

#### Seasonal Update:

The temperatures around the South West and South Coast regions these past few days have been ideal for growing grass, however, many of us are still waiting for that rain to really kick in. It's been a drawn out start to the season so far, but for the South West region the long-range forecast looks promising with good rains predicted from early June through to the start of July. The South Coast region however doesn't look as promising, with good rains not predicted until the middle of June. The leaf emergence rates for four regions are displayed below:

Leaf Emergence Rates (LER) week 4 - May (Based on current max and min air temperatures)			
Serpentine	Bunbury	Margaret River	Albany
14.1	13.2	12.7	11.8

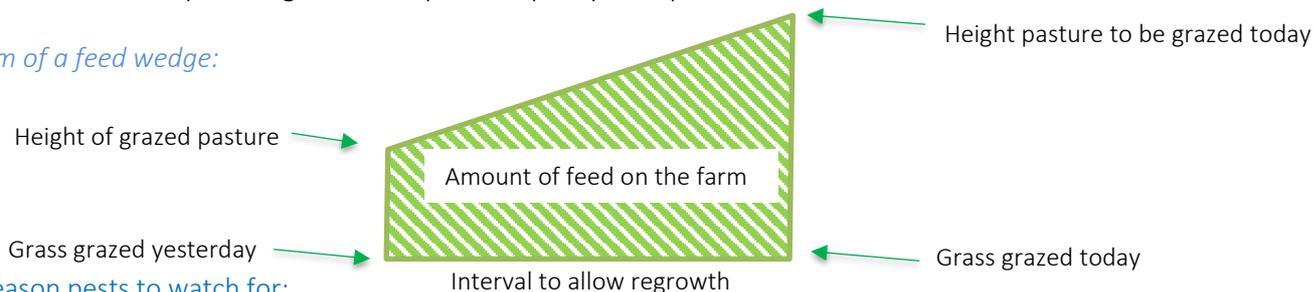
The LER above should give you a good idea of how many days it will take to grow a new ryegrass tiller (leaf). Grazing at the 3-leaf stage will ensure plant quality is optimised and you're getting maximum utilisation from your pasture.

*See over the page for accumulated pasture growth from 1st Jan – 28th May 2017, and the predicted continued growth for the regions of Serpentine, Harvey, Busselton and Denmark.*

#### Getting your rotation right:

Now is the time to start thinking about how you are going to set up your feeding wedge for the grazing season. A 'wedge' consists of areas that range from being freshly grazed (4-6cm pasture residual) to those about to be grazed (2-3 leaves). This ensures that both pasture growth and pasture quality are optimised.

#### Diagram of a feed wedge:



#### Early season pests to watch for:

The best time to spray pesticides to control Red Legged Earth Mite (RLEM) and African Black Beetle (ABB) is during autumn and early winter. During the autumn is when RLEM will hatch, following exposure to cooler temperatures and adequate rainfall. The mites once hatched will attack emerging pasture plants and delicate crop seedlings. Adult RLEM are about 1 mm in length and 0.6 mm wide (about the size of a pin head) with 8 red-orange legs and a completely black body. Typical mite damage appears as 'silvering' or 'whitening' of the attacked foliage. RLEM are best detected feeding on leaves in the morning or on overcast days.

ABB adults will feed on the stems of plants, close to the ground, and also chew on grass stems resulting in fraying of the stem. Larval stages will tend to attack plant roots. They are about 12mm long and shiny black in colour, and generally found on or under the soil surface. Speak to your local agronomist about the best pesticides to use to eradicate these pests from your pastures and crops.

#### Upcoming Events

Dairy Sage, a great young farmer/service provider mentoring program its taking place on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2017 at Abbey Beach Resort in Busselton. Contact: [jessica@westerndairy.com.au](mailto:jessica@westerndairy.com.au) for full details.



