



**National Agro-meteorological Committee (NAC) Advisory on the
2022 autumn and winter seasons
Statement from Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
08 DALRRD 2021**

05 May 2022

In light of the seasonal climate watch as produced by the South African Weather Service (SAWS), the following advisory guidelines are suggested. It is emphasized that these advisories are broad guidelines and should be interpreted considering the local aspects of the region such as soil types, cultural preferences and farming systems. Depending on the particular region, the prioritization of the guidelines will differ. The basic strategy to follow would be to minimize and diversify risk, optimize soil water availability and to manage the renewable resources (rain water and grazing) to uphold sound farming objectives. Long-term mitigation strategies should be considered by implementing techniques to enhance in-field water harvesting by reducing run-off and improving infiltration. Reduced tillage methods are very important in this regard, as is basin tillage, to capture rainwater in the drier areas. **The provinces should further simplify, downscale and package the information according to their language preference and if possible use local media and farmers' days to disseminate the information. Users are advised to be on the look-out and act on the daily extreme weather warnings as well as the monthly advisory.**

I. CURRENT CONDITIONS

Figure 1

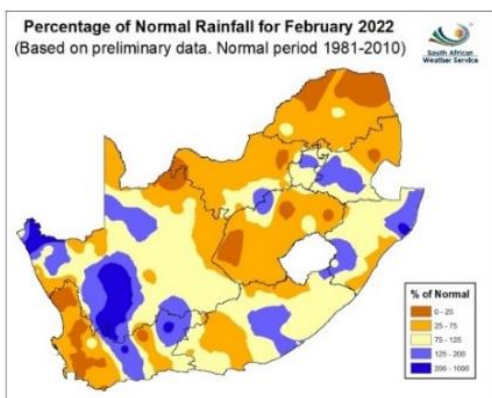


Figure 2

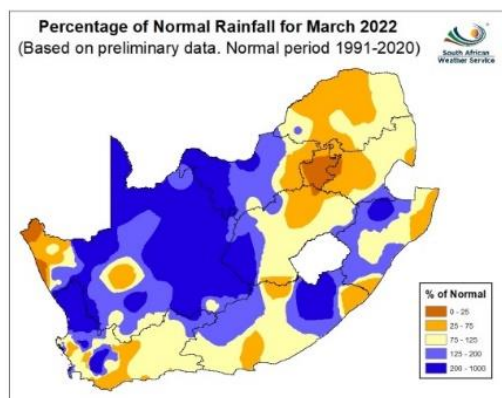


Figure 3

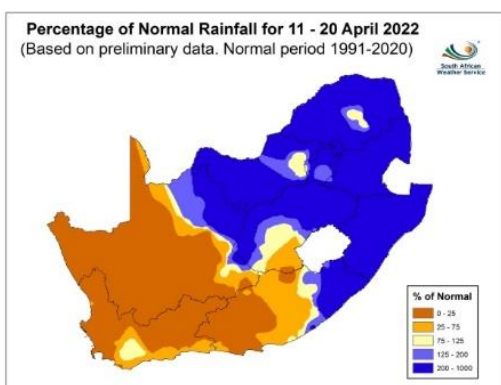
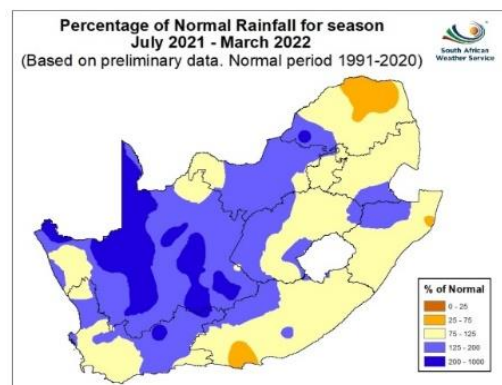
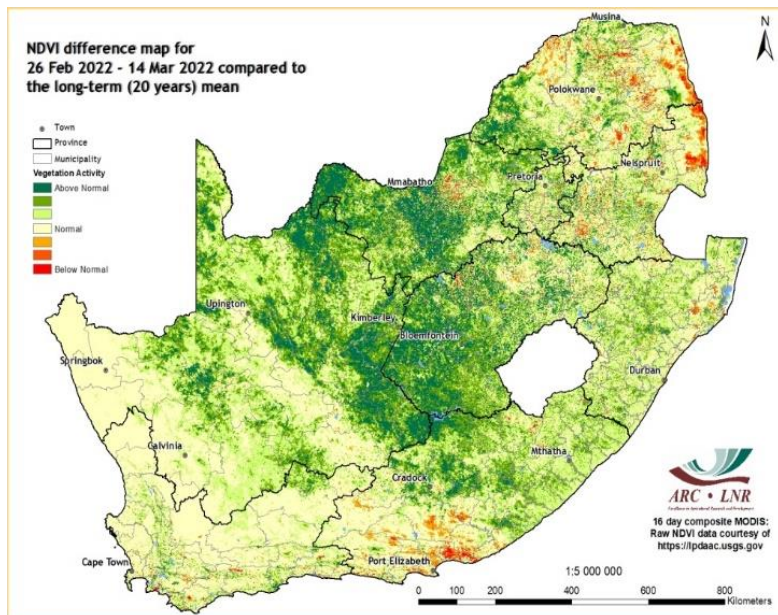


