



Seasonal forecast update for 2013

Fiona Evans, DAFWA

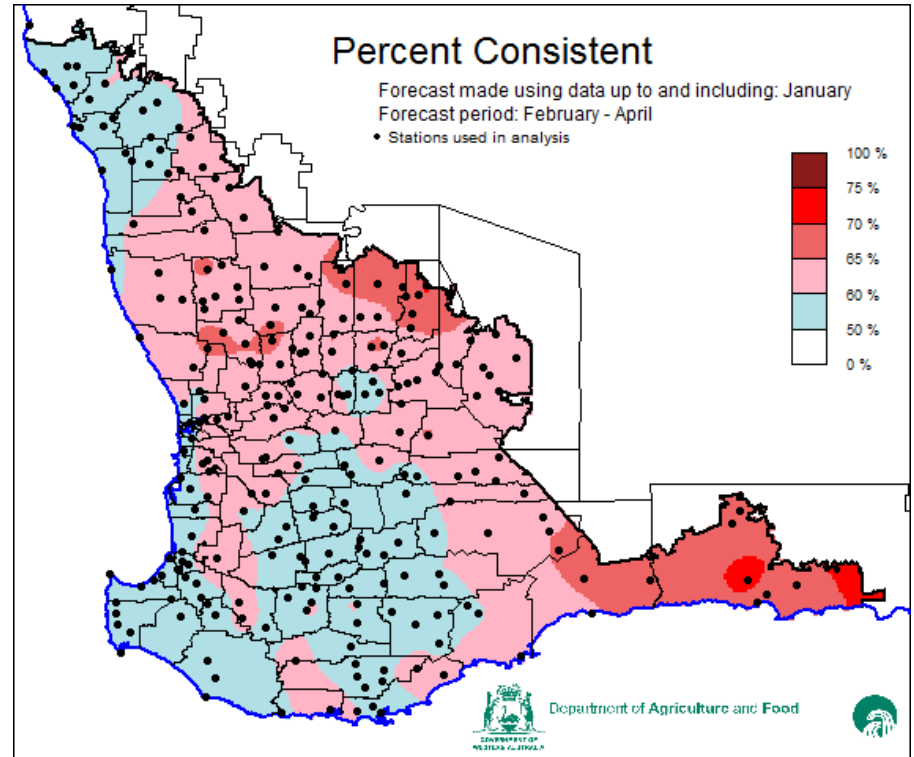
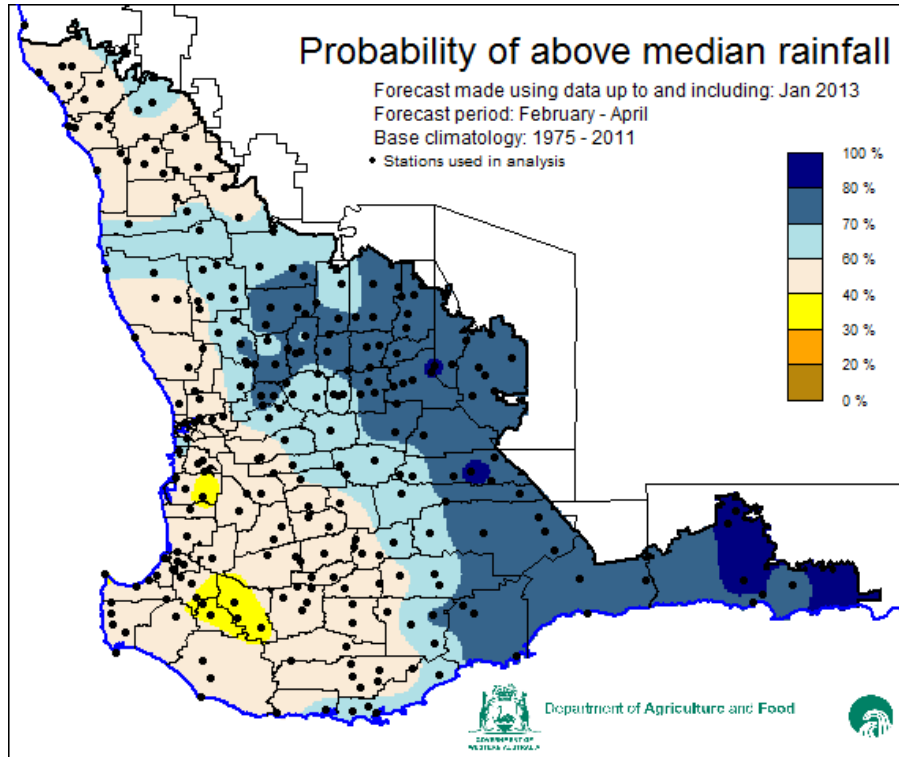


Statistical seasonal forecasts (SSF)

- Uses historical relationships between global sea surface temperature and sea level pressure with rainfall in south-west Australia to produce forecasts of rainfall.
- From <http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/forecast> users can click on any weather station for detailed information.



