

PRODUCTION CONDITIONS REPORT

25 September 2026

This report is updated every two
weeks.



Gewas toestand
Crop Condition



Klimaat
Climate



Vergelyk
Compare



Opbrengs potensiaal
Production potential



Gewas opkoms
Greenup



Kaarte
Maps



Verslae
Report

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REVISED AREA PLANTED ESTIMATE AND FIRST PRODUCTION

FORECAST: 2026 PRODUCTION SEASON

WINTER CEREALS – REVISED AREA PLANTED ESTIMATE AND FIRST PRODUCTION FORECAST: 2026 PRODUCTION SEASON

WINTERGEWASSE – HERSIENE OPPERVLAKTESKATTING EN EERSTE PRODUKSIESKATTING: 2026 PRODUKSIESEISOEN

CROP/GEWAS	Area planted/ Opp beplant 2026 Ha (A)	1st forecast/ 1ste skatting 2026 Tons (B)	Area planted/ Opp beplant 2025 Ha (C)	Final crop/ Finale oes 2025 Tons (D)	Change/ Verandering % (B) ÷ (D)
Commercial/Kommersieël:					
Wheat/Koring	479 500	1 762 520	517 300	1 905 500	-7,5%
Barley/Gars	105 320	414 640	96 950	345 000	20,2%
Canola/Kanola	194 390	359 860	174 515	306 000	17,6%
Oats/Hawer	40 400	54 890	35 520	43 500	26,2%
Sweet lupines/Soetlupine	20 000	18 000	21 000	17 850	0,8%
Total winter/Totaal winter	839 610	2 609 910	845 285	2 617 850	-0,3%

The second production estimate will be released by the National Crop Estimates Committee on 29 September.

Definitions

Grondwater Index (GWI):

The GWI is an indication of groundwater levels throughout the growing season. It compares three periods: the current season, the previous season and the five-year average. The five-year average serves as a baseline indicating typical groundwater conditions. **For this report, the month of September was used to provide an accurate representation of conditions in the Cape regions.**

Green Leaf Index (GLI)

The GLI is an indication of crop growth and development throughout the season, with conditions across most of the winter rainfall regions above the five-year average.

Crop Conditions

Crop conditions describe the overall health and yield potential of crops, based on rainfall, soil moisture and environmental stress factors.

All 2026/27 season data covers the period from 20 March to 25 September 2026.

Summary

Rainfall patterns and Trends

Rainfall was generally variable across the three regions. The Swartland received rainfall over the past two weeks, while the Overberg experienced more mixed conditions, with some areas receiving favourable rainfall. The Southern Cape received favourable rainfall during the week, but conditions were also highly variable. Further rainfall will be particularly important in the Swartland to alleviate the drier conditions and support crop filling.

