Monitoring mice in Australia – November 2025

Summary

- **There is moderate-high mouse activity in Adelaide Plains & Yorke Peninsula (SA), with some patches of moderate-high activity in Coleambally & Moree (NSW), Wimmera (VIC), and Goondiwindi (QLD)** (Figure 1)**.** Mouse activity is very patchy (moderate in one field, but low in the next). Growers should remain vigilant. Mice are unlikely to cause economic damage to maturing winter crops, but growers should remain vigilant over summer as they may cause serious damage at seeding in autumn 2026.
- **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 are useful at this time of year). There is always a chance of isolated patches of higher mouse activity, particularly if crops are storm damaged.
- Please report and map mouse activity using *MouseAlert* (www.mousealert.org.au) so other growers can see what mouse activity is being observed in their local area. Follow on X using *@MouseAlert*.

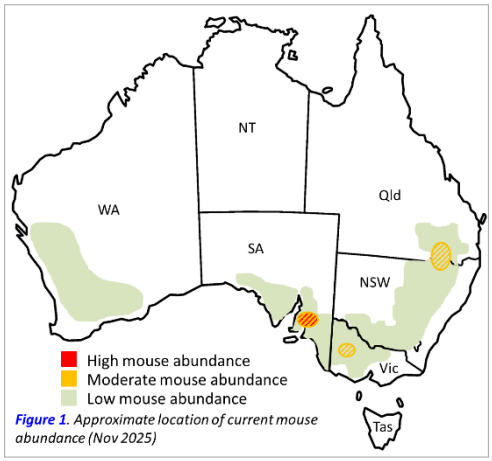


Figure 1. Approximate location of current mouse abundance (Nov 2025)

Management recommendations

Mouse numbers and activity are generally low, but there are pockets of moderate-high activity. Crop yields in many areas are expected to be low to average, which can mask signs of mouse presence. While mice are unlikely to cause economic damage as crops mature, growers should remain vigilant (especially in regions with moderate-high activity) through summer and into autumn seeding (2026), as populations may increase and cause serious damage. Be cautious in storm-affected fields, where damage and mouse numbers can be hidden. As crops mature, abundant high-quality food will become available, and mouse activity can rise quickly under favourable conditions. To reduce this risk, harvest as cleanly as possible (avoid grain loss; see link) so mice do not have access to food. Lower background food levels will improve the effectiveness of rodenticide baits if baiting is required. Monitoring in Feb–Mar 2026 will be critical to track mouse activity. For detailed control options, visit the GRDC Mouse Control site.

1. Growers are encouraged to **harvest as cleanly as possible** (see videos) not just to maximise harvest but also to minimise food levels for mice. Food resources left in paddocks could sustain mouse breeding, leading to higher mouse numbers at seeding next year. **Clean up any grain spillages** to remove any background food for mice.
2. **Look for signs of activity as you harvest** and monitor through the stubble phase, as any paddocks with mouse activity now could develop into a problem in the lead up to autumn sowing.
3. **Be aware that only ZnP25 baits are currently available** (the Emergency Permit for ZnP50 has lapsed and this bait is not available). As with use of any agricultural chemical, use the product in accordance with conditions on the label, and report any adverse or off target effects via APVMA website.

Current situation

Mouse numbers are generally low, but there are some areas of moderate-high activity in South Australia (Adelaide Plains & Yorke Peninsula). There are some isolated patches of moderate or high activity in some areas. 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 affected by wind damage (particularly barley) (please report on *MouseAlert*).

- **South Australia: Isolated patches of moderate-high activity, but low elsewhere.** Eyre Peninsula: activity is low. Adelaide Plains: nil activity from 4 sites, low activity on 3 sites, moderate activity on 1 sites and high activity on 2 sites: 28 mice were caught on trapping grids at Benchmark site at Mallala (17.5% trap success), which is very high for this time of year (Figure 2) with moderate densities (20-60 mice/ha). Yorke Peninsula: nil on 2 sites, low on 9 sites and moderate on 1 site.

