

# PRODUCTION CONDITIONS REPORT

8 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

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

# Summary

## **Rainfall patterns and Trends**

Rainfall was generally variable across the three regions. The Swartland received almost no rainfall, while the Overberg experienced more mixed conditions, with some areas receiving favourable rainfall. The Southern Cape experienced the most favourable rainfall conditions of the three regions. Further rainfall will be particularly important in the Swartland to alleviate the drier conditions and support crop development; however, there are currently no promising rainfall forecasts.

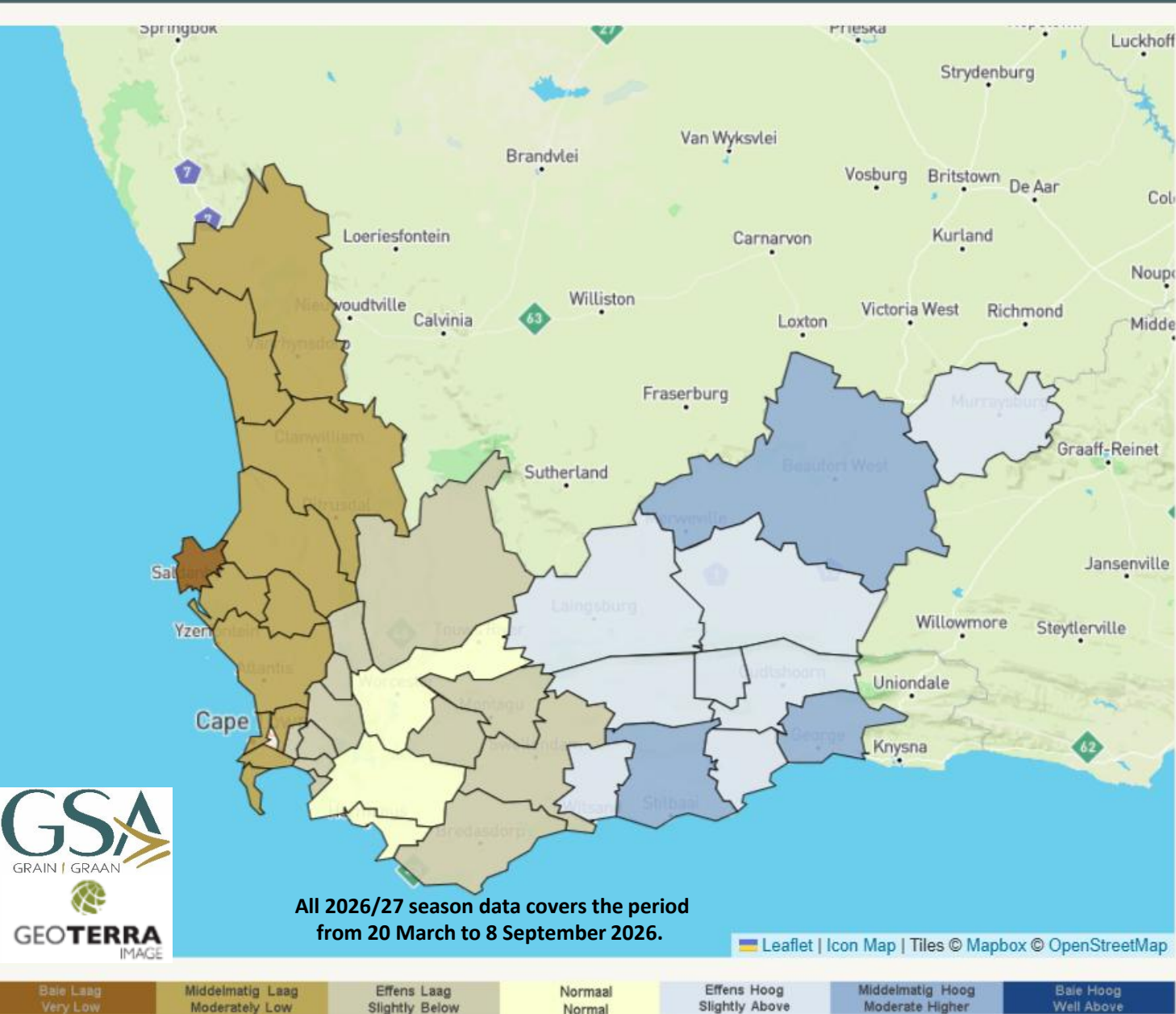
## **Soil Moisture Dynamics**

Soil moisture conditions differ across the regions. The Swartland remains very dry, with almost no available soil moisture. 