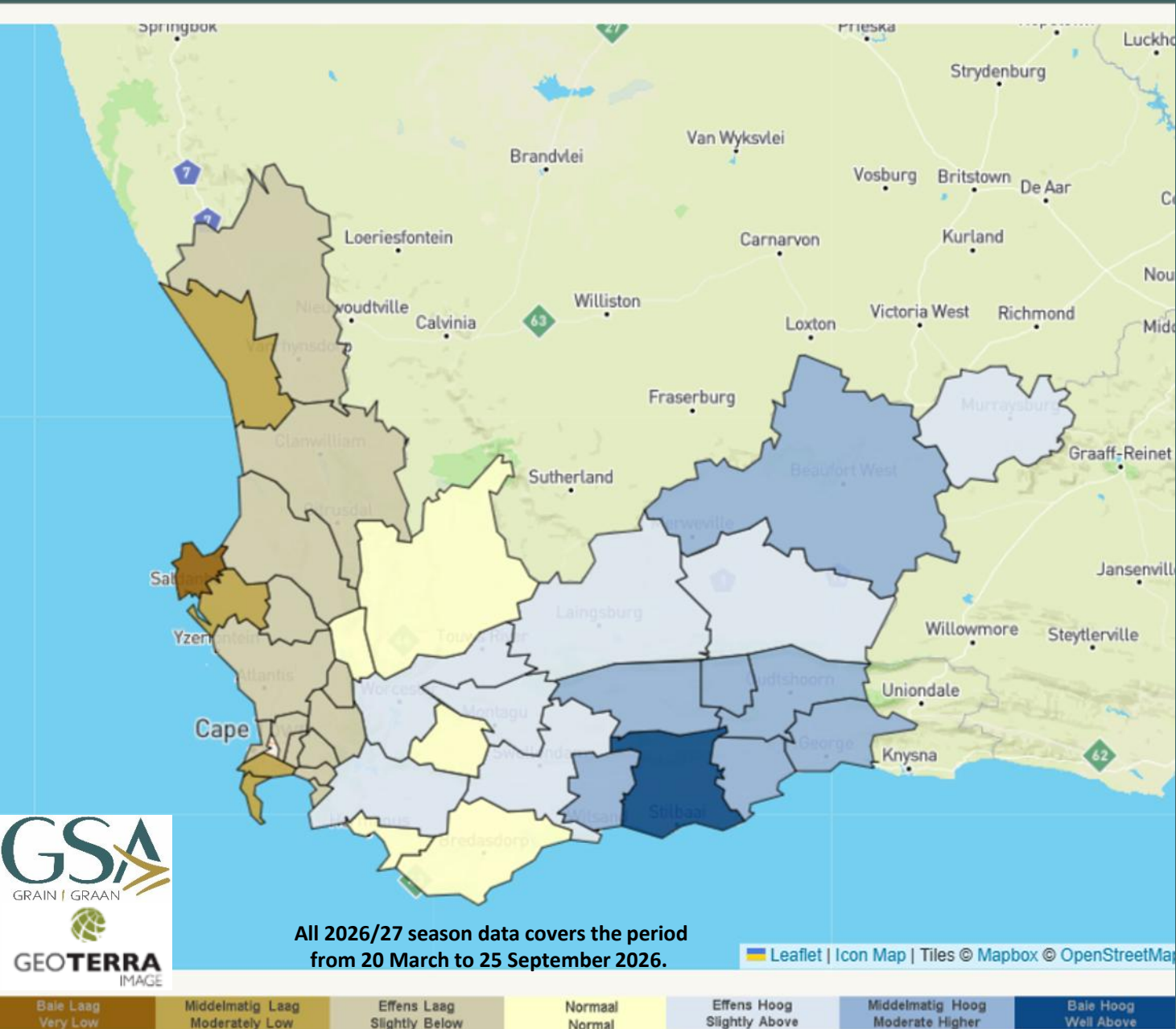
Soil Moisture Dynamics

Soil moisture conditions vary between the regions. The Swartland remains dry in certain areas. In the Southern Cape, soil moisture conditions are more favourable in areas that received good rainfall, although conditions remain variable. Soil moisture conditions in the Overberg are currently low but remain variable following the rainfall received during the week.

Crop Conditions

Crop development is generally satisfactory, although the dry conditions in the Swartland have placed increasing pressure on crops. Some relief was received over the past two weeks following the necessary rainfall. Canola planted across all three regions has already lost its flowers, while late-planted wheat in the eastern Southern Cape is in its final development stage. The Swartland has the greatest need for further rainfall to limit the impact of the yield potential already lost due to the drought. No new grains can be formed at this stage, but further rainfall may support improved grain filling in certain areas of the Swartland. Some producers in the region have already started harvesting early-planted wheat. In the Overberg and Southern Cape, producers are concerned about the impact of variable weather conditions, with alternating wet conditions followed by heat potentially causing barley grains to split and affecting production potential.

Maandelikse Reënvat Aanduiding/Monthly Indicator Rainfall



Southern Cape

Rainfall across the Southern Cape has been variable over the past two weeks. Rain showers occurred sporadically across various areas, creating challenges for some producers during the harvesting of canola. In the Swellendam area, between 2 mm and 20 mm of rainfall was recorded during the past week. Further rainfall is forecast for the coming weekend.