Figure 4



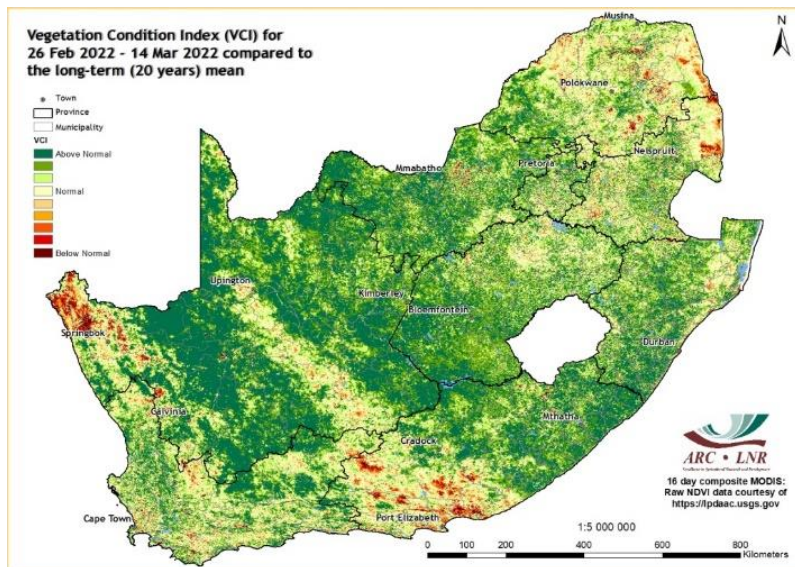
During February, near-normal to below-normal rainfall was received over most parts of the country with the exception of parts of the Northern Cape, Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and Mpumalanga where there were patches of above-normal rainfall (**Figure 1**). In March, rainfall increased resulting in above-normal rainfall over most of the western parts of the country as well as eastern coastal areas while the remainder of the country received near-normal to below-normal rainfall (**Figure 2**). During mid-April, the western half of the country received below-normal rainfall while the eastern half received above-normal rainfall (**Figure 3**). For the season July 2021 to March 2022, most of the western half of the country received above-normal rainfall while the remainder of the country received near-normal rainfall (**Figure 4**).

NDVI map: 26 February – 14 March 2022 compared to the long-term mean



Compared to the historical averaged vegetation activity, the 16-day NDVI map for March shows that the central interior experienced above-normal vegetation activity. Pockets of below-normal vegetation activity can be seen in Limpopo, Mpumalanga and the Eastern Cape.

VCI map: 26 February – 14 March 2022 compared to the long-term mean



The 16-day VCI map for March indicates that most of the Northern Cape and Eastern Cape continue to experience improved vegetation conditions, with only a few areas in the central and far western parts of the Northern Cape and the Sarah Baartman District in the Eastern Cape still experiencing poor vegetation conditions. Parts of Limpopo and Mpumalanga are also experiencing poor vegetation conditions.

(The VCI is a better indicator of water stress than the NDVI).

II. CONDITIONS IN THE PROVINCES DURING MARCH/ APRIL

Eastern Cape

NIL REPORT.

Free State

Normal to above-normal rainfall was received. The veld is in good condition due to above-normal rainfall. Livestock condition is also good. Farmers are advised to continue with supplementary feeding as the winter season has set in; dosing of flocks against worms especially sheep is highly recommended, and the veld will sustain the livestock throughout winter. Autumn pastures are in excellent condition especially those that are under irrigation. They are green and have developed good growth and bulk. Small swarms of brown locust were spotted in Glen and De Brug areas and were successfully controlled. Foot and Mouth disease has been detected in Viljoenskroon in the Lejweleputswa District Municipality and the farm has been quarantined. There was flooding in the province that resulted in damages to beans, sunflower and maize. The average level of major dams has increased as compared to the previous year during the same period (105% in 2022; 98% in 2021).

Gauteng

NIL REPORT.

KwaZulu-Natal

Normal to above-normal rainfall occurred, but particularly along the coastal regions of Ugu, Ethekwini, Ilembe, King Cetshwayo and uMkhanyakude. Disruptive rains resulted in flooding of crops and pastures with the likelihood of increased losses due to insect damage, plant diseases such as moulds and rots as well as invasive weeds. Many small farm dams were washed away and larger dams suffered structural damage. Infrastructure damages include road access, fencing, pumps, irrigation equipment, tunnels, sheds, staff housing and livestock losses. Damage assessments are still being conducted. The Drought Monitor for mid-March, shows that conditions remained at drought advisory level for the whole province. Good levels of summer pasture growth and bulk accumulation were experienced. However, with the recent flooding, many pastures are still waterlogged, fencing is broken and accessibility is limited. Winter season pastures are starting to bulk up although they are similarly affected by saturated soils. Commercial maize is drying out and early season plantings are being harvested provided farmers can access their fields. Livestock condition remains good. Tick burdens are still very high and regular dipping and deworming is very important. Managing livestock numbers according to the available fodder is essential ahead of the winter season. Veld and vegetation conditions are good. The high bulk accumulation poses a threat for veld fires and firebreaks are essential. Incidents of Fall Army Worm have declined, and there is an ongoing monitoring of stalk borer and Foot and Mouth diseases. There were few fires in March compared to the average due to the good rains. The average level of major dams has increased as compared to previous year (93% in 2022; 74% in 2021).

