-Apr
Roche 5-7	3-Oct	21-Nov	28-Jan	25-Mar
Roche 9-7	3-Oct	22-Nov	28-Jan	4-Apr
Roche 20-4	27-Sep	21-Nov	28-Jan	21-Mar
191	3-Oct	22-Nov	28-Jan	1-Apr
337	3-Oct	22-Nov	28-Jan	21-Mar
SA125	27-Sep	21-Nov	28-Jan	1-Apr
SA126	30-Sep	22-Nov	28-Jan	1-Apr
CW44	3-Oct	22-Nov	28-Jan	1-Apr
LC10	30-Sep	19-Nov	26-Jan	28-Mar
LC84	27-Sep	21-Nov	26-Jan	1-Apr
G9V3	3-Oct	21-Nov	26-Jan	28-Mar

Table 6 Timing of key phenological stages 2024-25

Clone	Average bunches / vine	Average bunch weight / vine (g)	Yield / vine (kg)
Roche 5-2	26	192.2	5.1
Roche 5-7	25	153.9	3.8
Roche 9-7	25	215.8	5.5
Roche 20-4	29	188.1	5.5
191	23	200.9	4.7

337	26	207.7	5.4
SA125	29	208.7	6.0
SA126	25	179.0	4.4
CW44	29	145.5	4.2
LC10	29	173.5	5.0
LC84	25	193.1	4.8
G9V3	23	207.0	4.8

The wines from the 2025 vintage are planned for bottling in July. Regional workshops will then be held to present the final results and taste the clonal wines from multiple vintages.

Wines from the 2022, 2023 and 2024 vintages were tannin profiled earlier this year to determine if there are discernible differences between the tannin composition of the clones. Statistical analysis of the data was unable to show any significant differences, however feedback from winemakers at past tastings have noted observable differences in tannin characteristics.

Extension of the data collected during this project and opportunities to taste the trial wines have been held at industry workshops across the Swan Valley, Margaret River and Great Southern wine regions.

Recently at this year's Vasse Felix regional Cabernet Sauvignon tasting, attendees were able to taste the 2024 trial wines from 12 different clones and review the production data collected during that growing season.

Clones from the 2024 vintage at an industry wine tasting at Vasse Felix

The results of this project will be presented at a workshop at the Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference in July.

This project has been a collaboration with DPIRD, Wines of Western Australia, Howard Park Wines, WAVIA and ARM Nursery with funding received via the Wine Australia Regional Program.

Contact Richard Fennessy for further information.

Wastewater workshop recap

Wines of Western Australia (WoWA) facilitated an industry workshop on winery wastewater on 12 June, covering compliance, monitoring, reporting, treatment and disposal.

Convened by Eloise Jarvis, WoWA Sustainability Project Manager, the workshop began by highlighting the goal of the WA wine industry to be recognised as a leader in sustainable wine production and how wastewater management is an integral aspect to this objective.

To set the context of current winery wastewater practices, DPIRD's Richard Fennessy summarised the results of a recent industry survey focused on understanding producers' challenges in treating, disposing and managing wastewater to guide supporting activities. The key findings from the survey were:

- Generally, wastewater infrastructure across WA wineries is aging and a potential risk to operations.
- Cost is the primary barrier to improvement.
- There is a knowledge gap around best practices and regulations.
- Strong appetite for innovation, benchmarking, and peer learning.

The discussion then led into the regulatory requirements of wastewater management starting with a presentation of a flow diagram that illustrated the various approvals, licenses and permits from Department of Water, Environment and Regulation (DWER), Department of Health, Water Corporation and other government agencies.

DWER's Caron Goodbourn, Process Industries Manager, provided insights into DWER's role in regulating trade waste. Caron explained a number of specific pieces of legislation and regulations applicable to wineries of various production capacities. One key takeaway from the presentation was the importance of licensed wineries to notify DWER if any changes are made to the winery that impact operations such as increasing capacity or extending into other production streams such as beer or distilling.

Following this, Alison White, environmental consultant, provided attendees with practical tips on understanding licensing requirements, application processes, plus monitoring and reporting requirements. Specifically, Alison walked through the key components of a licence and how these should be interpreted, and audit compliance reporting. The presentation finished on how to form an environmental risk assessment, understanding the source-pathway-receptor relationships and how these can be used to determine a risk rating.

Gerard Leddin from DPIRD's Agribusiness Food and Trade division presented insights on how the department can assist agribusinesses with financial and technical support and detailed the extent of expertise within the team available to assist winemakers.

Nick Tsvetkov,DPIRD Senior Agribusiness Development Consultant, shared his expertise in environmental engineering, starting with the main principles when considering how best to treat and dispose of winery wastewater. Nick's key points to nutrient and irrigation management plans were:

- measure your wastewater (volume and quality)
- have a nutrient and water balance
- include an offtake mechanism for the nutrients

- treelots need additional phosphorus monitoring or removal.