Three month outlook

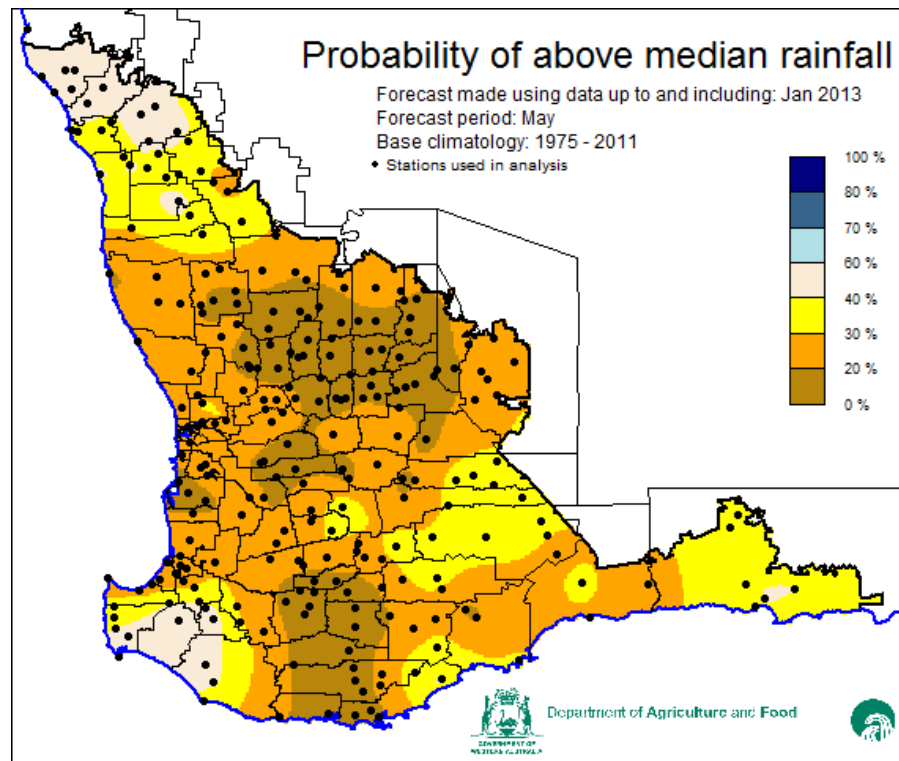
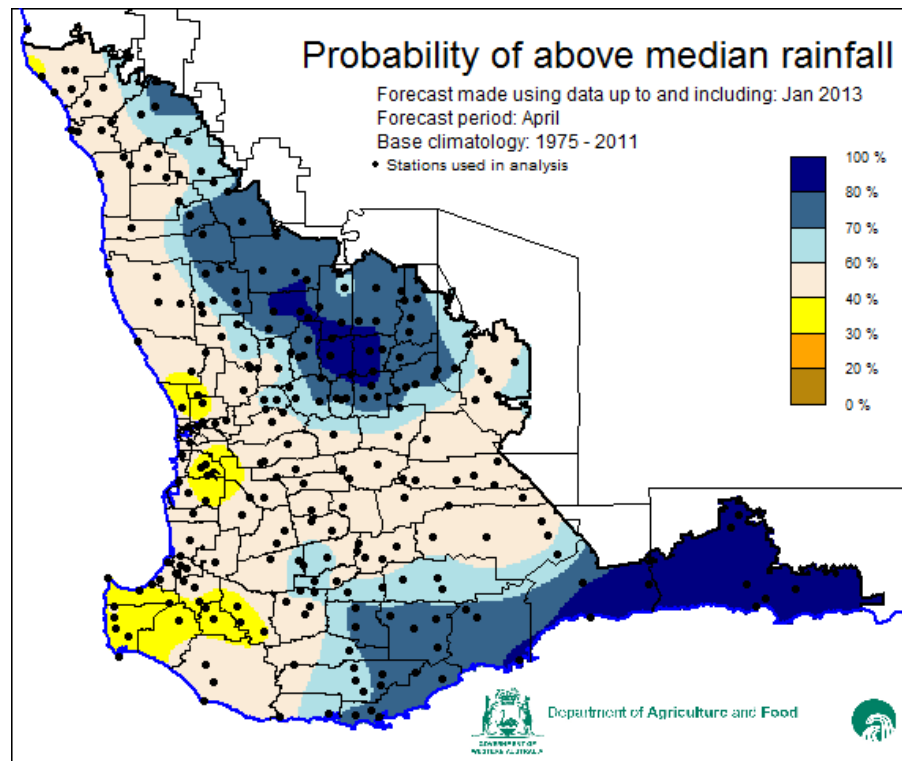