Swartland

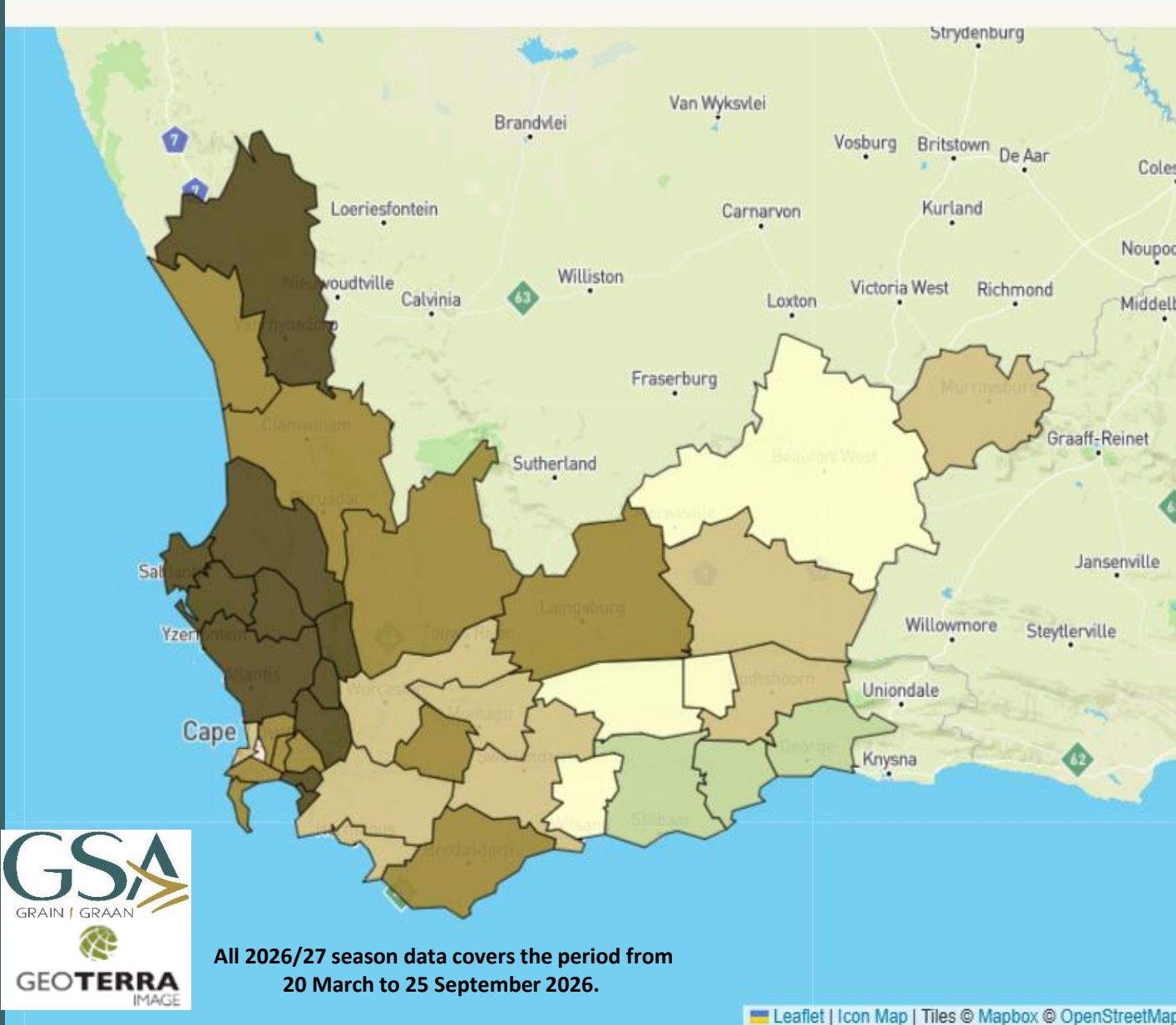
Rainfall across the Swartland was variable, with between 12 mm and 40 mm recorded in different areas during the past week. The rainfall is expected to alleviate the impact of the existing drought damage to some extent, but will not be sufficient to fully restore the dry conditions. The wheat and barley crops have already formed grains, meaning that further rainfall can mainly contribute to additional grain filling and can no longer reverse the existing crop damage.

Overberg

Rainfall across the Overberg was variable during the past week. Between 2 mm and 30 mm of rainfall was received in the region, while further rainfall is forecast for certain areas over the coming weekend.

Rainfall Indicator This rainfall indicator is based on the period from June to September 2026. By using only these three months, a more accurate long-term comparison of winter rainfall can be made, while excluding the exceptionally high rainfall and flooding that occurred during May.

Maandelikse Grondvog Indeks / Monthly Soil Water Index



Southern Cape

Soil moisture conditions vary across different areas of the Southern Cape, with more favourable conditions in areas that have recently received rainfall. The recent rainfall has contributed to replenishing soil moisture levels and has reduced moisture stress in several areas. However, the harvesting of early-planted crops is already underway, and several producers are currently preparing for the upcoming harvesting period.