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 good, but sufficient moisture will be required to support crop development. Continued rainfall during September will, however, be important to improve the yield potential of wheat and barley.

## **Crop Emergence and Condition**

Crop development is generally satisfactory, although the dry conditions in the Swartland are increasingly placing pressure on crops. Canola planted in the Overberg and Southern Cape has already lost its flowers, while late-planted wheat in the eastern Southern Cape is either in the grain filling stage or approaching the grain filling emergence. The Swartland has the greatest need for further rainfall to limit the remaining yield potential losses caused by the drought.

# Maandelikse Reënval Aanduiding/Monthly Indicator Rainfall



## Southern Cape

Rainfall across the Southern Cape was variable over the past week. Showers occurred across several areas, providing valuable moisture and supporting crop development. In the George area, between 35–50 mm was recorded last week, while Swellendam received between 6–20 mm. Other areas in the region received little to no rainfall. Further rainfall would be beneficial to maintain favourable conditions as crops enter their grain-filling stages.

## Swartland

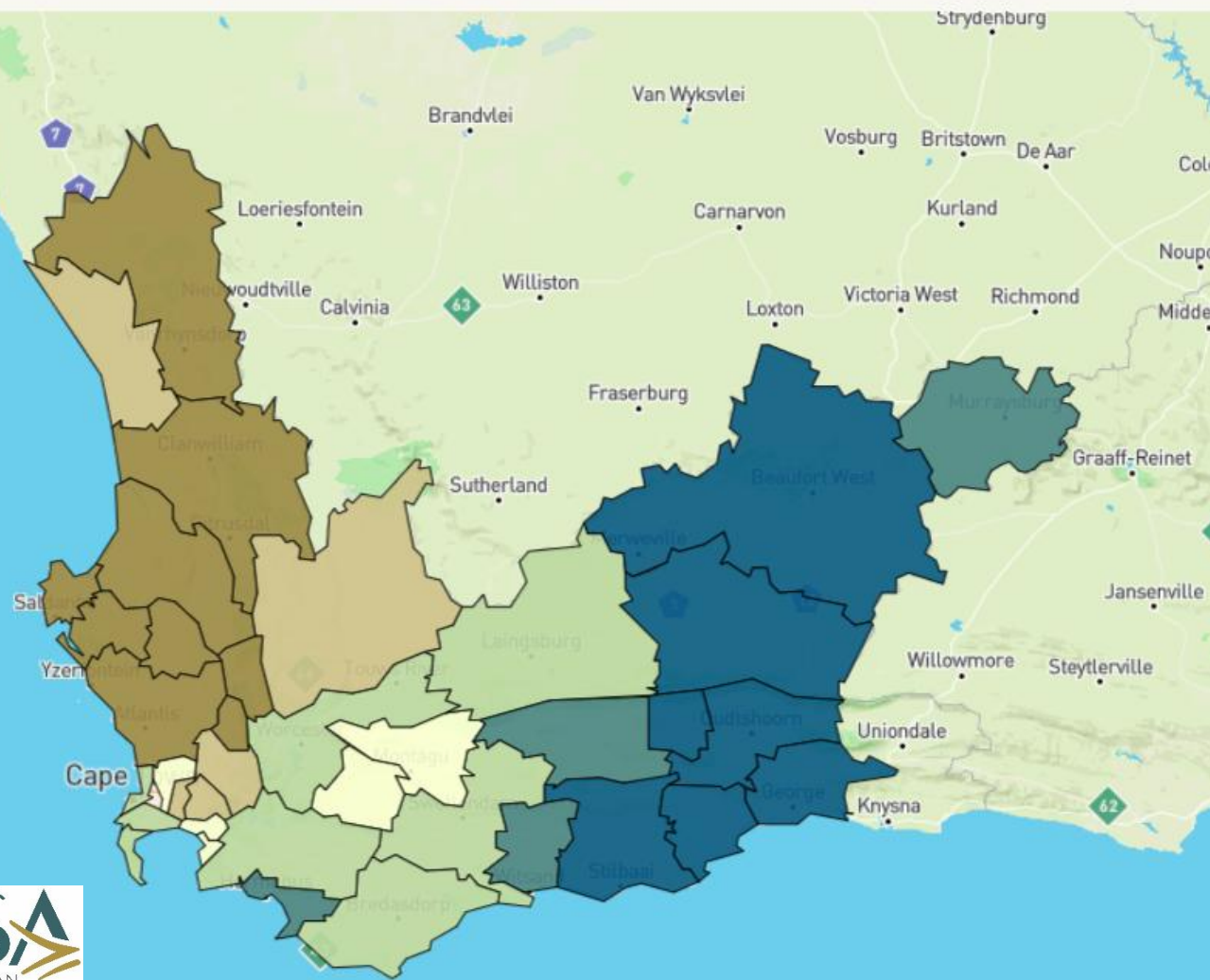
Rainfall across the Swartland was very scarce, with producers reporting that they received only 8 mm during August. Many producers indicated that this was the driest August since 1956. Any rainfall would help to slightly alleviate the impact of the damage already experienced in the fields, but it would not be sufficient to fully relieve the dry conditions.