DPIRD's Nick Tsvetkov presenting key principles of wastewater treatment systems

Nick's second presentation covered the theory, practice and innovation of biological treatment systems. Specific information on addressing the unique composition of winery wastewater and the challenges they present were included. Nick noted that there are complex systems available, but producers should be wary of high cost and complexity and that treatment is only as good as the biology of the system (so make sure its optimised).

The workshop concluded with Eloise conducting a survey of the audience to identify opportunities for future activities to support the WA wine industry in achieving compliance and best practices across all scales of operations.

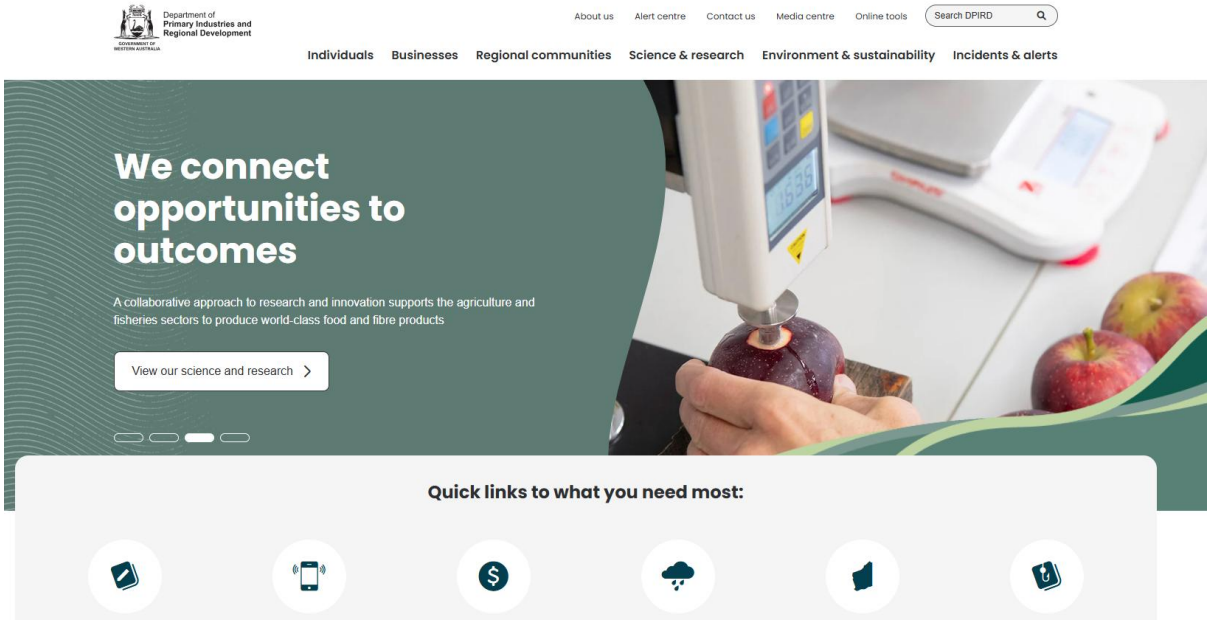
Recordings of the presentations will be made available by WoWA.

Contact Eloise Jarvis for further information concerning the workshop.

New DPIRD website now live

We have just launched our new DPIRD website, dpird.wa.gov.au, which streamlines our previous sites into a single unified and modern presence. Popular pages will be redirected to the equivalent content on the new site, ensuring you can find information quickly and easily. If you have any feedback on the new website, please fill in the pop-up form which appears when you visit the site.

The new website also introduces a redesigned format for the Wine Industry Newsletter, with each issue now available as a single, easy-to-access PDF. Feedback on this new format can be addressed to Richard Fennessy.



The new DPIRD website dpird.wa.gov.au

EcoVineyards launches free resources

Australian winegrape growers now have access to a suite of free, practical guides designed to support sustainable vineyard management and promote long-term ecological practices. Released by the EcoVineyards program, these resources focus on soil health, ground covers, and functional biodiversity, offering step-by-step advice that's easy to apply across diverse vineyard operations.

Funded by Wine Australia and delivered by Retallack Viticulture, EcoVineyards is a grassroots initiative working with growers in 9 wine regions across 4 states. The program has already established nearly 80 demonstration sites in iconic regions such as Margaret River, Yarra Valley, McLaren Vale, and the Clare Valley.

Dr Mary Retallack, Managing Director of Retallack Viticulture and founder of the program, emphasized the importance of these resources:

"We are equipping wine growers with the practical knowledge and resources to help future-proof wine production while growing in harmony with nature."

The guides combine personal experiences, case studies, and evidence-based science, making them accessible for growers at any stage of their ecological journey. According to EcoGrower Dan Falkenberg of Eden Hall Wines, the guides offer a 'simple, actionable roadmap' for implementing regenerative practices that enhance both productivity and biodiversity.

