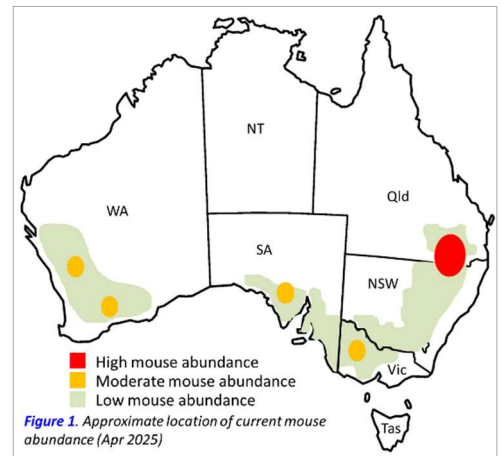


# Monitoring mice in Australia – April 2025



## Summary

- There is high mouse activity in parts of the Queensland Darling Downs and Roma (QLD) and moderate activity on Eyre Peninsula (SA), Wimmera (VIC) and parts of WA (Figure 1). Mouse activity is very patchy (moderate in one field, but low in the next). Growers should remain vigilant. Moderate to high numbers will lead to damage at sowing.
- Mouse activity is low in all other areas. Low numbers of mice are unlikely to cause significant crop damage.
- Growers should actively monitor mouse activity (mouse chew cards and active burrow counts are useful at this time of year). There is always a chance of isolated patches of higher mouse activity, particularly where there was grain lost at harvest.
- Please report and map mouse activity using MouseAlert ([www.mousealert.org.au](http://www.mousealert.org.au)) so other growers can see what mouse activity is being observed in their local area. Follow on X using @MouseAlert.



## Management recommendations

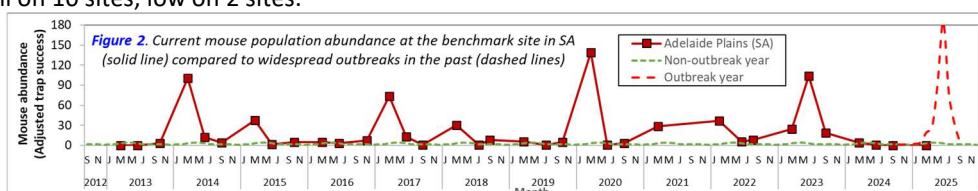
Mouse numbers are moderate to high in many areas (highly patchy). Given the excellent conditions across many areas of southern Queensland, northern NSW and parts of WA, mice have been breeding through summer and autumn, which will peak in March/April at the time of sowing winter crops. Despite dry conditions through Eyre Peninsula (SA) and Horsham (VIC), hailstorms caused significant grain loss during harvest, providing extra food for mice and an associated built-up in numbers and can cause significant damage at sowing. See GRDC [Mouse Control](#) website for more details about control options. **Be aware that only ZnP25 baits are currently available** (Emergency Permits previously issued for ZnP50 have expired).

1. Actively gauge mouse numbers by walking through paddocks ([mouse chew cards](#) and active burrow counts are useful tools at this time of year).
2. If possible, bait well before seeding (ideally 6-weeks before), otherwise, apply bait off the back of the seeder to prevent damage to the freshly sown crop.
3. Baiting at sowing is most effective if no other food sources are available. Reducing background food can be achieved through light tillage or sheep grazing.
4. Talk to bait suppliers early to ensure timely supply. As with any agricultural chemical, use the product in accordance with the label instructions, and report any [adverse or off target effects](#) via the APVMA website.

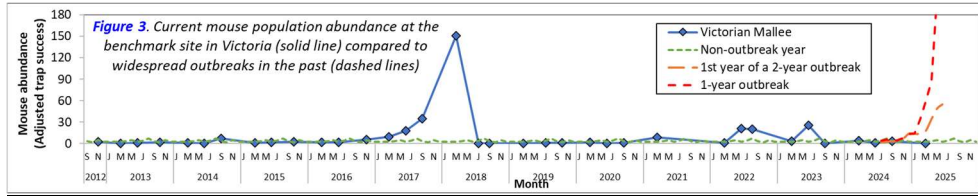
## Current situation

Mouse numbers are generally low, but there are some areas of high activity in Queensland Darling Downs and Roma, and moderate activity in Eyre Peninsula, SA, parts of WA and Wimmera of Victoria (as a result of grain loss after hailstorms at harvest). Because of patchy activity between paddocks, growers are advised to monitor across multiple paddocks to gauge mouse numbers to inform management decisions. Focus on paddocks that had grain loss (particularly barley) (please report on MouseAlert [www.mousealert.org.au](http://www.mousealert.org.au)).

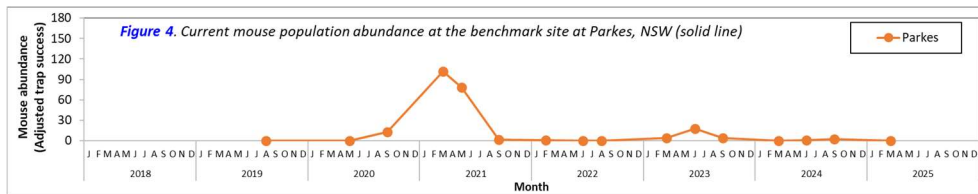
- **South Australia:** Moderate isolated activity on EP, but generally low elsewhere. Eyre Peninsula: isolated patches of moderate activity. Adelaide Plains: nil activity from 8 sites, low activity on 2 sites: 1 mouse was caught on trapping grids at Benchmark site at Mallala (<1% trap success), which is very low (Figure 2) with low densities (<5 mice/ha). Yorke Peninsula: nil on 10 sites, low on 2 sites.