## Overberg

Rainfall across the Overberg was variable during the past week. Between 2.5–12 mm was received in the region last week. Further showers are needed in several areas to provide valuable moisture and support crops during their final grain-filling stage.

**Rainfall Indicator** This rainfall indicator is based on the period from June to August 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



All 2026/27 season data covers the period from  
20 March to 8 September 2026.

Leaflet | Icon Map | Tiles © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

### Southern Cape

Soil moisture conditions are generally favourable in areas that have recently received rainfall, although conditions continue to vary between production areas. The recent rainfall has helped replenish soil moisture levels and reduce moisture stress in several areas. Continued rainfall will remain important to maintain adequate moisture levels for the remainder of the growing season, particularly in the eastern parts of the region, where crops such as wheat are approaching to be near to produce grains in some areas.

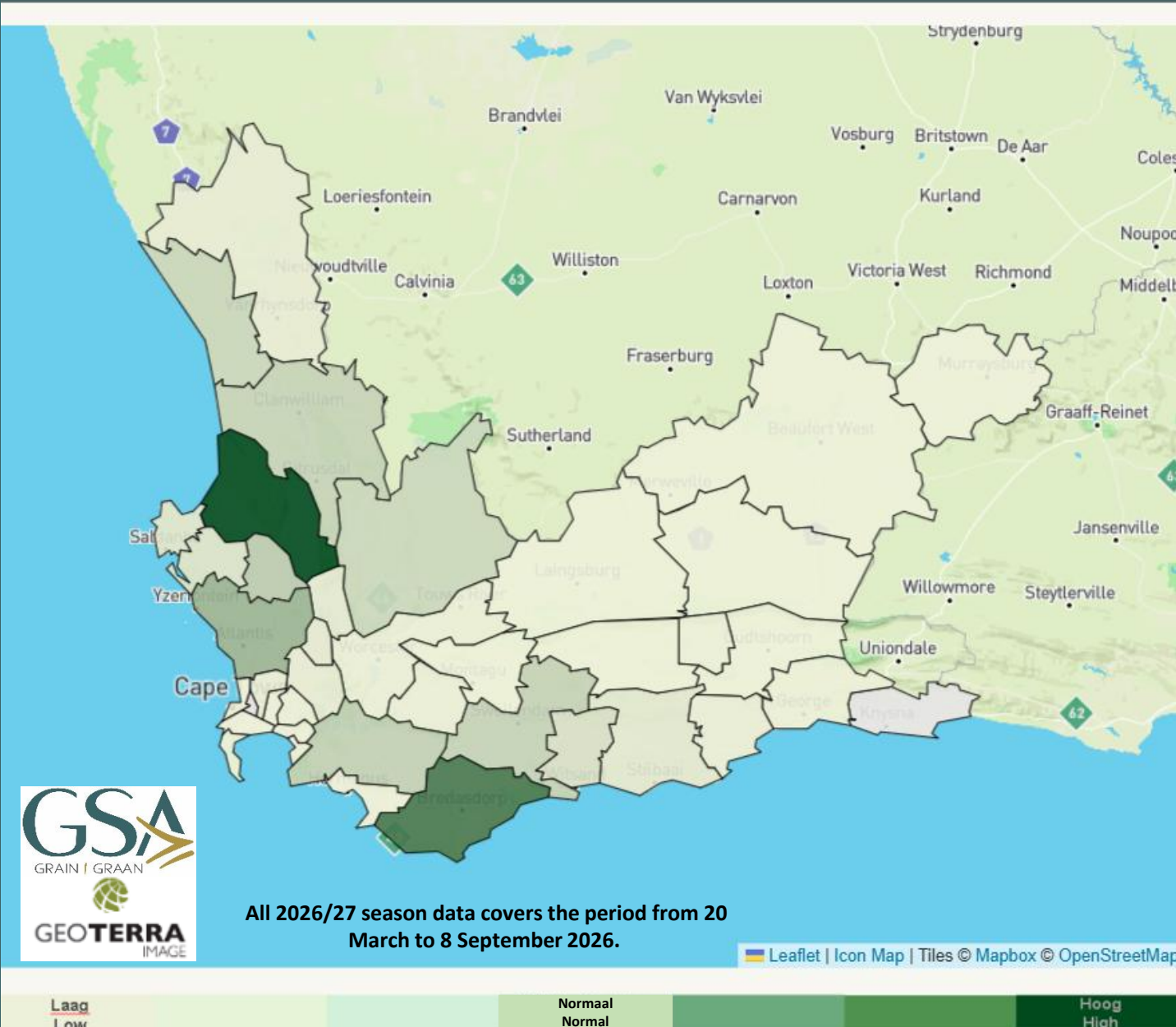
### Swartland

Soil moisture conditions remain low across the region. At present, there is almost no available soil moisture. The current conditions are becoming increasingly evident in areas where crops are entering the grain-filling stages, with producers reporting that their crops are beginning to suffer severe moisture stress. Any rainfall would help to reduce the impact of the drought to some extent, but damage has already occurred in the fields.

### Overberg

Soil moisture conditions are currently good in several areas, but rainfall during September would be beneficial. Rainfall will support moisture availability and the final stages of crop development.

## Gewasopkoms per Distrik / Crop Greenup per District



### Southern Cape

Crop growth and development have started to decline as the canola has lost its flowers and is approaching harvest. Any further rainfall will support grain filling in the remaining crops. Differences in crop development are evident depending on planting dates and local rainfall conditions. Producers are already completing their final spray applications on canola.