Limpopo

The province received normal rainfall, with the exception of Mopani District where rainfall was below-normal. Dry land farmers in Waterberg and Vhembe Districts have planted summer crops, while irrigation farmers in the same Districts including Capricorn are harvesting cash crops. The condition of livestock is good and farmers are continually advised to reduce their livestock and provide animal feed whenever necessary. The condition of the veld has improved, but poor in areas that received below-normal rainfall. Foot and Mouth disease outbreak was reported in Thulamela and Collins Chabane Local Municipalities within Vhembe District. Veterinary service officials are controlling the

outbreak and placing animals in quarantine. The average level of major dams is at 89% in 2022, as compared to 87% of 2021 during the same period.

Mpumalanga

Normal to below-normal rainfall was received. Livestock conditions are fair to good. The veld is in good condition following rain received, and pastures are in reasonable to good condition. The average level of major dams is at 95% in 2022 as compared to 87% of 2021.

Northern Cape

NIL REPORT.

North West

Heavy rain resulted in flooding in some parts of Ngaka Modiri Molema and Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati Districts causing livestock mortalities, water logging in crop fields and damage to infrastructure. Foot and Mouth disease has been reported in Dr Kenneth Kaunda District. Livestock in general is in reasonable condition. The average level of major dams is at 80% as compared to 83% of 2021.

Western Cape

NIL REPORT.

Information on level of dams is obtained from the Department of Water and Sanitation

Available: <https://www.dwa.gov.za/Hydrology/Weekly/Province.aspx>

Dam levels as at 2022/05/02

III. AGRICULTURAL MARKETS

Livestock domestic markets

Beef prices traded higher despite the Foot and Mouth disease challenge. Sheep market showed gains due to strong Easter demand. Baconer and porker prices continued to show rebound from the recent lows on improved uptake. Poultry prices are a bit on the upside across most categories and prices are mostly over 10% higher relative to the 2021 levels.

Producer prices for selected livestock commodities	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Poultry
Open market: Class A / Porker / Fresh whole birds (R/kg)	62.45	95.08	25.27	31.18
Open market: Class C / Baconer / Frozen whole birds (R/kg)	48.89	71.45	26.78	30.18
Contract: A2/A3* / Baconer/ IQF (*includes fifth quarter) (R/kg)	61.56	91.18	33.83	28.53
Import parity price (R/kg)	46.55	93.46		27.35
Weaner Calves / Feeder Lambs (R/kg)	38.36	43.31		

FNB: 2022/04/22

Major grain commodities

Local maize prices followed global prices and increased month on month. Local wheat prices were trading at R7 150 per ton supported by the depreciation of the rand. Wheat prices are expected to remain above R7 000 per ton mark over the coming months supported by firm global prices on the back of low stock levels. JSE prices for soybeans and sunflower seed increased month on month. Soybean prices are expected to follow a modest upward trend above the R9 100 per ton mark supported by the high global oilseed prices. Tight global oilseed supplies coupled with high demand will continue to support prices.

Commodity	Future Prices (2022/04/26) R/ton				
	May-22	Jul-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23
White maize	4 420.00	4 446.00	4 495.00	4 587.00	4 594.00
Yellow maize	4 555.00	4 581.00	4 631.00	4 711.00	4 685.00
Wheat	7 391.00	7 395.00	7 314.00	6 856.00	n/a
Sunflower	10 506.00	10 671.00	10 874.00	10 986.00	n/a
Soybeans	9 417.00	9 524.00	9 602.00	9 687.00	n/a

IV. SADC REGION

The April Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reported that in March poor households in cereal deficit areas of the region continued to experience food consumption gaps, as is typical towards the end of the lean season. The most severe outcomes are ongoing in southern Madagascar, where Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected until at least May. After that, through September, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes are anticipated in the Atsimo, Andrefana, and Androy regions of southern Madagascar as households continue to face extreme difficulty accessing food. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected to persist through September in much of southern Zimbabwe, Malawi, Lesotho, and southern Mozambique as the 2022 harvest was negatively impacted by the poor and variable 2021/22 seasonal rainfall. Similar outcomes are expected in the conflict parts of DRC and Mozambique. The rest of the region will likely experience Minimal (IPC Phase 1) and Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes from April through September as households consume food from own production.