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# Dairy Australia

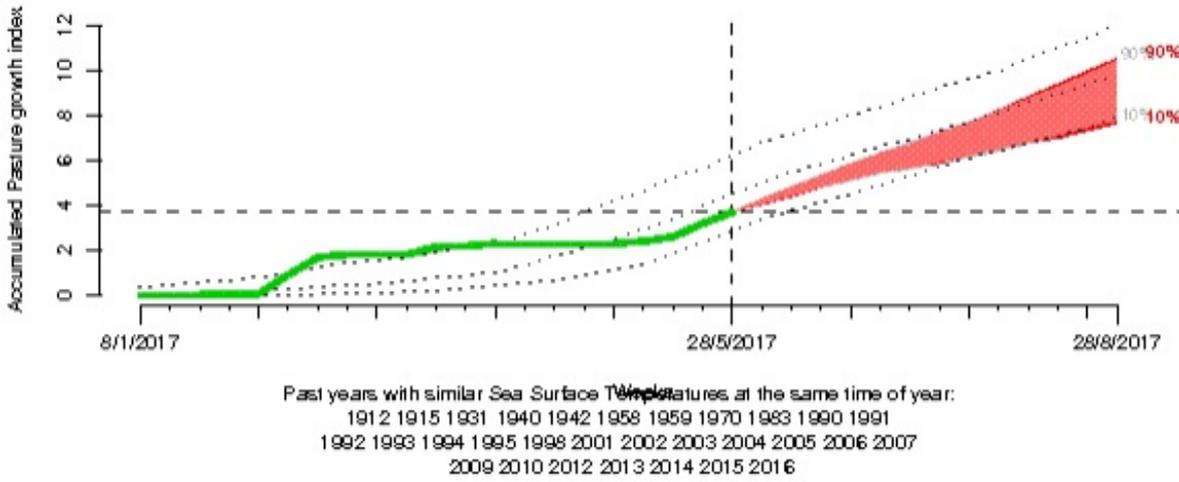


Figure 1. Harvey Pasture Growth Prediction.