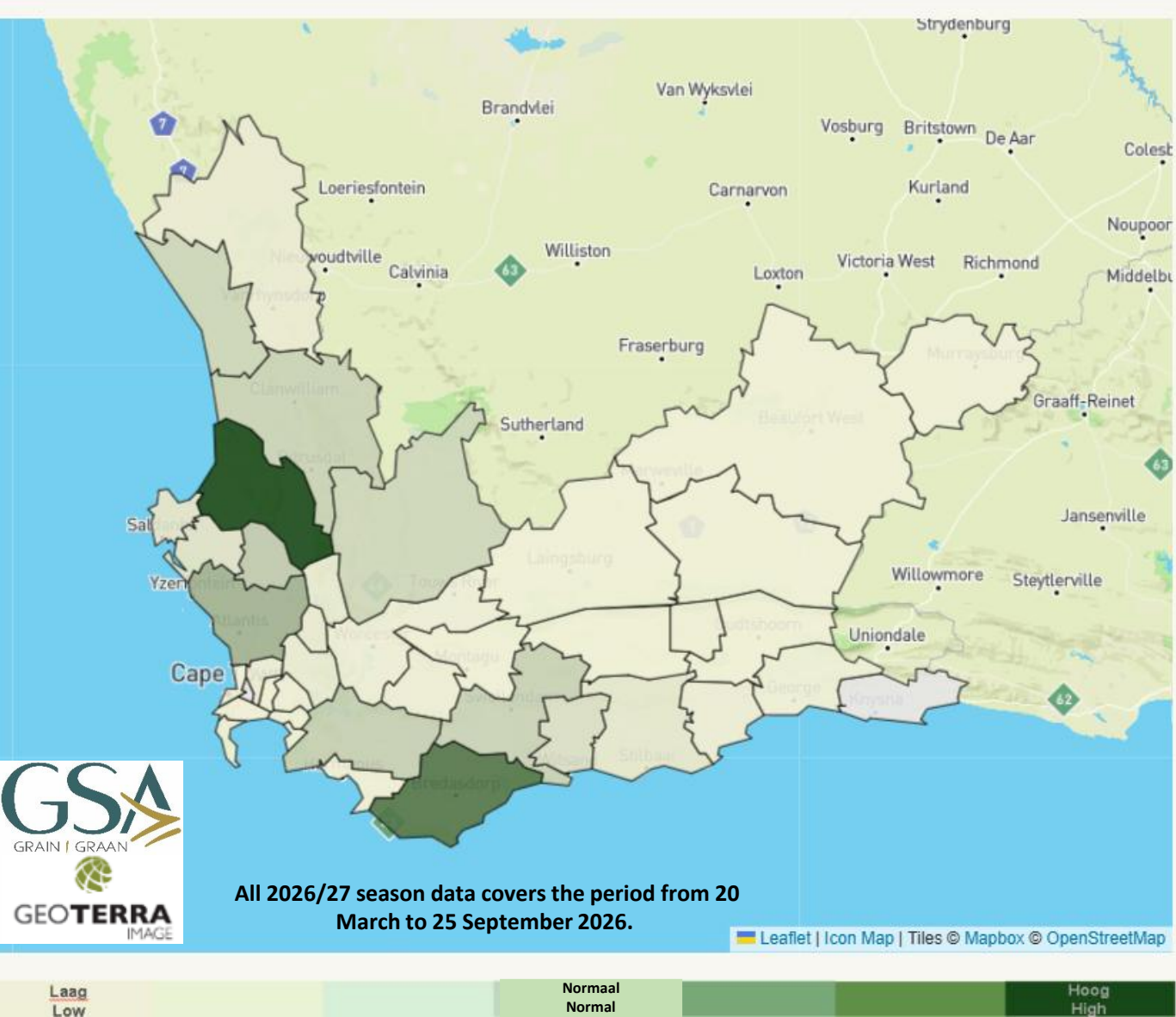
Swartland

Soil moisture conditions remain low across the region. The rainfall recorded last week contributed to an improvement in soil moisture conditions; however, the impact of strong winds in certain areas has resulted in soil moisture levels declining rapidly again. Further necessary rainfall is forecast for the weekend.

Overberg

Soil moisture conditions are currently variable across the Overberg. Although rainfall was received during the past week, soil moisture conditions remain below the five-year average for September.

Gewasopkoms per Distrik / Crop Greenup per District



Southern Cape

Crop growth and development are beginning to decline as canola reaches the end of its growing season, with plants having already lost their flowers. Some producers have already started cutting and harvesting canola, while other crops are approaching the harvesting stage. Further rainfall will improve soil moisture levels and may contribute to further grain and seed filling in some areas. Differences in crop development remain visible and are related to planting dates as well as local rainfall conditions.