Other models

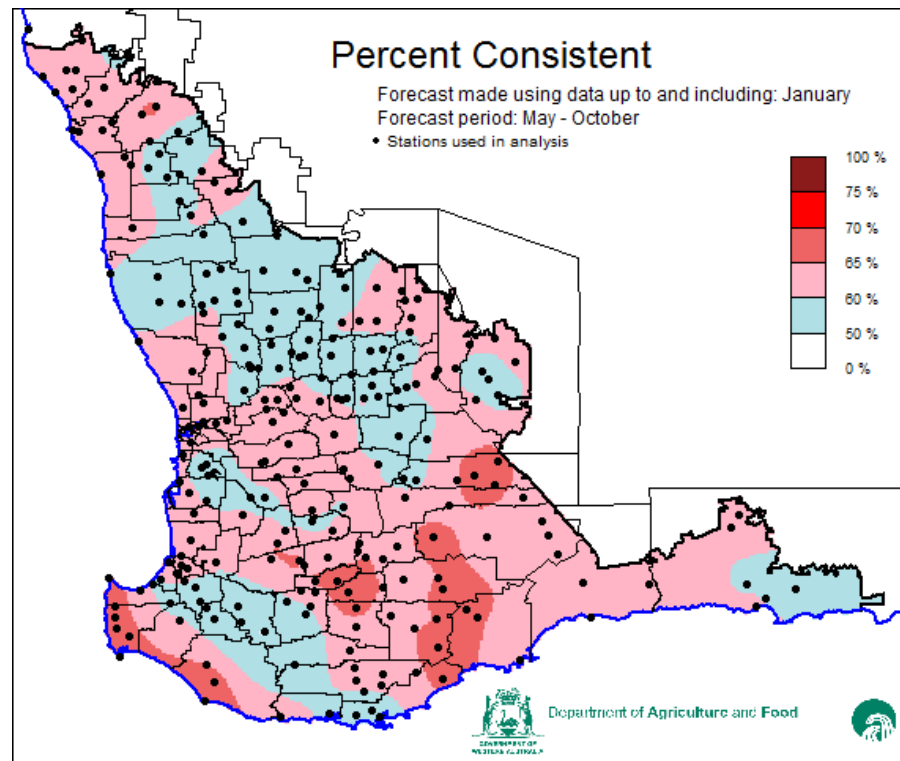
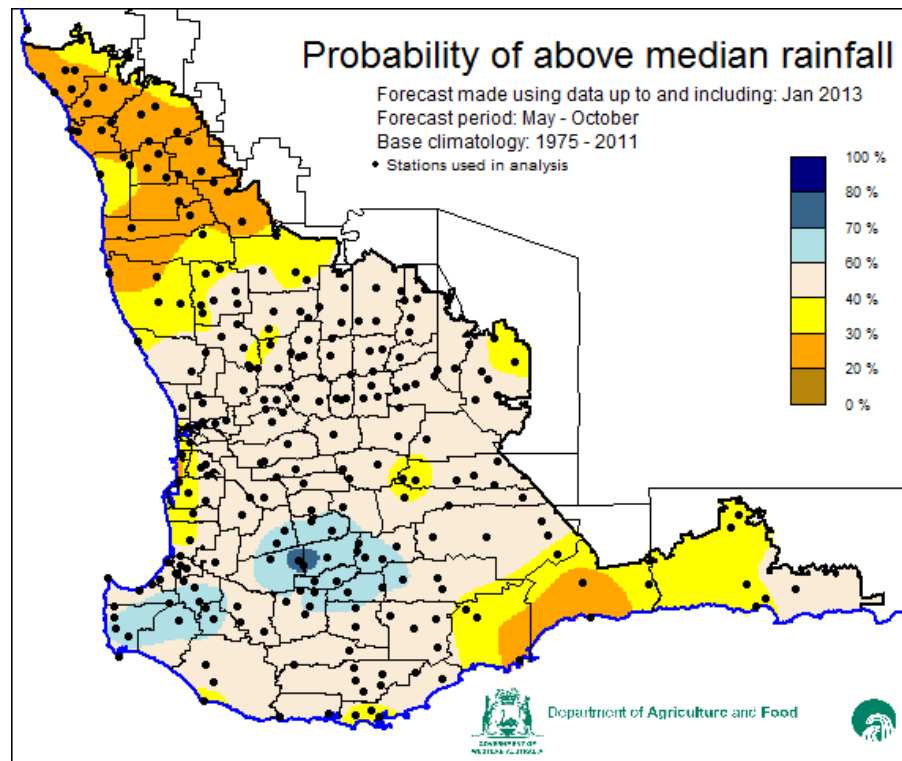
Slight trend below	Neutral	Slight trend above
GSM	APCC Korea ✓	POAMA2 ✓ ✓
SINTEX (MAM)	NCEP	Russia (MAM)
Beijing ✓	ECMWF ✓	UKMO ✓
QDNR	IRI	BoM ✓