FEWS NET further reported that many areas of the region had a dry period in February through early March, negatively impacting crops. The dry spell occurred while maize was in the reproductive stage across Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Malawi. In Zimbabwe, the dry spell resulted in significant national crop loss, with over 50 percent crop loss reported in some eastern, southern, and western districts. In Mozambique, most southern parts, including Sofala and Manica provinces, are likely to have well below-average harvest due to lower-than-normal rainfall and extended dry periods. Similar trends were reported in Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique, where the harvest prospects have declined. This will likely drive consumption deficits among poor households. In March, the impact of

the Ukrainian crisis began on the global market and in southern Africa through increases in fuel and key staple food prices. In Zimbabwe, fuel prices rose by 10 percent since February, while maize grain, maize meal, wheat flour, and bread prices increased by about 15 percent. In Mozambique, gasoline, cooking oil, and diesel prices increased by 12 to 15 percent. Bread prices are expected to increase soon due to the increase in global wheat prices. In the DRC, an atypical rise was observed in imported maize flour, increasing by nearly 15 percent compared to the last three-month average.

[The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a set of standardized tools that aims at providing a "common currency" for classifying the severity and magnitude of food insecurity.]

Source: <http://www.fews.net/southern-africa>

Summary of the reports

Rainfall received was normal to above-normal in the majority of areas during March. Flooding resulted in damages to crops and infrastructure as well as livestock mortalities in the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal and North West Provinces. The veld and livestock are in reasonable to good condition in most areas. Locust is continually being controlled in the Free State, Northern Cape, Western Cape and Eastern Cape Provinces. Foot and Mouth disease has been reported and livestock quarantined in Limpopo, North West, KwaZulu-Natal and Free State. The average level of major dams has increased in many areas.

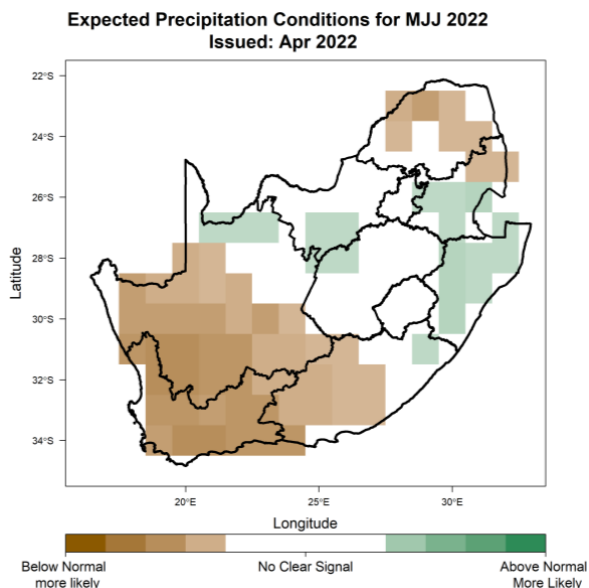
V. MONTHLY CLIMATE OUTLOOK

Seasonal Climate Watch: May to September 2022

State of Climate Drivers

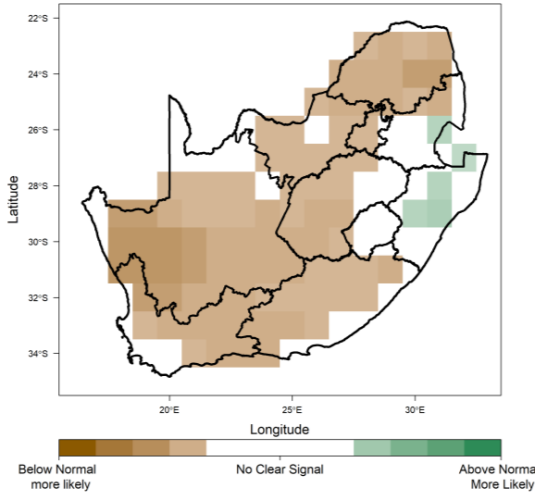
The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently in a La Niña state, however, forecasts indicate that it will likely return to a neutral state during the coming seasons. During autumn and winter, the presence of ENSO has less of an impact. Thus, the presence of the current La Niña event is not expected to have any significant impact on rainfall in the coming seasons.

Figure 1 – Rainfall



The multi-model rainfall forecast indicates below-normal rainfall for most parts of the country except for the central and eastern coastal areas in early winter (MJJ) and the eastern coastal areas during mid-and late-winter (JJA and JAS).

