

GRASS CURING GUIDE

% CURED	WILL IT IGNITE?	FLAME HEIGHTS	SPREAD NOTES	SUPPRESSION DIFFICULTY
GREEN PHASE				
0				
10				
20	No	N/A	Fire fails to spread	N/A
30				
YELLOW PHASE				
40	Maybe, especially if substantial thatch is present	Low, typically lower than fuel height	Fire front will be fragmented. Fuel consumption will be patchy. Fire will be carried by thatch underneath current season's growth. Smoky.	Low
50				
60	Yes	Medium	Fragmented fire front with faster spread rates in areas of dry fuels. Patchy fuel consumption. Smoky.	Moderate
DRY PHASE				
70	Yes	Medium	Fire spread will be moderate. Patchy areas of green will slow spread. Smoky.	High
80	Yes	High	Fire spread will be fast. Under strong winds, fire will be difficult to suppress.	High
90	Yes	High	Fire spread will be very fast under strong winds.	Very high
100	Yes	High	Fire spread will be very fast under strong winds.	Very high

During spring, grasses undergo a period of growth that is normally completed by late spring to early summer, depending on grass species and seasonal variables such as rainfall and temperature. By early summer, most grasses have produced a fully mature seed head and have already begun to lose their ability to draw moisture from the soil.

As the summer progresses, the grass continues to dry out and will eventually die or become dormant. As grasses cure, the amount of moisture within the grass decreases and the amount of dead material in the grassland increases, heightening the potential for fire to ignite and spread in these fuels.

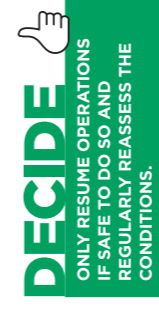
Good rain across NSW has led to both increased grass and crop growth. Many farmers are reporting the potential for some of the best yields in years. As harvest operations begin, operators and farmers alike will be closely monitoring conditions to ensure that their crop doesn't go up in smoke.

A Harvest Safety Alert may be issued for your district when necessary. Harvest Safety Alerts provide a signal to farmers that they should be taking extra precautions during harvesting operations to prevent the ignition and spread of fire due to the prevailing weather conditions.

Grass Curing Guide and images provided by the Victorian Country Fire Authority.

GRAIN HARVESTING GUIDE

A very simple tool, the Grain Harvesting Guide enables farmers to measure their local weather conditions and determine if they should continue or delay harvesting operations due to fire risks.



GRAIN HARVESTING AND FIRE SAFETY

Is the wind speed too high for me to harvest right now?

- 1 Measure the current temperature, humidity and wind speed on your property. Average out the wind speed over 10 minutes and round down humidity readings.
- 2 Using your temperature and humidity readings, find the maximum recommended wind speed in the table. For example, a temperature of 40° and 15% humidity equals 26 kph.
- 3 If the wind speed you've recorded is equal to or greater than the wind speed in the table, it is recommended you do not harvest. Reassess weather conditions later.

Produced in partnership with the NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW Farmers and Australian Custom Harvesters

Current Temperature	Current Relative Humidity									
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	40%	50%	60%	65%
15°C	31	35	38	40	43	45	49	53	56	58
20°C	29	33	36	38	40	43	46	50	53	55
25°C	27	30	33	36	38	40	44	47	50	52
30°C	25	28	31	33	35	37	41	44	47	49
35°C	23	26	28	31	33	35	38	41	44	46
40°C	21	24	26	28	30	32	35	39	41	43
45°C	19	22	24	26	28	30	33	36	39	40

Average Wind Speed (kph) that equates to 35 GFDI

Is the wind speed you recorded equal to or greater than the wind speed shown above? If yes, it is recommended you do not harvest. Check weather conditions later.



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

FIRE DANGER RATINGS - www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fdr
LATEST WEATHER - www.bom.gov.au

BUSH FIRE INFORMATION LINE - 1800 679 737
REPORT ALL FIRES TO TRIPLE ZERO - 000