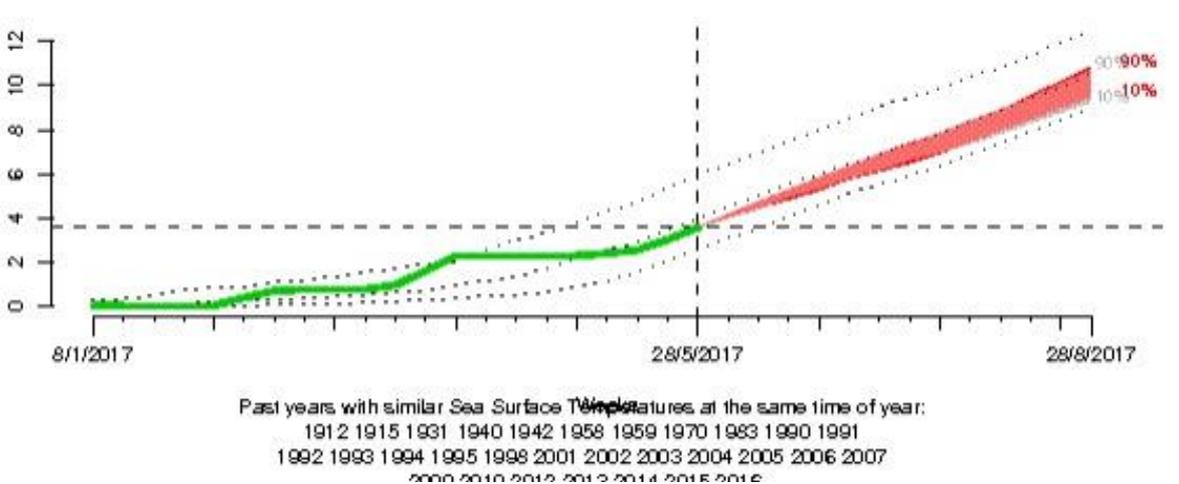


Figure 2. Busselton Pasture Growth Prediction

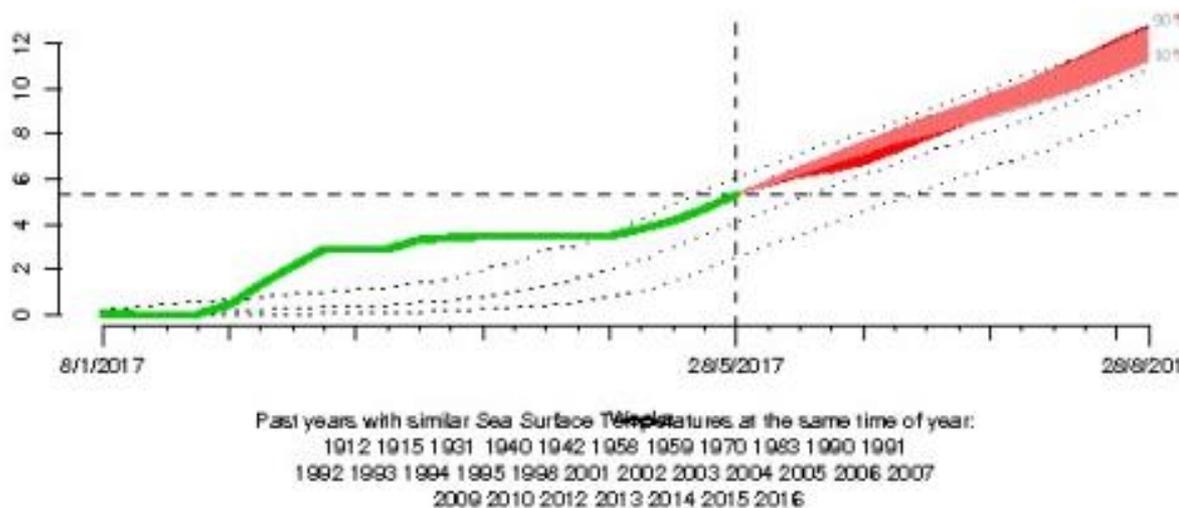


Figure 3. Serpentine Pasture Growth Prediction

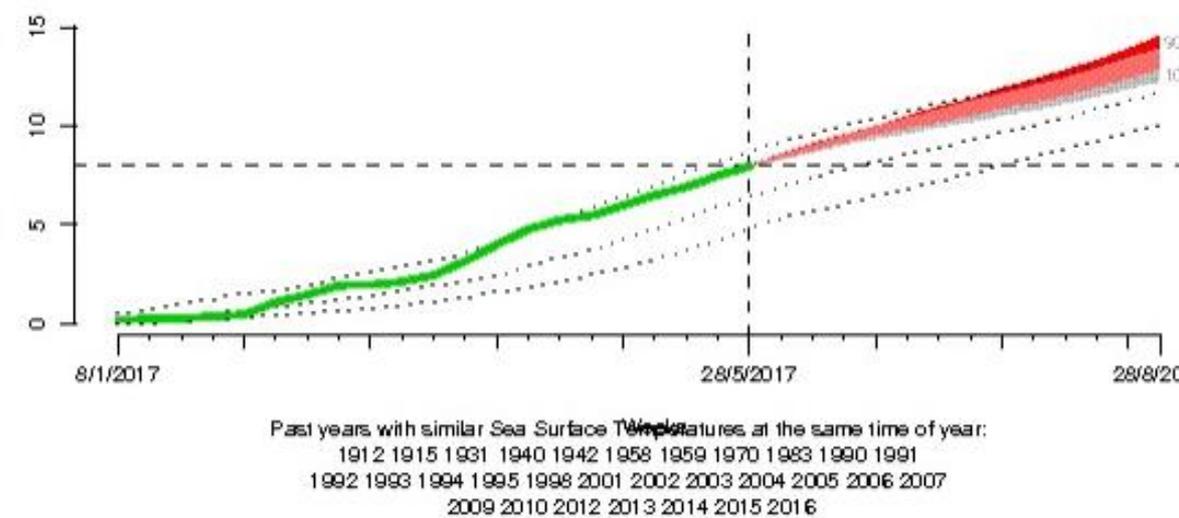


Figure 4. Denmark Pasture Growth prediction.