Expected Precipitation Conditions for JJA 2022
 Issued: Apr 2022



Expected Precipitation Conditions for JAS 2022
 Issued: Apr 2022

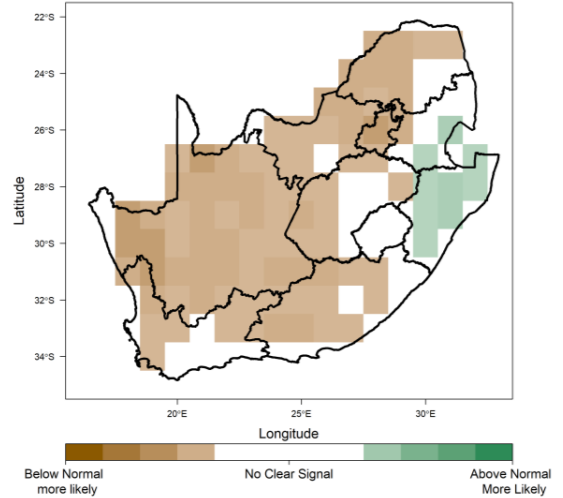
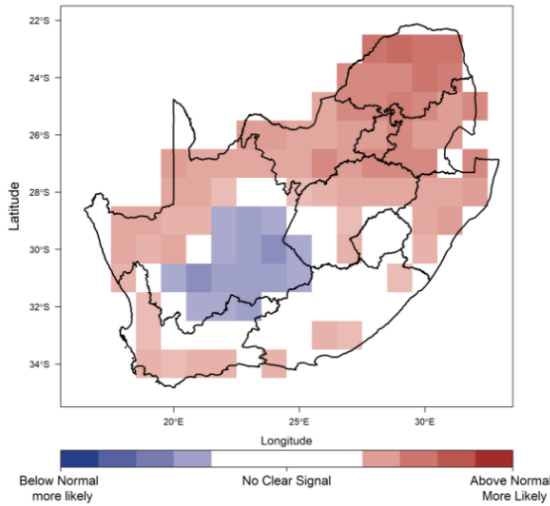


Figure 2 – Minimum and Maximum temperatures

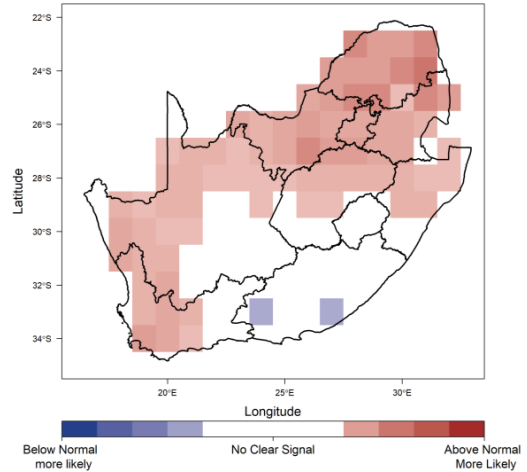
Minimum

Expected Min Temp Conditions for MJJ 2022
 Issued: Apr 2022

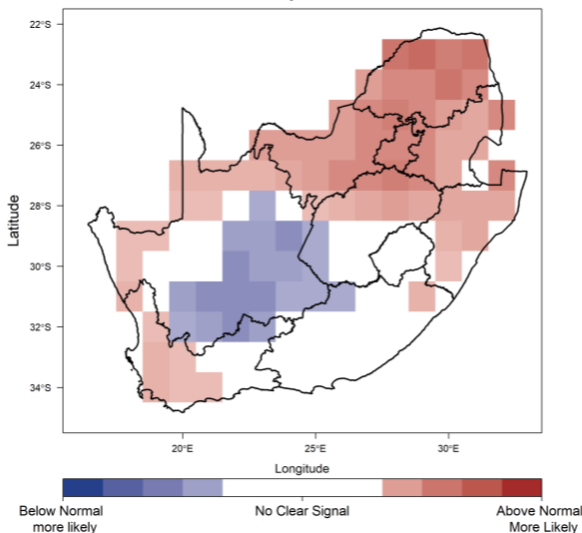


Maximum

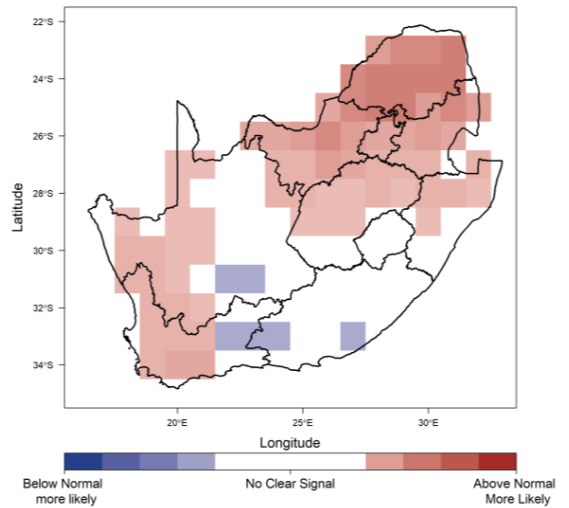
Expected Max Temp Conditions for MJJ 2022
 Issued: Apr 2022