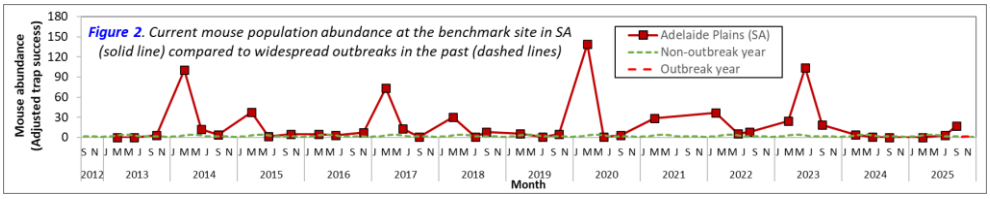
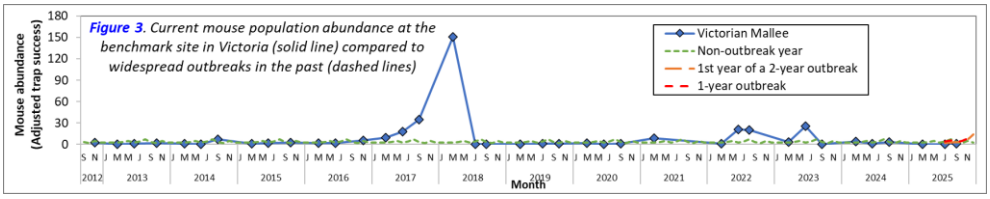
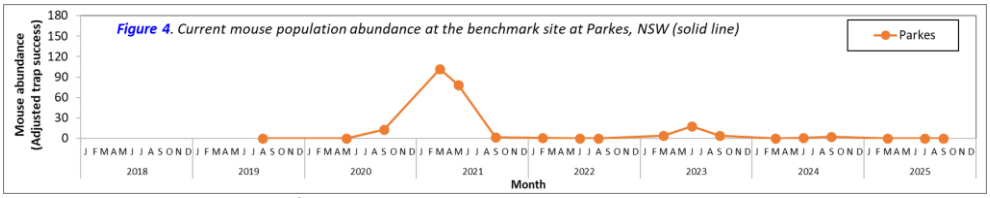


Figure 2. Current mouse population abundance at the benchmark site in SA (solid line) compared to widespread outbreaks in the past (dashed lines)

- **Queensland: Mouse activity is generally low.** Darling Downs: nil activity on 15 sites, low on 4 sites. Goondiwindi: nil on 6 sites, low on 1 site, high on 1 site (200 burrows/ha).
- **Western Australia: Mouse activity generally low.** Detailed reports forthcoming. We thank Farmanco for coordinating monitoring.
- **Victoria: Generally low activity except for one site in the Wimmera East (high activity)**. Mallee: nil activity on 14 sites. Four mice were caught on trap grids at Benchmark site at Walpeup (=1.3% trap success, which is very low, Figure 3). Wimmera East: nil on 7 sites, low on 2 sites, high on 1 site (up to 125 burrows/ha). Wimmera West: nil on 9 sites, low on 2 sites. We thank BCG for mouse monitoring.



- **New South Wales: Mouse activity low**. Parkes: nil activity at 11 sites, low activity at 1 site. One mouse was captured at Benchmark site at Parkes (0.3% = trap success) (Figure 4). Moree: nil activity on 6 sites, low on 1 site, moderate on 1 site and high on 1 site (all chew cards with chewing). Gin Gin: no reports. Liverpool Plains: nil on 10 sites. Coleambally: low on 3 sites, moderate on 1 site. Condobolin: nil activity on 7 sites. Coonamble: nil activity on 3 sites. Riverina: nil on 9 sites. We thank North West Local Land Services, Central West Farming Systems and NSW DPIRD for mouse monitoring.

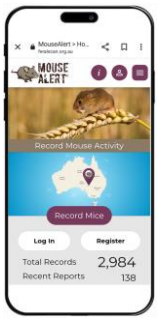


The 'Mouse Forecast'

Northwest Victoria: The probability of an outbreak in autumn 2026 is **0.21-0.35** (**low**) (depending on November rainfall). Peak abundance will be **low** in autumn (around **10-20 mice/ha**).

Adelaide Plains: The probability of an outbreak in autumn 2026 is **0.31-0.47** (**mod-high**) (depending on November rainfall).

Central Darling Downs: Mouse activity has declined across the region to low activity. The Mid-Term Plague Prediction is likely to remain "**Low**" for an outbreak in May 2026.



Future activities

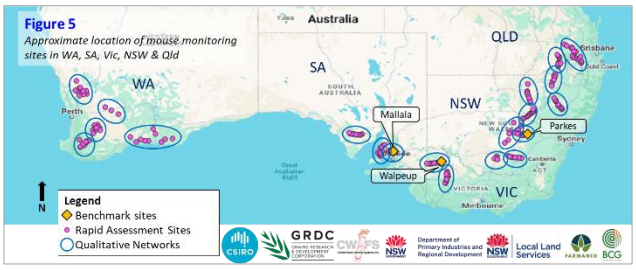
The next scheduled monitoring is set for autumn 2026 (Mar/Apr) in all regions. Please continue to report mouse abundance on your farm (presence and absence!) using ***MouseAlert*** (*www.mousealert.org.au*). Download the ***MouseAlert*** App from iTunes app store or Google play (click on hyperlink to 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

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 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

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