2018/19 Season Rainfall

Spring rainfall patterns were close to average until October when activities were severely disrupted by persistent rainfalls spread over a total of 16 days. November turned out to be drier than normal which allowed operations to be resumed, albeit three weeks to a month behind! The rainfall in December has been welcome and more is needed to keep the crop growing vigorously as it has some catching-up to do.

The forecasts for a dry summer have not changed and an El Nino event is still a possibility.

Variety Performance

The graph above shows the performance of the major varieties (1 and 2-year-old) for the season. Q244 and Q254 have been included as they have performed well, particularly as two-year-old crops, but it must be remembered that these are mostly from plant cane and young ratoons.

Q240 and Q183 have continued to perform up to expectations and hopefully will continue to do so.

The Variety report will provide more detail on the individual varieties performance.

Boiler Ash Distribution

Boiler Ash will be available through the months of January to May so if you do require ash, give the office a call or contact Chris Reeve direct to place an order.
**Soybean planting**

It is that time of the year again and if you haven't done so then you would be busy getting your fallow blocks ready to plant beans. An effective weed control program for the bean crop is vital in order to maximise yields and there is a table of weed control options included in the weed control guide. If you have any questions regarding the planting of soybeans give us a call.

**ASP Operations**

A total of 374 tonnes of seed-cane was sold to 30 growers this year, which exceeds our ten-year average of 322 tonnes and increases our five-year average from 358 to 391 tonnes for seed-cane distribution. Billets sales made up 98% of all cane sold. In total 11 varieties were distributed, the details of the majority of the sales are depicted in the graph below. The remaining 500 tonnes was harvested and sent to the mill, giving a total production of 875 tonnes.

**ASSCT Conference**

Next year’s conference is to be held in Toowoomba, from 30 April through to 3 May 2019. Ag. Services has received a Travel and Learn grant from SRA to sponsor the registration fees of NSW farmers wishing to attend the conference. Please let us know at your earliest convenience if you wish to attend as the funds are limited. For the conference overview, go to www.assct.com.au/conference.

**Last word**

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and Happy Christmas and may the New year be a good one for all of us.

See you in the paddocks.

**Ged Bambach**

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**Malcolm Warren**

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