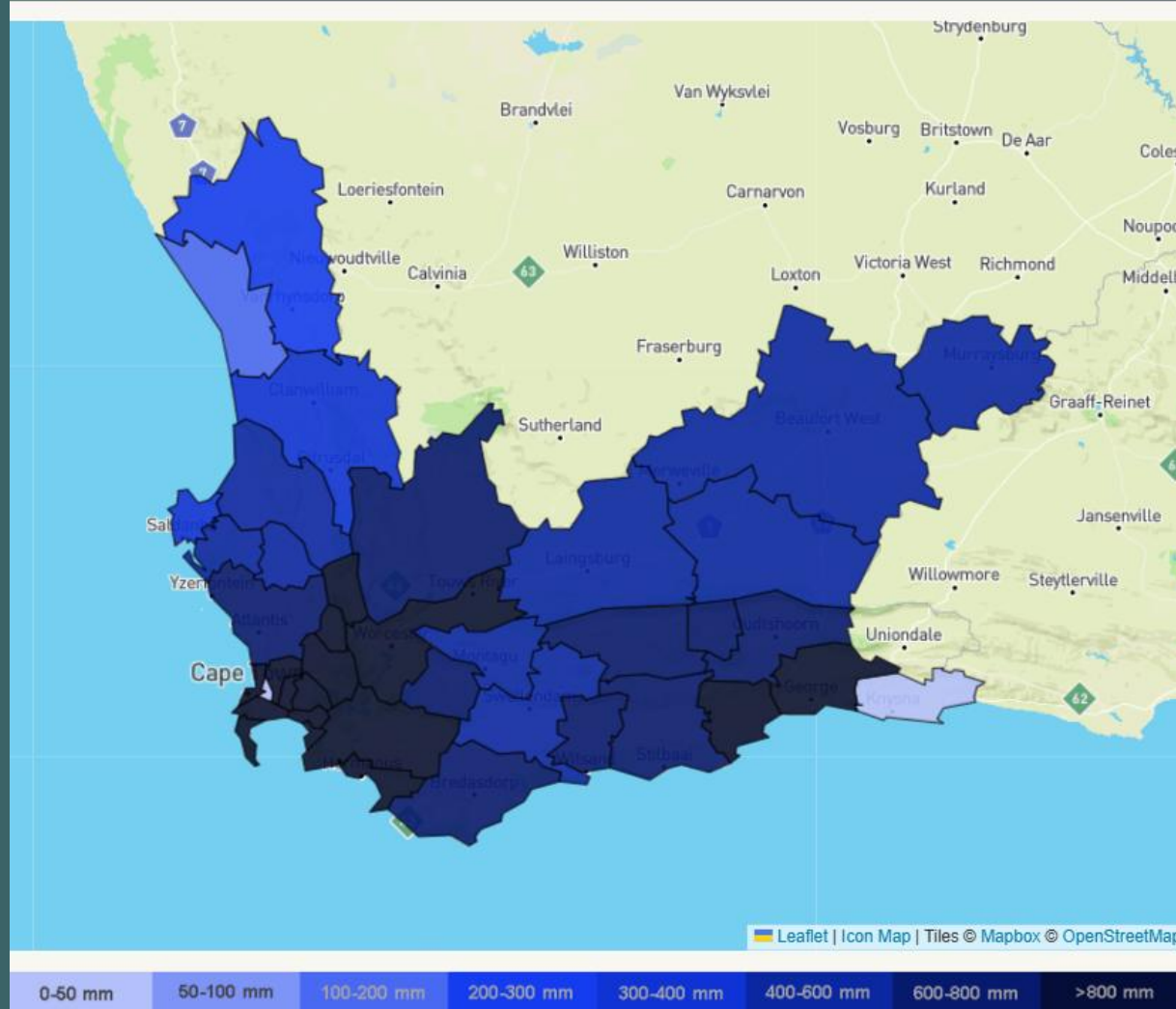
Swartland

Crop growth and development have been limited by the prolonged dry conditions. Earlier-planted crops, such as canola, are already being cut in certain areas, while later-planted crops that are still green are expected to benefit from the rainfall already received and that is forecast. This rainfall may contribute to further grain filling and support final yield potential. Crop development remains dependent on the availability of further rainfall to limit the impact of the drought and the yield potential already lost in the fields.