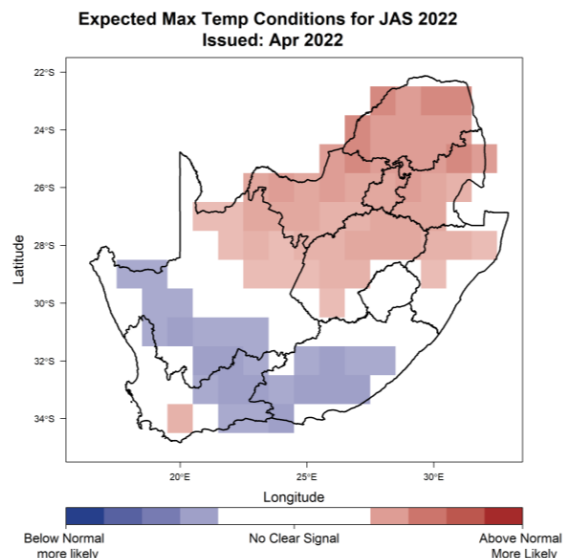
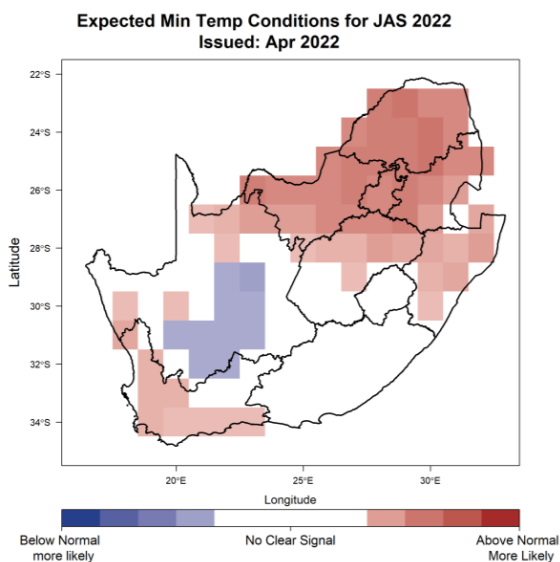


Expected Min Temp Conditions for JJA 2022
 Issued: Apr 2022



Expected Max Temp Conditions for JJA 2022
 Issued: Apr 2022





Both maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to be above-normal for most of the country, except for parts of the Northern Cape and Eastern Cape where below-normal temperatures are expected.

In summary, below-normal rainfall is anticipated for the winter rainfall areas during winter, but above-normal for the central and eastern coastal areas in early winter and the eastern coastal areas during mid-and late-winter. It is expected that temperatures may be warmer than normal except for parts of the Northern Cape and Eastern Cape where they may be below-normal. Farmers are encouraged to continually check updates i.e. seasonal forecasts and utilize 7-day weather forecasts for short term planning.

With the above forecast in mind, the following strategies are recommended:

VI. SUGGESTED STRATEGIES

A. Winter crops: rain-fed crop production

Soil choice:

- Choose suitable soil type.
 - Suitable soil and land use management practices that would control wind and water erosion in cultivated lands are suggested.
 - Avoid marginal soils - shallow and low water holding capacity soils.
 - Rather plant in soils with high water holding capacity or with shallow water table.
- Ascertain that the soil profile has enough water when planting commences.
- Roughen the soil surface to minimize evaporation.
- Minimise compaction by reducing the passing of heavy machinery in the field.

Land preparation:

- Avoid where possible soils with pronounced plough pans.
- Consider practicing conservation agriculture such as zero or minimum tillage.
- Cover soil with organic matter or cover crops.

- Practice crop rotation.
- Do not expand land under crop production unnecessarily.
- Prioritise fallow land.

Crop choice and planting:

- Choose drought resistant cultivars.
- Provide flexibility and diversification.
- Stick to normal planting windows if appropriate and follow the weather and climate forecast regularly so as to make informed decisions.
- Consider staggered planting spreading over weeks.
- Do not experiment with new and unknown cultivars and also avoid unnecessary capital investments.
- Lay out planting rows parallel to the prevailing direction of the cold air flow.
- Keep air drainage pathways open to insure good air drainage and elimination of frost pockets.

Crop management:

- Adjust planting density accordingly.
- Consider mulching to minimise evaporation.
- Always eradicate weeds.
- Consider a conservative fertilizing strategy during dry conditions.
- Consider organic fertilization.
- Wheat: The strategy proposed is to scout the plants regularly, correctly identify any pests or diseases and make informed decisions regarding reaction.
- Prune trees properly to avoid blocking air movement. The removal of low hanging, dense branches is a must.
- Using white paint on trunks of fruits tree reduces winter trunk damage.
- Use overhead sprinkler irrigation.

B. Irrigation farming

- Remove all weeds containing seeds, but keep other vegetative rests on the land because that will reduce evaporation.
- Check and repair all tools and machinery especially where there are water leaks.
- Be aware of the state of regional water resources and whether it will be adequate for irrigation.
- Timing of irrigation - rather late afternoon or early evening to reduce evaporation.
- Manage irrigation so that the plant receives water only when needed.
- Consider using drip irrigation as it saves water by allowing it to drip slowly straight to the roots.
- Avoid over irrigation because that can create problems e.g. water logging and diseases.
- Adhere to water restrictions when issued.

C. Domestic and home garden water use

- Conserve existing water supplies.
- Eradicate water weeds.
- Limit water waste and losses.

- Repair leaking pipes.
- Re-use water and retain high quality.
- Harvest water during rainy days.

