

Rutherglen bug

Risk Forecasting and Management

El Niño Southern Oscillation

- El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions are linked with Rutherglen bug pest 'outbreaks', based on a new analysis of a 25-year CSIRO dataset.
- High Rutherglen bug populations can be anticipated when a mild/wet La Niña summer is forecast to follow an extreme hot/dry El Niño (see figure below).
- Currently, we are moving from La Niña into an El Niño summer (2023/24), and anticipate that the risk of Rutherglen bug populations in summer crops will increase (see figure below). This is likely due to the 'green bridge' of surrounding vegetation: when this dries up populations concentrate in the summer crops.

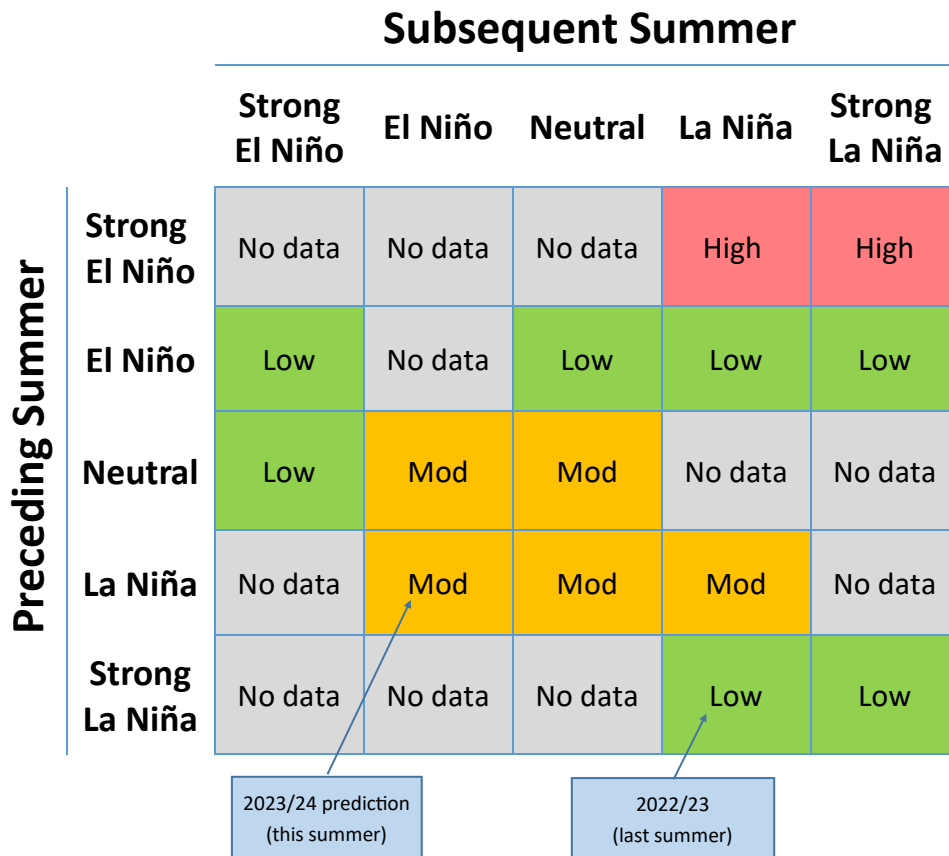


Figure indicates the Rutherglen bug pest pressure that can be expected given the preceding and subsequent summer ENSO conditions.