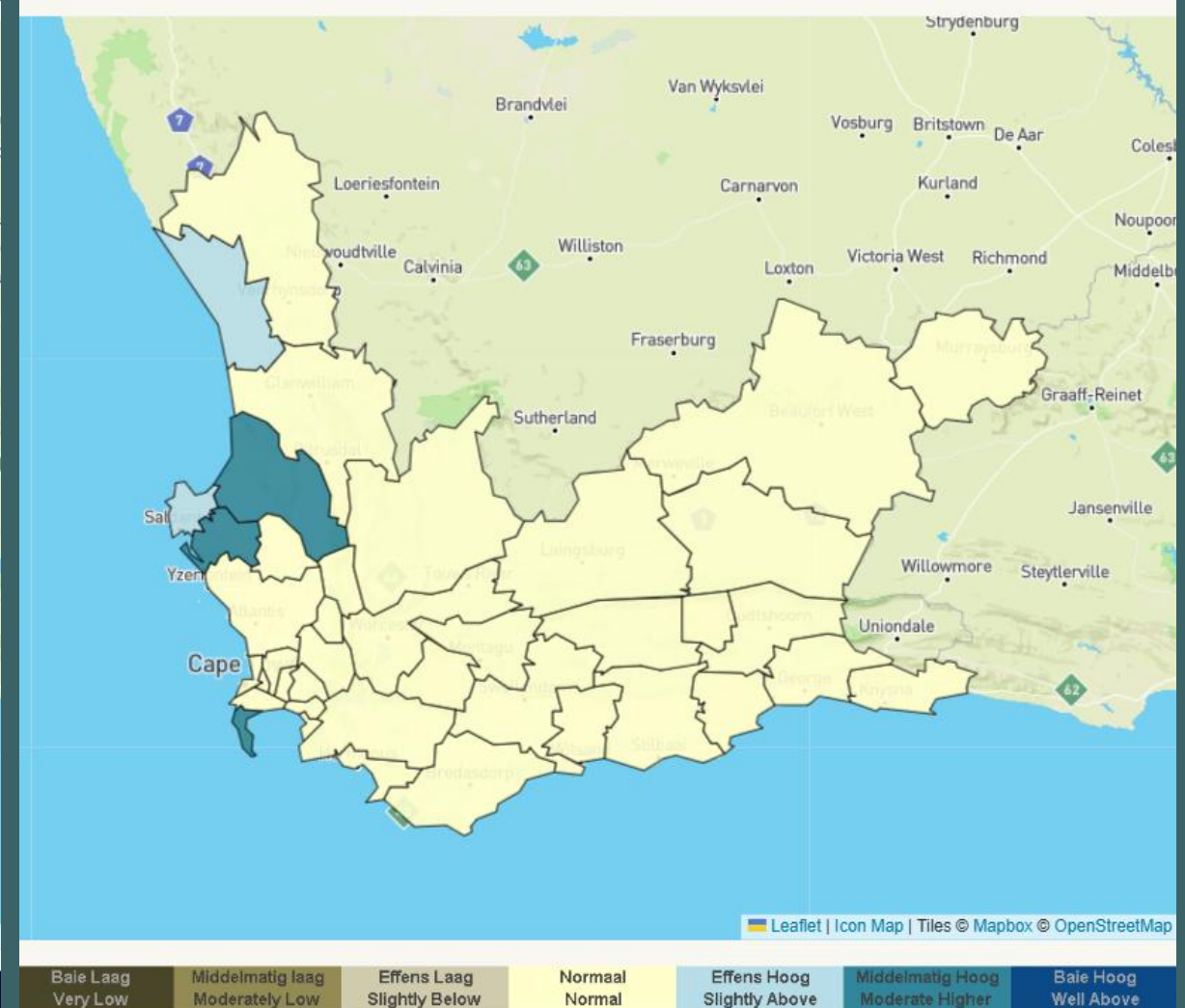
Overberg

Crop growth and development range from normal to above average in different areas across the region. Producers expect to begin the harvesting and cutting process within the next two weeks.

Totale Reënval/Total Rainfall



Seisoen reënval afwyking/Season rainfall deviation



To explain the total impact on the Swartland, below is a list of the various articles that have been released recently. Click on the images below to read the respective articles.



Swartland's Wheat Producers in Trouble: Producers Cannot Bear Climate Risk Alone - Grain SA



Rather than later, speak to financiers sooner- *Landbou.com*



Koel, mistige dae en die enkele millimeter reën wat op 6 Augustus geval het, het boere hoop gegee, maar dit kon nie die skade van 'n droë Julie en Augustus tot niet maak nie.

Foto: Amelia Genis

Swartland: Up to a third of harvest potential already lost- *Landbou.com*

DANKIE!

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