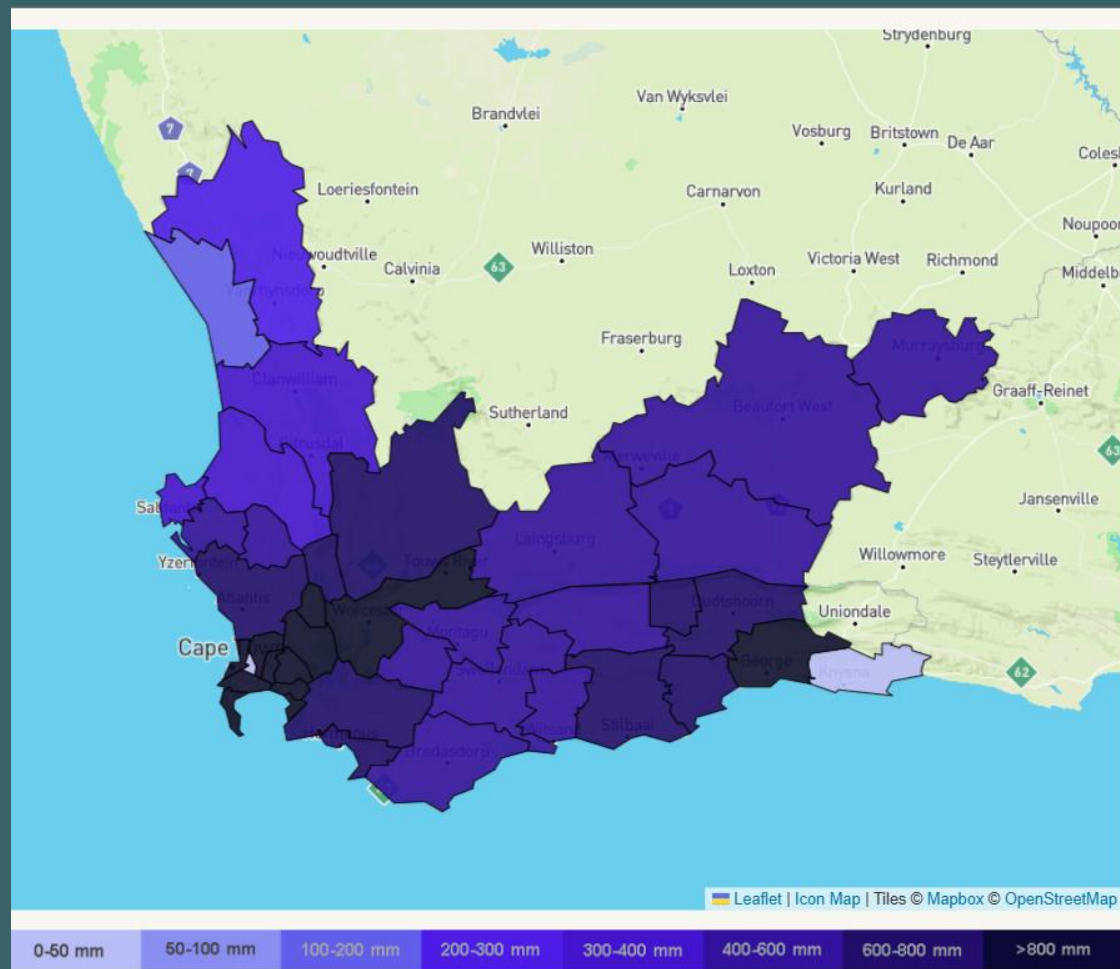
### Swartland

Crop growth and development have been limited by the prolonged dry conditions. Early-planted crops are generally showing greater resilience, while later-planted crops are experiencing increasing pressure as the season progresses. Crop development remains dependent on the availability of further rainfall to limit the impact of the yield potential already lost due to the drought in the fields.

