Predicting yield potential in 2026 (Oct update)

Following a great start to the season, the dry September put some pressure on the critical yield period, but was luckily followed up with well-timed October rain. The following table shows a summary of estimated wheat yield potential in different regions, assuming no more rain for the remainder of the season. These yield predictions are based on the Sadras and Angus (2006) equation, which converts available water from summer rainfall and growing season rainfall to yield, based on a water use efficiency (WUE) of 22kg/mm/ha. The following table assumes that we could achieve 80% of full yield potential from the Sadras and Angus result, to account for a degree of agronomic factors and soil constraints that can limit crop performance.

Table 1. Summary of rainfall data to date (18/10/26), as well as yield predictions for wheat, assuming no more rain received for the remainder of the season. Data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM). Assumes 60mm evaporation, 22kg/mm/ha water use efficiency (WUE), 80% of total potential yield and no other limiting factors to crop yield. Current GSR decile according to CliMate. ^Assume that plant available water is 25% of total Nov-Feb rainfall and 50% of total March rainfall, as there is less evaporation.

Location	Summer rainfall (Nov-Mar)		Growing season rainfall to date (1 Apr-18 Oct)		Current wheat yield prediction, assuming no more rain
	Total rainfall (mm)	Plant available water^	Rainfall (mm)	Approx. Decile	
Freeling	98	35	266	2.8	4.2t/ha
Balaklava	109	46	259	5.7	4.3t/ha
Mallala	96	37	272	4.9	4.4t/ha
Kapunda	113	41	317	3.3	5.3t/ha
Stockport	97	35	314	3.5	5.1t/ha
Mintaro	142	52	374	3.7	6.4t/ha
Jamestown	139	56	279	4.0	4.8t/ha
Appila	147	54	268	6.0	4.6t/ha
Crystal Brook	122	44	270	5.0	4.5t/ha
Bute	175	72	265	4.6	4.9t/ha
Minlaton	75	29	243	1.7	3.7t/ha
Sedan	105	41	246	8.0	4.0t/ha
Palmer	111	41	236	5.4	3.8t/ha
Murray Bridge	170	70	234	5.1	3.8t/ha
Pinnaroo	166	64	230	5.7	4.1t/ha
Loxton	152	64	212	8.1	3.8t/ha
Alawoona	133	57	246	8.4	4.3t/ha

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