

Fact sheet

Mallee Horticulture Crop Report Addendum 2019/20



Water use information per district

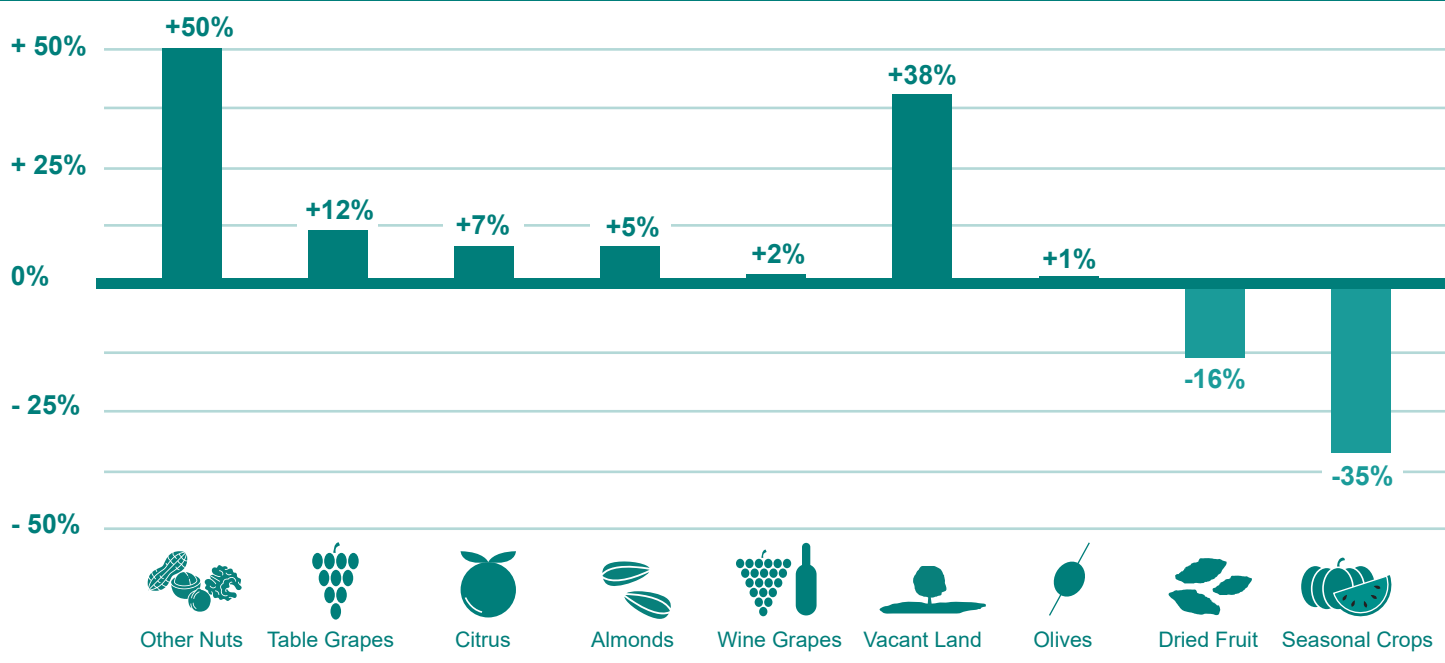
Mallee Catchment Management Authority produces the Crop Report every three years, with addendums produced periodically. The 2018 Crop Report tracked irrigation development from 1997 to 2018 and evidenced renewed activity in redevelopment and expansion in the period from 2015 to 2018. The 2019 and 2020 addendums track the extent of further expansion and redevelopment from mid-2018 to mid-2020. The study area for this report is the Mallee catchment, being irrigated horticulture along the Murray River from Woorinen to the South Australian border and irrigation in the Murrayville

Groundwater Management Area (Murrayville GMA). There are five pumped irrigation districts, six river reaches of private diverters and the Murrayville GMA.

Key Findings from 2020 Addendum to Mallee Horticulture Crop Report 2018/19

- Area Irrigated down by 3 per cent compared to 2018/19 year
- Area able to be irrigated up by 3 per cent compared to 2018/19 year
- Almonds remain dominate crop by area
- Average property size up to 46 Ha
- Drip irrigation remained the dominate method of water application

Change in crop types irrigated from 2018 to 2020



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Overview 2018 to 2020

The irrigable area across the Mallee catchment increased by 3 per cent (2,755 ha), from 81,455 ha in 2018 to 84,210 ha in 2020. While the irrigable area increased, the area irrigated decreased by 3 per cent (2,140 ha). This was the net result of an increase in irrigated permanent plantings by 2,515 ha and a decrease in seasonal cropping by 4,655 ha, largely due to low water allocations in 2019-20 (66 per cent at 30 June 2020).

Crop type changes 2018 to 2020

Almond trees remained the dominant crop type across the Mallee catchment from 2018 to 2020.

In each of the twelve study areas, the dominant crop remained the same in 2020 as it was in 2018, except for the Red Cliffs and Merbein irrigation districts. The dominant crop in the Red Cliffs district changed from wine grape plantings in 2018 to table grapes by 2019 and the Merbein district changed from dried grapes in 2018 to table grapes by 2019.

Planting trends - permanent plantings, seasonal crops and vacant areas

Permanent plantings increased by 2,515 ha, through expansion as well as redevelopment of vacant/not irrigated areas. Irrigated seasonal cropping decreased with a subsequent increase in vacant/not irrigated areas.

Irrigation development - new and retired areas 2018 to 2020

From mid-2018 to mid-2020, the irrigable area in the Mallee catchment increased by 2,755 ha, a 3 per cent increase from

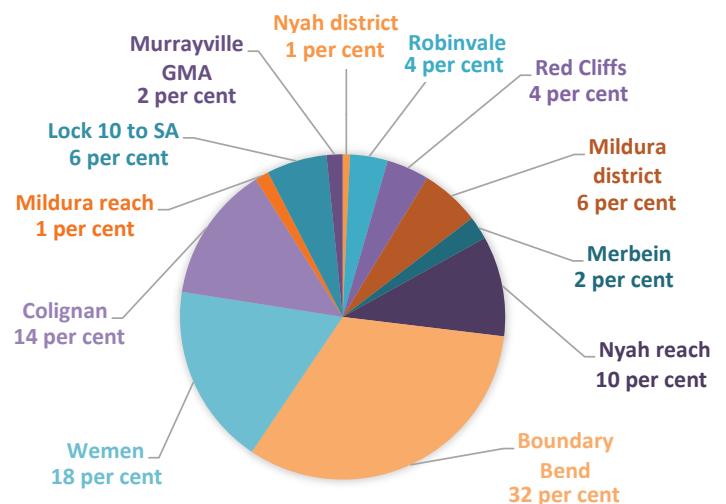
81,455 ha to 84,210 ha. The net increase of 2,755 ha was the balance of 2,935 ha of expansion and 180 ha retired from irrigation.

99 per cent of expansion occurred in the private diverter river reaches, predominantly the Wemen, Boundary Bend and Nyah reaches.

In 2018-19, the rate of irrigation expansion was 1,845 ha/year, the highest since 2009, however the upward trend did not follow through to 2019-20 with the rate slowing to 910 ha/year.

Water use information per district

Water use figures in terms of % used per district from total Mallee consumption.



For more information about the report please visit our website www.malleecma.com.au