D. Stock farming

- Keep stocking rates conservative and even lower to protect grazing.
- Never exceed carrying capacity of plant associations.
- Provide lots of drinking points where possible.
- Provide additional fodder and enhance nutritional value of dry grazing/feed with licks:
 - Phosphorous deficiency is a major problem.
 - Licks should (in most cases) provide:
 - Phosphorous.
 - Urea (to help with the break-down of dry vegetation).
 - Salt.
 - Molasses.
- Deficiencies differ according to vegetation composition/soil properties/climate.
- Analysis of vegetation/soil samples can benefit the decision for supplement composition.
- Sell mature, marketable animals (to help prevent overstocking/ overgrazing).
- If grazing is in danger, herd animals into pens where different animals can be segregated and fed separately.

E. Grazing

- Subdivide your grazing area into camps of homogeneous units (in terms of species composition, slope, aspect, rainfall, temperature, soil and other factors) to minimise area selective grazing as well as to provide for the application of animal management and veld management practises such as resting and burning.
- Determine the carrying capacity of different plant associations.
- Calculate the stocking rate of each, and then decide the best ratios of large and small animals, and of grazers or browsers.
- Provide periodic full growing-season rests (in certain grazing areas) to allow veld vigour recovery in order to maintain veld productivity at a high level as well as to maintain the vigour of the preferred species.
- Do not overstock at any time to avoid overgrazing.
- Eradicate invader plants.
- Periodically reassess the grazing and feed available for the next few months, and start planning in advance.
- Spread water points evenly.

F. Pests and diseases

Crops

- Fruit crop farmers should regularly scout for pests and diseases and contact the local agricultural office for advice on best control measures. Farmers should further implement phytosanitary measures.

Livestock

- Follow the vaccine routine and consult with the local veterinarian.

G. Veld fires

The provinces and farmers are advised to maintain firebreaks in all areas. An owner of the land who is obliged to prepare and maintain a firebreak must ensure that, with due regard to the weather, climate, terrain and vegetation of the area, the following is taken care of in terms of installing firebreaks (Chapter 4 of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act No. 101 of 1998):

- It has to be wide enough and long enough to have a reasonable chance of preventing a veld fire from spreading to or from neighbouring land.
- It does not cause soil erosion and
- It is reasonably free of flammable material capable of carrying a veld fire across it.
- Firebreaks may be temporary or permanent.
- Firebreaks should consist of fire-resistant vegetation, non-flammable materials, bare ground or a combination of these.
- Firebreaks must be located in such a way as to minimize risk to the resources being protected.
- Erosion control measures must be installed at the firebreak.

Firebreaks can be made through the following methods:

- Mineral earth firebreak:
 - Through ploughing, grading, other earth movement.
- Use of herbicides.
- Use animals to overgraze specifically to minimise fuel.
- Strategic placement of burned areas,
 - Not to be done on days with fire hazard (windy and dry/hot).
- Plant fire resistant plants.
- Plant species selected for vegetated firebreaks must be non-invasive and capable of retarding the spread of fire.

Maintaining firebreaks:

- Mow, disk, or graze vegetative firebreaks to avoid a build-up of excess litter and to control weeds.
- Inspect all firebreaks for woody materials.
- Inspect firebreaks at least annually and rework bare ground firebreaks as necessary.
- Repair erosion control measures as necessary.
- Access by vehicles or people must also be controlled.
- Bare ground firebreaks, which are no longer needed must be stabilized i.e.
 - Sow grass.
 - Mulch.

What to do when conditions favorable for veld fire are forecast:

- Prohibit fires in the open air during periods of high fire hazard and establish a fire control committee.
- To control fires, an alarm system, firefighting teams, and beaters must be organized in advance and plans prepared.
- Livestock should be moved out of grazing land to a safe place.

What to do during a veld fire:

- Water is generally not available in sufficient quantities or at adequate pressure for the control of major fires; however, sand or other loose mineral soil material can be an effective method of control.
- Tree branches can be used to beat fire.

H. Flooding

Heavy rainfall raises the water level. When the water level is higher than the river banks or the dams, water flows out from the river and flooding occurs.

Preventive measures:

- Construction of proper drainage systems. Drains must be cleaned constantly as they ensure proper water irrigation.
- Mechanical land treatment of slopes such as contour ploughing or terracing to reduce the runoff coefficient.
- Construction of small water and sediment holding areas.
- Construction of floodways (man-made channels to divert floodwater).
- Terracing hillsides to slow flow downhill.
- Water pumps in rivers likely to be affected should be lifted from the river banks when a warning for heavy rain has been issued.

What to do when flooding is forecasted:**Avoid:**

- Cutting grass in the rainy season as this can result in nutrient depletion.
- Applying fungicides and pesticide (plants and animals).
- Applying Nitrogen fertilizer as this can burn plants. Dumping fertilizer in one spot can cause the roots below the fertilizer to be burnt and die.
- Irrigation, this can result in waterlogging leading to nutrient depletion.

Other measures to implement:

- Cover Urea licks to prevent them from becoming toxic.
- Provide shelter for animals (young ones can die easily).
- Leave cultivated areas coarse.
- Relocate/ move animals to a safe place.
- Be extra cautious for pest and diseases after rain has fallen, as high moisture content and high temperatures may trigger these.
- Assume that flood water contains sewage and might be harmful for human and livestock consumption.
- Before leading livestock across a river, check whether the water level is rising. This is especially necessary if it is already raining.

