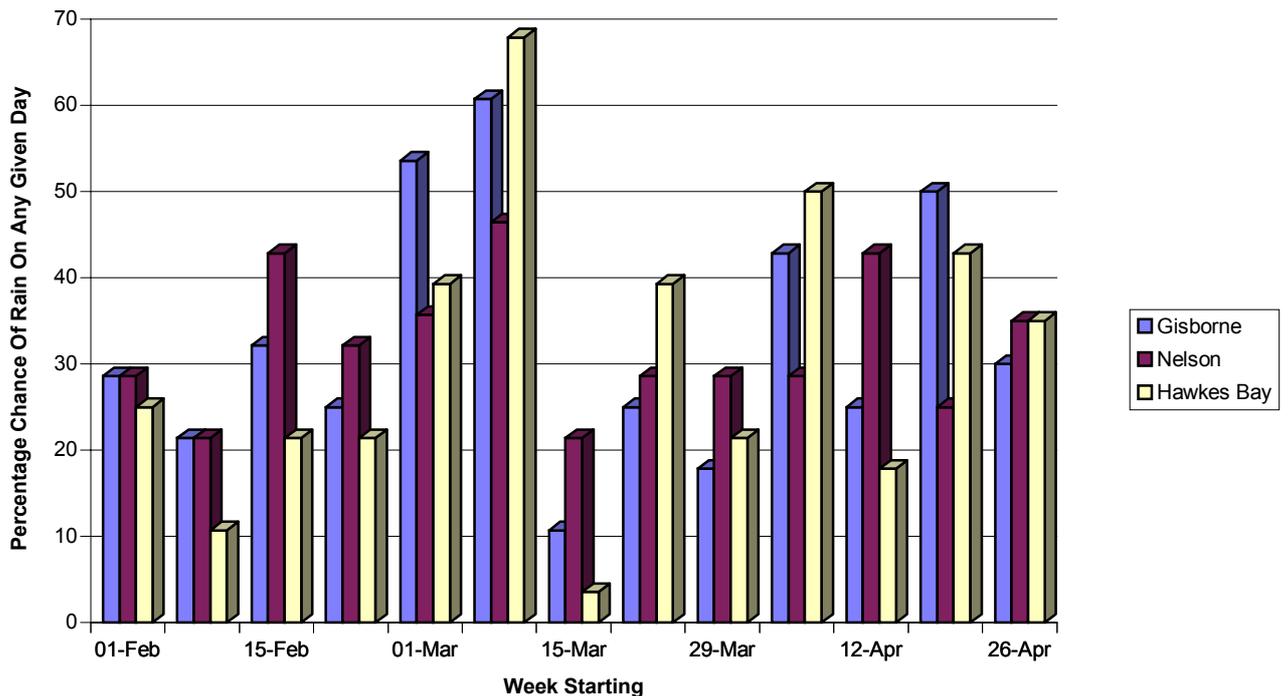


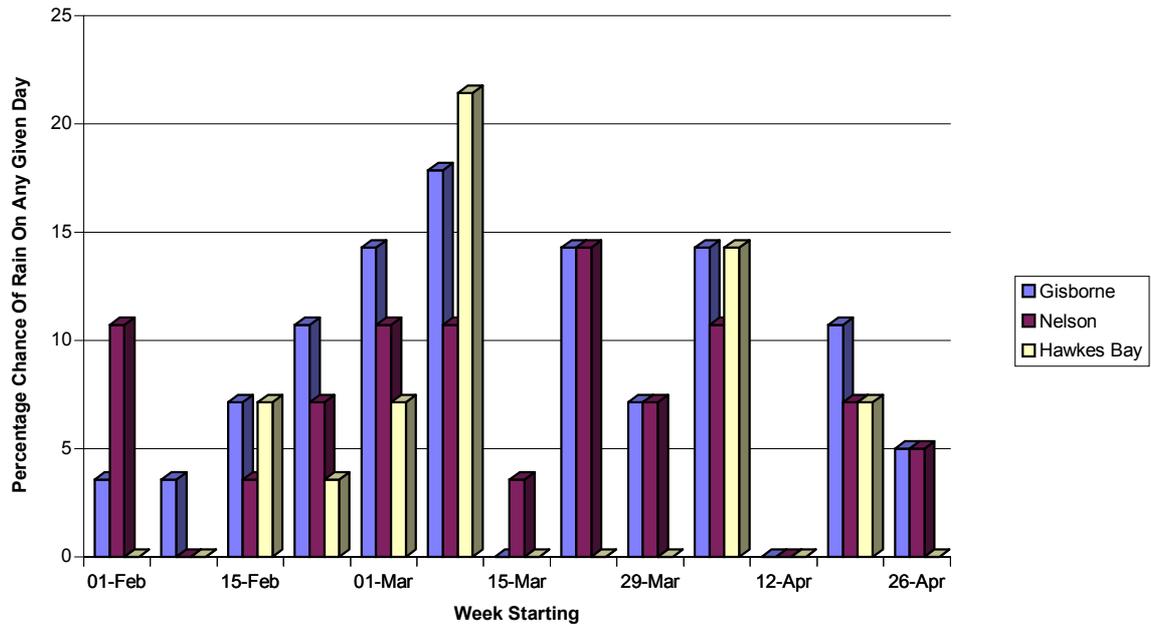
Put two human beings together for ten minutes, and they are almost guaranteed to discuss the weather at some point! With the harvest upon us, rain seems to be featuring heavily in the discussions.

This months weather analysis looks at what are the chances of getting a rainy day during the period February - April. This analysis is based on the past 4 years of rainfall data (3 years in the case of Hawkes Bay) collected at recording weather stations, and then exported from the MetWatch programme and analysed in Microsoft Excel.



Graph 1. Chances of getting at least some rain (1mm or more) on any given day.

The first graph shows the chances of getting at least a sprinkling of rain on any given day. For example during the week of 15 February, Nelson over the past 4 years has had a 45% chance of at least some rain on any day of that week; which you can interpret as meaning that on any given day there was a 50/50 chance of at least a little bit of rain.



Graph 2. Chances of getting more than 10mm of rain on any given day.

The second graph shows the chances of getting at least 10mm of rain during the day for the period February - April. I was surprised at just how grotty the beginning of March appears to be! With a 20+ percentage chance of at least 10mm of rain on any given day during the week of 8 March in Hawkes Bay for the past 3 years, you probably would not want to leave home without your umbrella. With only 3 or 4 years data in these analyses you do not want to read too much into it for your harvest planning... but at least you have some numbers you can now bandy about with the neighbour next time you are discussing the weather over a cuppa while watching the rain come down!

The information provided here is for entertainment only. For more information on HortPlus MetWatch software and weather station access you can call 0800 HORTPLUS (0800 438 467); or check the web site at [www.hortplus.com](http://www.hortplus.com); or email me at [trevor.atkins@hortplus.com](mailto:trevor.atkins@hortplus.com)