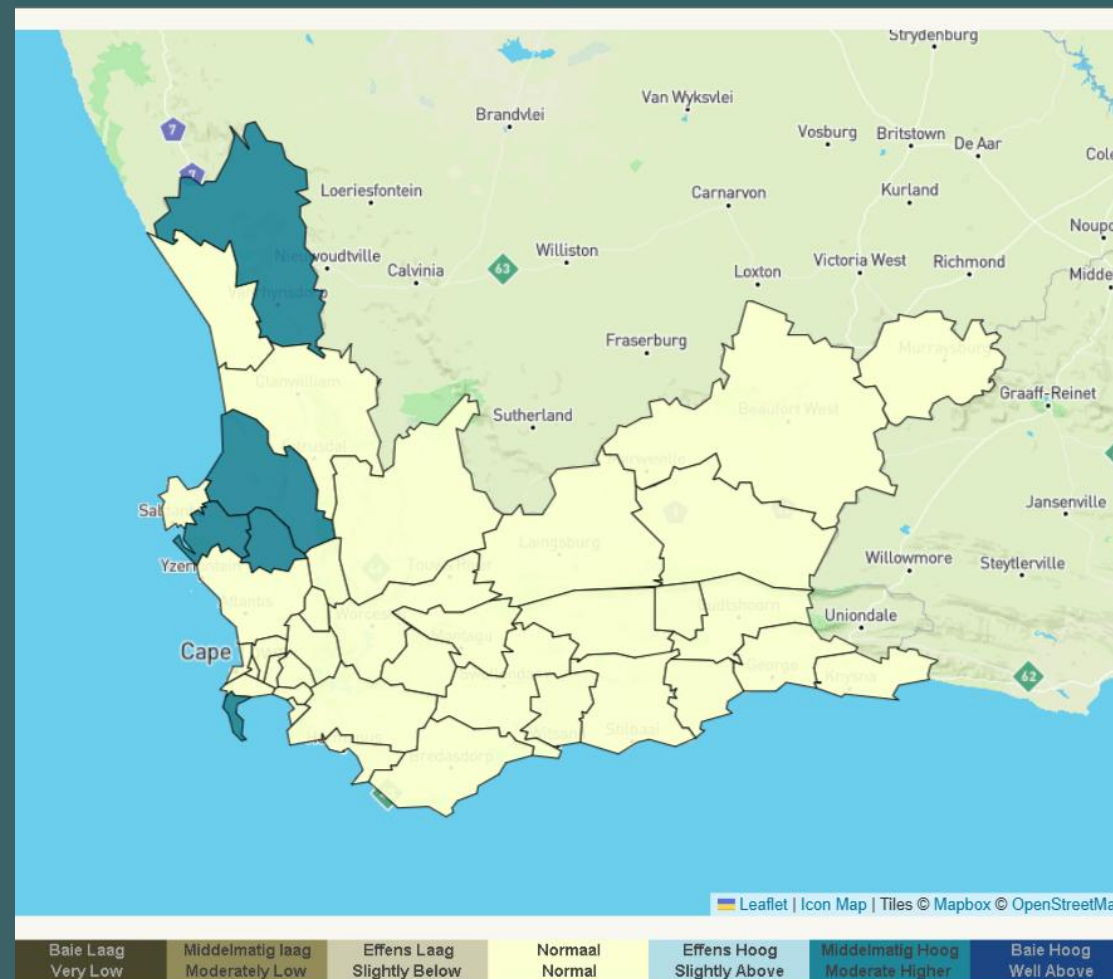
### Overberg

Crop growth and development remain generally good across the region, although the canola has already lost its flowers, while wheat and barley are currently in the grain-filling stage. Any further rainfall would support improved grain filling. The final spray applications are currently being completed on the grain crops.

## 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**



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



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

During NAMPO Cape (9-12 September 2026), a panel discussion on the current profitability of the wheat industry will be presented on Wednesday, 9 September. The discussion will focus on the economic realities and challenges currently faced by wheat producers, as well as the factors influencing the sustainability of the industry. On Thursday, 10 September, Grain SA will then engage with financiers and agricultural companies, with a specific focus on the challenging circumstances in the Swartland. This discussion aims to strengthen collaboration between role players in the agricultural value chain and identify possible solutions to support producers and their businesses through the current challenges.

# DANKIE!

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