- ✓ indicates poor skill (PC between 0.5 and 0.6)
- ✓ ✓ indicates medium skill (PC between 0.6 and 0.7)

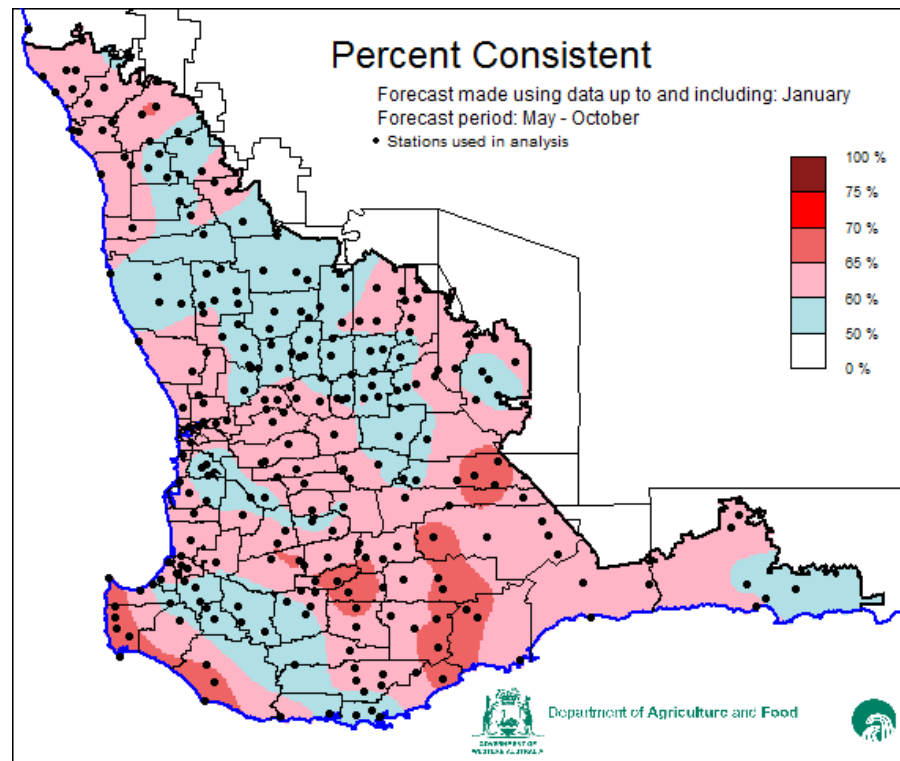
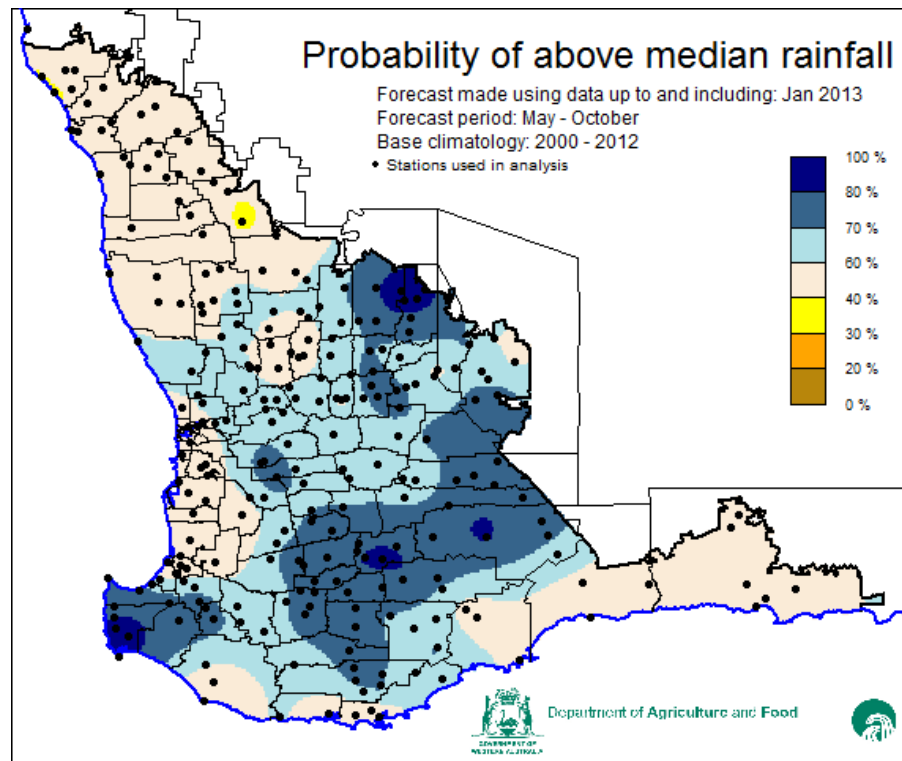
Late break?