To further support adoption, Wine Australia will soon release visual, audio, and web-based resources, ensuring accessibility for all growers.

Growers can download the new best practice management guides or purchase hard copies at ecovineyards.com.au/bpmg

For more information, visit the EcoVineyards knowledge hub: ecovineyards.com.au

Agrochemical: 'Dog Book' for 2025-26 now available

The 2025/26 *Agrochemicals registered for use in Australian viticulture*, commonly known as the ‘Dog book’, is now available online via the AWRI website, with hard copies being mailed this month.

Read on for a summary of the key changes to this year’s ‘Dog book’ and additional information, including:

- new active constituent
- changes to export harvest intervals
- active constituent reviews and cancelled products
- notification of change to poison schedule rating
- managing fungicide resistance
- managing herbicide resistance
- off-label grapevine permits
- about the ‘Dog book’

New active constituent

The following active constituent is registered for use in winegrape production by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) and is listed in the ‘Dog book’ for the first time:

Afidopyropen

APVMA product number 82738: Versys Insecticide is a BASF Australia Ltd product registered for suppression of Long tailed mealybug in vineyards. It is an activity group 9D insecticide, most active against 2nd and 3rd instar stages.

Recommended export harvest interval (withholding period): Use no later than E-L 31, berries pea-sized (not greater than 7mm diameter).

Changes to export harvest intervals

Export harvest intervals have been extended for 2 active ingredients:

Pydiflumetofen

APVMA product number 82484: Miravis Adepidyn technology fungicide is a Syngenta Australia Pty Ltd product registered for control of Powdery mildew in vineyards. It is an activity group 7 fungicide.

Recommended export harvest interval (withholding period): Changed from E-L 19, beginning of flowering when caps start loosening, to Use no later than E-L 25 (80% capfall).

Mefentrifluconazole

APVMA product number 84344: Belanty fungicide is a BASF Australia Ltd product registered for control of Powdery mildew on grapes. It is an activity group 3 fungicide.

Recommended export harvest interval (withholding period): Changed from Use no later than E-L 31, berries pea-sized (not greater than 7mm diameter), to Use no later than 35 days before harvest.

Active constituent reviews and cancelled products

The APVMA continues to complete regulatory reviews on a range of active constituents. Three actives outlined below have been cancelled for use in vineyards.

Diazinon

Insecticide products containing diazinon are no longer permitted for use on winegrapes from 10 September 2025. This active has been removed from the 2025/26 ‘Dog book’.

Chlorpyrifos

Insecticide products containing chlorpyrifos are no longer permitted for use on winegrapes from 30 September 2025. This active has been removed from the 2025/26 ‘Dog book’.

Malathion

Insecticide products containing malathion are no longer permitted for use on winegrapes from 1 May 2026. One product with this active has been retained in the 2025/26 ‘Dog book’ for potential use until this cancellation date.

Any products containing these 3 actives not applied by the 'last use date' must be responsibly disposed. The ChemClear program managed by AgSafe facilitates safe disposal of unused and obsolete agricultural chemicals. Register your chemicals for disposal or call 02 6206 6888.

For a comprehensive product list relevant to winegrapes as at May 2025, including products voluntarily cancelled, stopped, or for which effectively have been discontinued by the manufacturer, refer to the agrichemicals section on the AWRI website.

As a result of the above reviews, the AWRI has updated the chemical treatment listings contained in the following 2 fact sheets:

- Vineyard scale insects: factors influencing their prevalence and control

- Managing mealybugs

Notification of change to poison schedule rating

Bromoxynil products containing more than 1.5% w/v

All products containing more than 1.5% w/v of bromoxynil have been reclassified from a Schedule 6 'Poison' to a Schedule 7 'Dangerous Poison'. From 1 February 2025, the APVMA has been taking regulatory action to ensure relevant product label signal headings and storage requirements comply with this change. This change is relevant to all herbicide products listed in the 2025/26 'Dog book' for which bromoxynil is the active ingredient with diflufenican (Colt, Kelpie DFF + Brom MX, Jagged, Lobak, Meerkat, Ruger).

Requirements for storage and handling of Schedule 7 chemicals vary by state, WA producers can refer to the WorkSafe WA webpage.

Managing fungicide resistance

To ensure continued effectiveness of fungicides from a range of fungicide activity groups against a target disease, it is essential that fungicide resistance management strategies are followed. These have been updated for botrytis, powdery mildew and downy mildew in the 2025/26 'Dog book'.

In vineyards where disease control issues have been noted, some fungicide resistance has been detected against these three diseases. If you are concerned about the lack of control you are achieving from your fungicide spray program, a free fungicide resistance testing service is available to winegrape producers until June 2027. Further details are provided in the 2025/26 'Dog book'.