- **Queensland:** Mouse activity is highly variable with high activity at some sites. Darling Downs: nil activity on 11 sites, low on 4 sites, moderate on 4 sites (~10% chew card activity or 50-100 active burrows/ha), high on 1 site (200 active burrows/ha). Goondiwindi: nil on 8 sites, low on 1 site. Monitoring conducted Jan/Feb.
- **Western Australia:** Patches of moderate mouse activity, otherwise generally low. Detailed reports forthcoming. We thank Farmanco for coordinating monitoring.
- **Victoria:** Moderate isolated activity in parts of Wimmera, but otherwise generally low. Mallee: nil activity on 9 sites, low on 4 sites, moderate on 1 site (75 active burrows/ha). No mice were caught on trap grids at Benchmark site at Walpeup (=0% trap success, Figure 3). Wimmera: nil on 6 sites, low on 1 site, moderate on 1 site (up to 50 burrows/ha).



- **New South Wales (Northern, Central & Southern):** Mouse activity low. Parkes: nil activity at 11 sites. No mice were captured at Benchmark site at Parkes (0% = trap success) (Figure 4). Northern Moree: nil activity on 7 sites, low on 2 sites. Gin Gin: no reports. Liverpool Plains: nil on 10 sites, and low on 1 site. Southern (Coleambally): nil on 2 sites, moderate on 1 site, high on 1 site (150 active burrows/ha). Riverina: nil on 7 sites, low on 2 sites. We thank North West Local Land Services, Central West Farming Systems and NSW DPIRD for mouse monitoring.



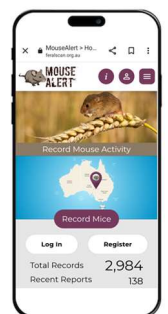
## The ‘Mouse Forecast’

New mouse forecast models are being developed and will be run once data have been collected from the winter 2025 (June/Jul) mouse monitoring. A new set of forecast maps are being developed – watch this space!

## Future activities

The next scheduled monitoring is set for June/July 2025 in all regions. Please continue to report mouse abundance on your farm (presence and absence!) using **MouseAlert** ([www.mousealert.org.au](http://www.mousealert.org.au)). Download the **MouseAlert** App from [iTunes app store](#) or [Google play](#) (click on hyperlink to download). You can also follow progress on X (formerly Twitter) ([@MouseAlert](#)). Instructions on how to use **MouseAlert** are available [here](#).

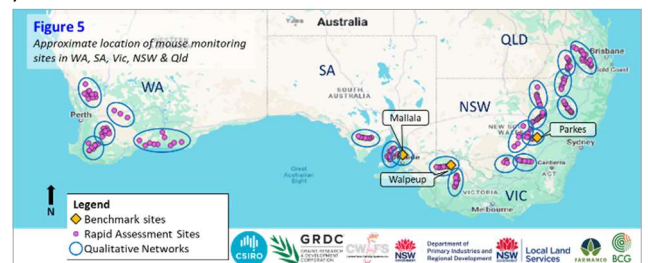
MouseAlert Smartphone app → [www.mousealert.org.au](http://www.mousealert.org.au)



## Background

These *Mouse Updates* are put together through consultation with the National Mouse Group (NMG), a grower-led group made up of 20-30 members who meet 3x a year to discuss the current mouse situation and develop management recommendations. The NMG comprises grower representatives, state government staff and industry reps from grain growing states, plus GRDC and CSIRO. These *Mouse Updates* are made possible through GRDC’s investment in CSP2501-006RTX (*Mouse surveillance and monitoring to inform leading practice*). Monitoring data is collected 3x a year (Figure 5; in collaboration with NSW DPIRD, NSW LLS, CWFS, BCG, & Farmanco) is used in the forecast models and is summarised in these *Mouse Updates*.

- **Benchmark sites** (◆): live trapping data collected for use in models in SA, Vic, and NSW.
- **Quantitative rapid-assessment sites** (●): mouse chew cards & active mouse burrow counts (190 transects, 19 areas).
- **Qualitative monitoring networks** (○): from farmers and agronomists in 19 local areas.



## Further information & handy resources

Dr Peter Brown – ([Peter.Brown@csiro.au](mailto:Peter.Brown@csiro.au)) CSIRO Health & Biosecurity, Canberra  
 Steve Henry – (X: [@MouseAlert](#)) ([Steve.Henry@csiro.au](mailto:Steve.Henry@csiro.au)) CSIRO Health & Biosecurity, Canberra

- 1 GRDC Mouse Control website: <https://grdc.com.au/resources-and-publications/resources/mouse-management>
- 2 MouseAlert (hosted by FeralScan): <https://www.feralscan.org.au/mousealert/>
- 3 Dept of Ag., Fisheries & Forestry (DAFF): <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/mouse-infestation>
- 4 CSIRO rodent management: <https://research.csiro.au/rm/>