

PYRAMID HILL, Victoria

Low/Medium Rainfall Zone, North Central

GPS 36° 3'17.44"S, 144° 9'40.09"E

Seasonal Snapshot

- Low rainfall throughout April and early May resulted in patchy emergence of crops. This, in combination with cool conditions throughout the early part of the growing season, resulted in slow developing crops with significantly reduced biomass. Harvestability of small, low standing crops was an issue for some growers this season.
- Generally, yields were well below average throughout the district, however many growers were content with being able to produce some grain on such limited rainfall, a testament to the modern farming system and varieties available. Above average prices generally available for most commodities made the 'break-even' yields below what has been experienced in other seasons. In addition, where significant biomass was produced, above average hay prices were available, making this a profitable option for many.
- A major learning or reminder from the season was how crucial the timeliness in farming operations is, with major benefits from timely sowing and weed control, particularly in a season with small (5-10 mm) rain events and significantly below average growing season rainfall received.

Table 1. 2018 rainfall and long-term averages.

Site	Rainfall (mm)			
	2018		Long Term	
	Annual	GSR (Apr-Oct)	Annual	GSR (Apr-Oct)
Pyramid Hill	248	132	364	236

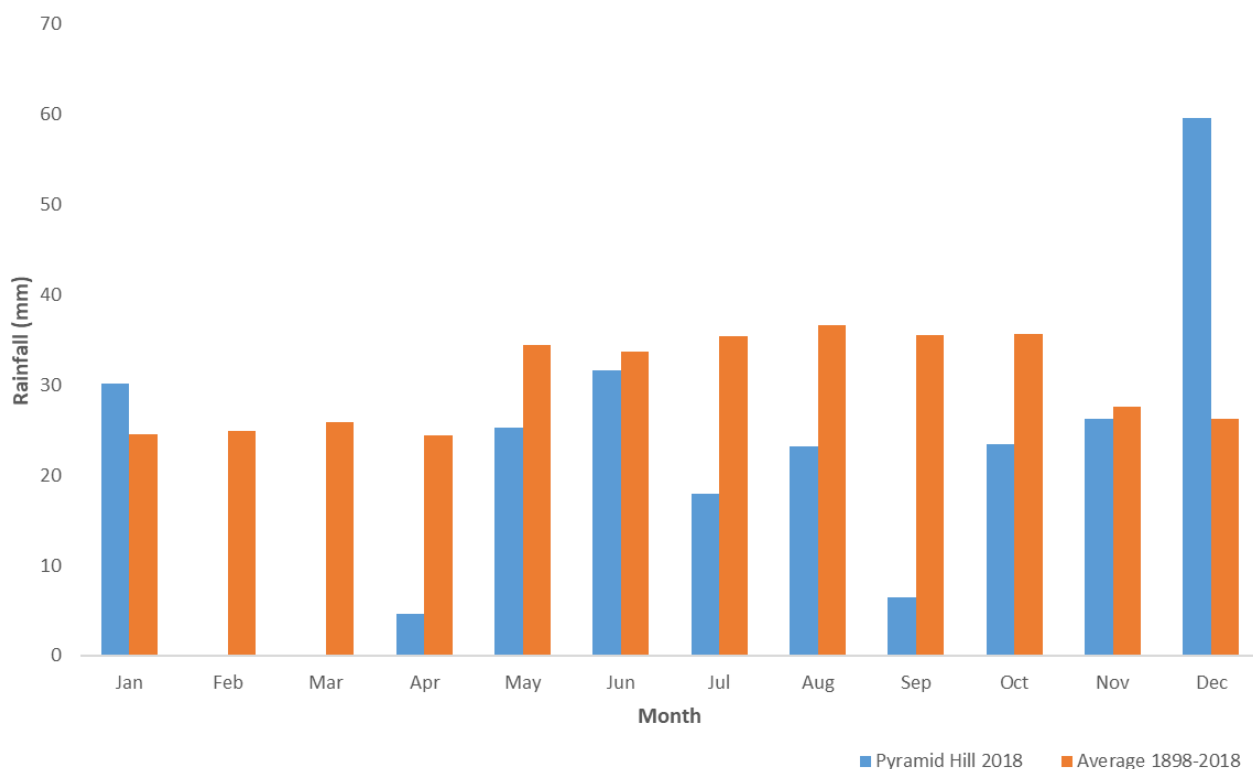


Figure 1. Average monthly rainfall at the Pyramid Hill trial site (L/MRZ, Vic) in 2018 compared with the long-term average for Mincha.

Soil Characterisation

PYRAMID HILL

Clay loam

Table 2. Pyramid Hill clay loam soil analysis

Depth (cm)	NH ₄ -N	NO ₃ -N	P (mg/kg)	K	S	B	EC (dS/m)	OC (%)
0-10	14.0	50.0	62	320	8		0.17	1.4
10-40	0.6	4.7		210	2	2.0	0.05	
40-70	0.6	2.9		450	17	4.7	0.12	
70-100	0.6	2.4		540	43	6.9	0.39	

Depth (cm)	Exc Al	Exc Ca	Exc Mg (meq/100g)	Exc K	Exc Na	pH (CaCl ₂)	pH (H ₂ O)
0-10	7.6	58	19	12.0	3.3	4.4	5.0
10-40	<1.0	48	36	5.9	9.8	6.2	7.8
40-70	<1.0	32	45	5.9	17.0	7.0	8.4
70-100	<1.0	43	37	4.9	16.0	8.2	9.1