Erosion

Erosion is the wearing away of soil and rocks by the action of natural forces, for example, water and wind. The loose and dissolved materials move from one location to another. Erosion therefore may reduce agricultural production potential.

Preventative measures for erosion:

- Do not burn vegetation.
- Keep vegetation cover – e.g. shrubs, grass, small trees; a cover crop may be used to increase organic material and increase soil structure.
- Plant permanent vegetation e.g. perennial grasses where possible.
- Maintain any remaining vegetative cover, e.g. maize stubble during winter wheat sowing, as it acts as a blanket, traps eroded particles and reduces the wind speed at ground level.
- Plant evergreen trees growing densely and perpendicular to the typical wind direction during winter and spring as wind breaks.
- Increase water infiltration by correct management of soil e.g. reduce frequency of plough and use minimum tillage.
- Mulch: to increase infiltration, reduce evaporation, and reduce raindrop impact as well as wind erosion.
- Construct retaining walls around gardens.
- Avoid soil compaction by roughening the soil surface,
 - Furrows and tillage ridges can trap loose soil.
- Farm along contours as this reduces slope lengths.
- Prevent overgrazing.
- Practice conservation farming
 - Maximize retention of crop residues.

I. Cold spells (snowfall and frost)

When temperatures plunge below zero, livestock and crops need to be given extra attention. Prevention is key in dealing with hypothermia, and other cold weather injuries in livestock and crops. Following are a number of concerns and recommendations:

Livestock:

- Hypothermia and dehydration are a serious concern in animals during cold and wet conditions. Wind-chill also adds greatly to the cold stress for animals.
- Livestock should be provided with windbreak, roof shelter and monitored for signs of discomfort (extensive shivering, weakness, lethargy, etc.)
- It is very important that livestock be provided with extra hay/forage/feed to double the calories for normal body heat maintenance during extremely cold conditions.
- It is critical that livestock have access to drinking water. Usual water sources may freeze in low temperatures and dehydration becomes a life threatening factor. In general, livestock tend to drink less water in extremely cold conditions.
- Special attention should be paid to very young and old animals because they may be less able to tolerate temperature extremes.
- Do not shear Angora goats. Also, take extra time to observe livestock, looking for early sign of diseases and injuries.

- Severe cold-weather injuries or death primarily occur in the very young or in animals that are already debilitated.
- Cases of cold weather-related sudden death in calves often result when cattle are suffering from undetected infection, particularly pneumonia.
- Livestock suffering from frostbite don't exhibit pain. It may be up to two weeks before the injury becomes evident as freeze-damaged tissue starts to slough away. At that point, the injury should be treated as an open wound and a veterinarian should be consulted.

Crops:

- Prune out the lower portions of windbreaks to allow air to pass through to avoid the formation of a frost pocket.
- Wrapping the trunks with materials such as newspaper, cardboard, aluminium foil will prevent much of frost damage.
- With more severe frosts, canopy death can occur and trunk coverings need to extend up beyond the graft union, so the tree can reshoot from undamaged buds above the graft once the wraps are removed.
- Use heating devices such as orchard heaters to raise temperatures in plantings.

Flooding in a number of provinces resulted in damages to crops and infrastructure as well as livestock mortalities. The veld and livestock are in reasonable to good condition. However, farmers are advised to keep livestock in balance with carrying capacity of the veld, and provide additional feed such as relevant licks. The seasonal forecast anticipates below-normal rainfall in the winter rainfall areas but above-normal for the central and eastern coastal areas in early winter and the eastern coastal areas during mid-and late-winter. Temperatures are expected to be above-normal but below-normal in parts of the Northern Cape and Eastern Cape.

With the current conditions in mind as well as the seasonal forecast, farmers are advised to continue to put measures in place for pests and diseases. It is also important for farmers to follow the weather forecast regularly to make informed decisions. Farmers using irrigation should comply with water restrictions in their areas. Farmers must continually conserve resources in accordance with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 1983, (Act No. 43 of 1983).

Livestock should be provided with enough water points on the farms as well as shelter during bad weather. Conditions conducive for veld fires remain in winter rainfall areas. Therefore, the maintenance of fire belts should be prioritized as well as adherence to veld fire warnings. Farmers are encouraged to implement strategies provided in the early warning information issued.

The users are urged to continuously monitor, evaluate, report and attend to current Disaster Risk Reduction issues. It is very important and mandatory for farming communities to always implement disaster risk measures and maintain good farming practices.

The climate advisory should be disseminated widely. Users are advised to be on the look-out and act on the daily extreme weather warnings as well as the monthly advisory. Information sharing groups are encouraged especially among farming communities for sustainable development. In general, effective communication among all stakeholders in the sector will enhance effective implementation of risk reduction measures/early warning services. It is the responsibility of farmers to implement disaster risk measures.

The Disaster Management Act 2002, (Act No. 57 of 2002) urges Provinces, individuals and farmers, to assess and prevent or reduce the risk of disasters using early warning information. The current advisory can be accessed from the following websites: <https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/>.

For more information contact:-

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