Managing herbicide resistance

New to the 2025/26 'Dog book' is general guidance information on herbicide resistance, including key factors that contribute to its development.

Off-label grapevine permits

Situations can arise whereby chemicals are needed to target a particular pest that is not specified on the label. In such instances an 'off-label' permit may be obtained through the APVMA. Examples include for use against wasps or fruit fly.

For a list of current off-label permits issued for use on winegrapes in various situations, refer to the AWRI webpage. Note that these use cases are not listed in the 'Dog book'. Prior to use, it is essential to read **all** the conditions attached to a permit and to contact your winery or grape purchaser.

About the 'Dog book'

The ‘Dog book’ is an annually published reference guide for Australian grape and wine industry and should not be interpreted as an endorsement of any product. It helps facilitate export market access, responsible application of chemical treatments and environmental stewardship.

- Look out for the 2025/26 ‘Dog book’ as an insert in the July issue of the Australia & New Zealand Grapegrower and Winemaker magazine.
- A digital copy of the ‘Dog book’ is available which will be updated through the year as new active ingredients become registered and available for use.
- To order a hard copy from the AWRI, complete the ‘Dog book’ sign up form.
- For more resources relevant to agrochemical treatments, visit the dedicated Agrochemicals page on the AWRI website.
- For more information, please contact Suzanne McLoughlin at AWRI on 08 8313 6600 or email helpdesk@awri.com.au.

Acknowledgements

This information was sourced from the AWRI eBulletin 18 June 2025, which is supported by Wine Australia with levies from Australia’s grapegrowers and winemakers and matching funds from the Australian Government. AWRI is a member of the Wine Innovation Cluster in Adelaide, SA.

Unlocking growth potential: Feasibility grants now open for WA wine businesses

Western Australian wine producers looking to expand or diversify their operations can now access funding through the Feasibility Stream of the Value Add Investment Grants (VAIG) program, administered by DPIRD.

This initiative supports businesses in undertaking feasibility studies and de-risking activities to inform investment decisions for capital projects. Whether you're considering new processing capabilities, facility expansion, or relocation, this grant can help assess the economic and operational viability of your plans.

Key details

- **Grant Amounts**: Between $15,000 and $100,000 (excluding GST)
- **Total Pool**: Up to $500,000
- **Co-contribution**: Minimum 30% cash from applicants (flexibility for Aboriginal businesses)
- **Eligible Activities**: Feasibility studies, business case development, technical assessments, and other planning activities
- **Application Deadline**: Rolling basis until **5:00 PM AWST, 30 June 2025**, or until funds are exhausted

Who should apply?

Wine industry businesses in WA planning to:

- Expand production capacity
- Diversify into new product lines
- Relocate or upgrade processing facilities

This grant is ideal for those seeking to make informed, strategic investment decisions with reduced risk.

For more information and to apply, visit the DPIRD Feasibility Stream webpage.

Subsidy program for business development

Growers Group Alliance, FarmElevate - Empowering Farmers, Elevating Futures

The FarmElevate program supports Western Australian broadacre livestock and southern horticultural farmers, farm managers and farm employees to strengthen their business skills and adaptability. The program offers subsidised tailored support, learning and business development opportunities to assist your business to navigate the future. The program is limited to 35 southern horticultural businesses.

Primary producers involved will also have the opportunity to build a Farm Business Plan, through the training and guidance of experienced industry consultants, trainers and business coaches.

Key focus areas

- strategic business skills
- risk management
- natural resource management
- well-being and community networks.

Why attend?

- analyse the production and profitability of the business and potential opportunities
- shape the business around the farm's future and the family's goals
- improve financial literacy and build financial viability
- build confidence in decision-making and risk management
- gain practical skills to address business challenges
- help make future-focused decisions about business operations
- prepare for and respond to climate variability.

Delivery methods

The program's delivery method is tailored to growers' needs to ensure that learning and support is available and will be delivered across a variety of formats, including:

- in-person workshops in local farming communities
- online workshops
- self-paced online modules
- one-on-one professional and tailored advice.

Registrations open mid-May with workshops and farm business coaching commencing 15 June to 15 October 2025. Get in touch with your local GGA Network Member Group to register your interest to enrol or for more information visit the GGA project webpage www.gga.org.au/activity/farmelevate/

Future events

Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference

Held every 3 years since 1970, the Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference (AWITC) combines an extensive program of plenary sessions, workshops, posters, student forum and social events with the industry's most respected and extensive trade exhibition.

The 19th AWITC will be held in Adelaide 20-23 July 2025. This event will incorporate the Outlook Conference in partnership with Australian Grape & Wine and feature the WineTech trade exhibition in collaboration with the Wine Industry Suppliers Australia Inc. and Expertise Events.

Registrations are open and further details can be found at awitc.com.au/