Growing season outlook

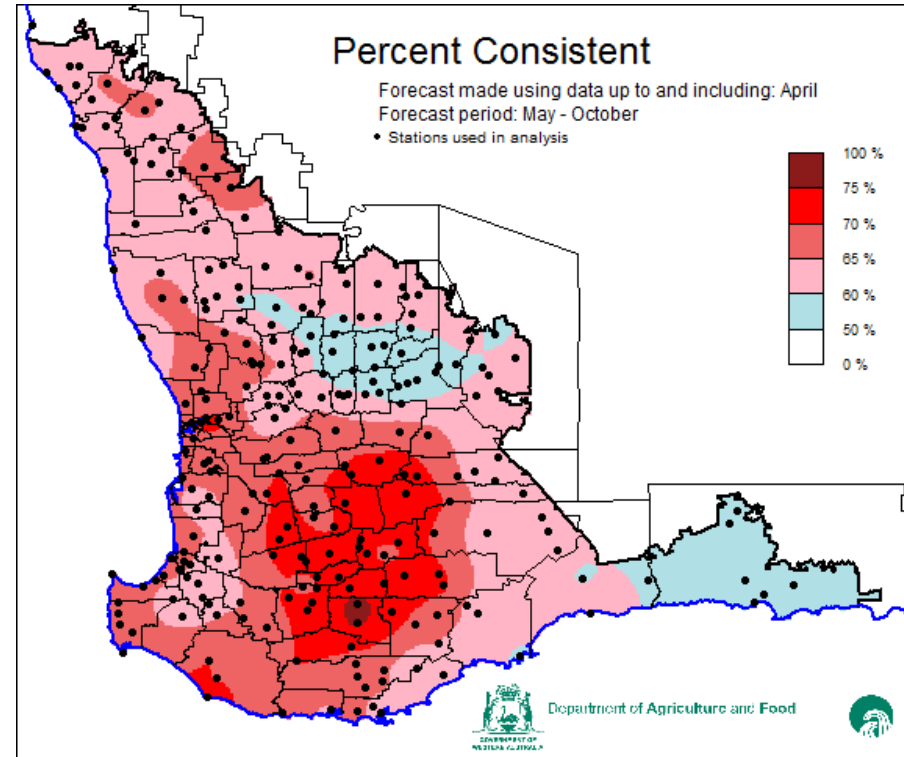


Growing season outlook

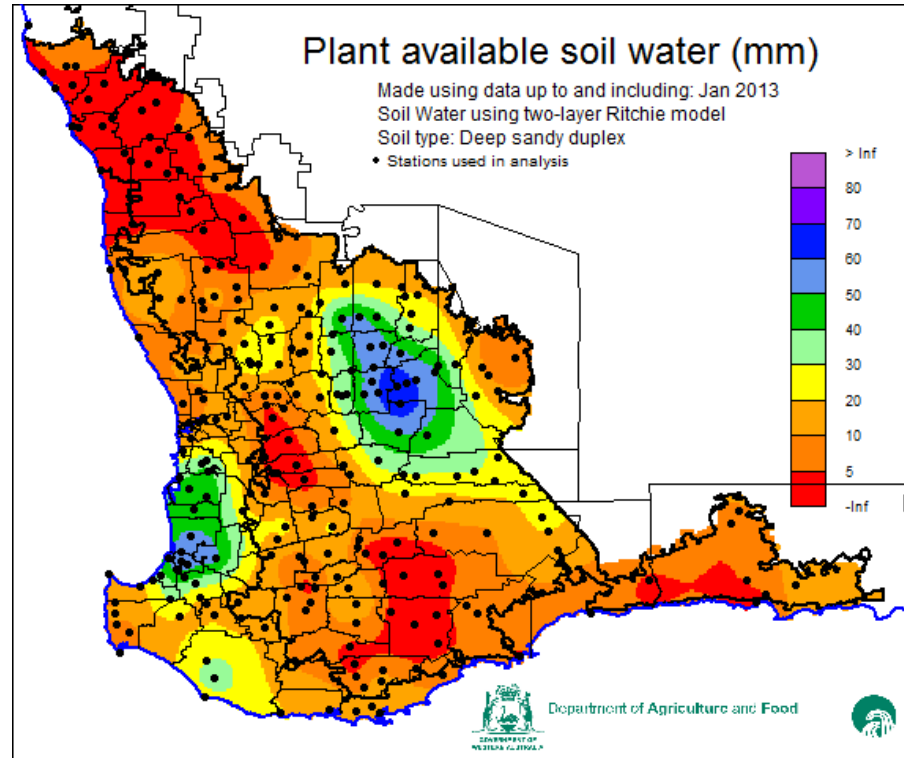
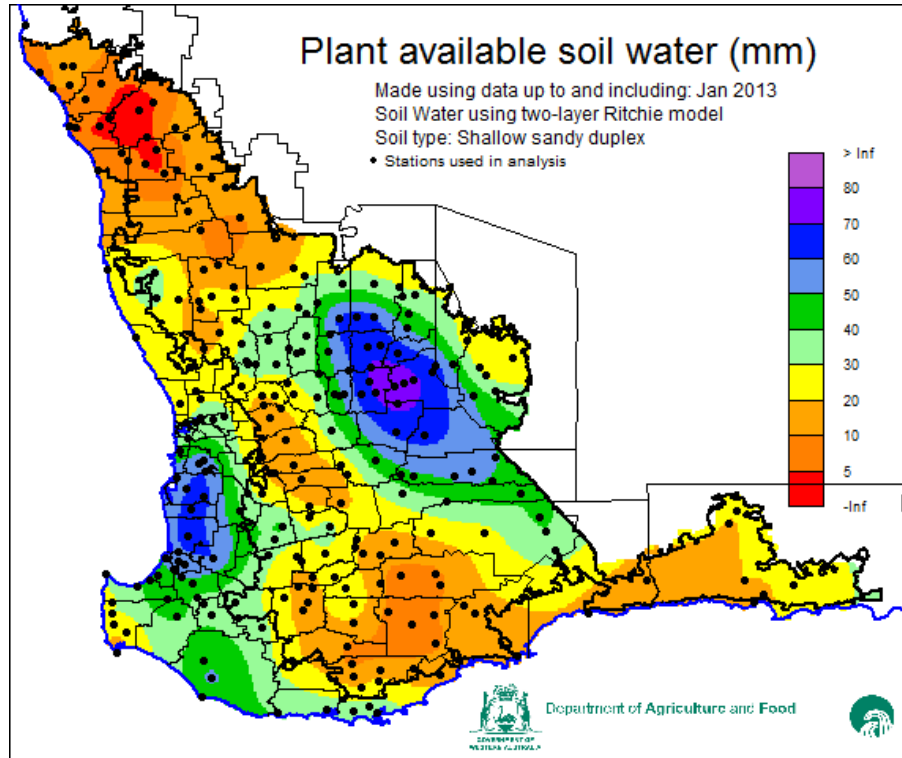


Forecast skill

- Forecasts for the growing season are most accurate when made at the start of May
- Soil water maps are available from March



Plant available soil water (31 Jan)



Key messages

- Rainfall for the next three months is expected to be normal to above normal, but May rainfall is likely to be below normal → late break?
- Growing season rainfall is expected to be normal to slightly drier than normal. But, compared to just the last 12 years, the outlook is for normal to wetter than normal
- <http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/climate>





Department of
Agriculture and Food



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Questions?

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See me at the DAFWA booth or visit

<http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/climate>

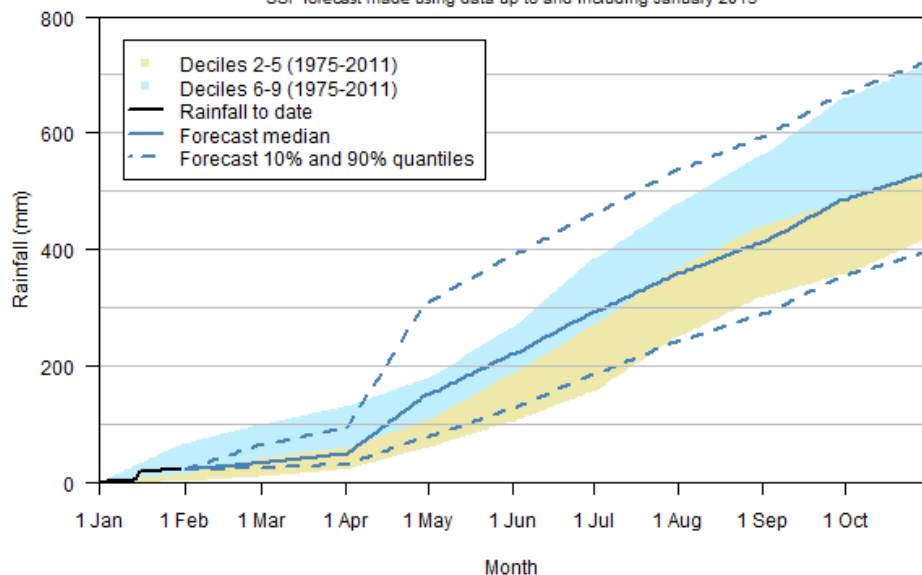


Click on weather station

2013 Cumulative Annual Rainfall

ESPERANCE

SSF forecast made using data up to and including January 2013

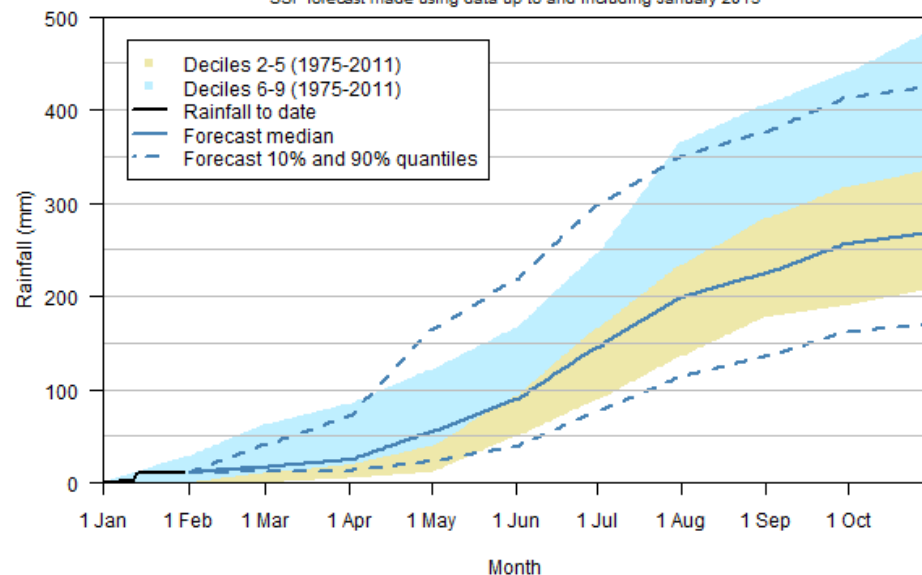


Produced by the Department of Agriculture and Food, WA

2013 Cumulative Annual Rainfall

ERADU

SSF forecast made using data up to and including January 2013



Produced by the Department of Agriculture and Food, WA