

Spring Temperatures Around New Zealand

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Another Spring, and once again the guessing game begins as to how this year compares with past seasons. This month we taken the guesswork out of assessing current year Spring temperatures against historical weather by once again using the new graphing facilities in HortPlus™ MetWatch, combined with the historic weather data files available on the HortPlus website.

For some it has been a challenging start to the year waiting for the right conditions to apply thinning sprays. Not only have temperatures been frequently cool, but winds have not been overly co-operative. This was an excellent time to have access to a good weather forecast. A number of our clients mentioned the use to which they put the HortPlus/MetService hour-by-hour forecast, especially when coupled with the other excellent resources available via the Internet.

Figure 1 illustrates the accumulated heat so far this season during a critical time for development of many horticultural crops.

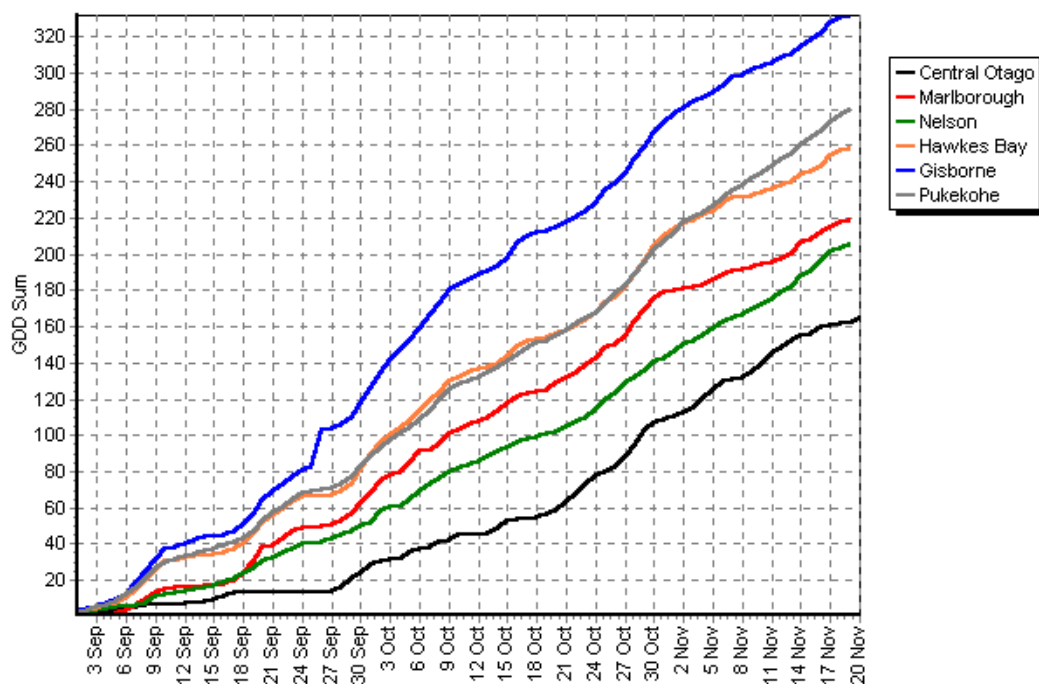


Figure 1. Accumulated Growing Degree Days for current season at various locations around New Zealand.

Of even greater interest is the comparison of accumulated heat between seasons within a region. Figure 2 illustrates accumulated heat units during the period 1 September to 20 November in the Nelson area and Figure 3 the Gisborne area. The very cooler conditions of mid-November are very apparent in the results for both regions.

All graphs were created using HortPlus™ MetWatch with a base temperature set to 10°C and the new cut and paste facilities for using MetWatch graphics in report production.

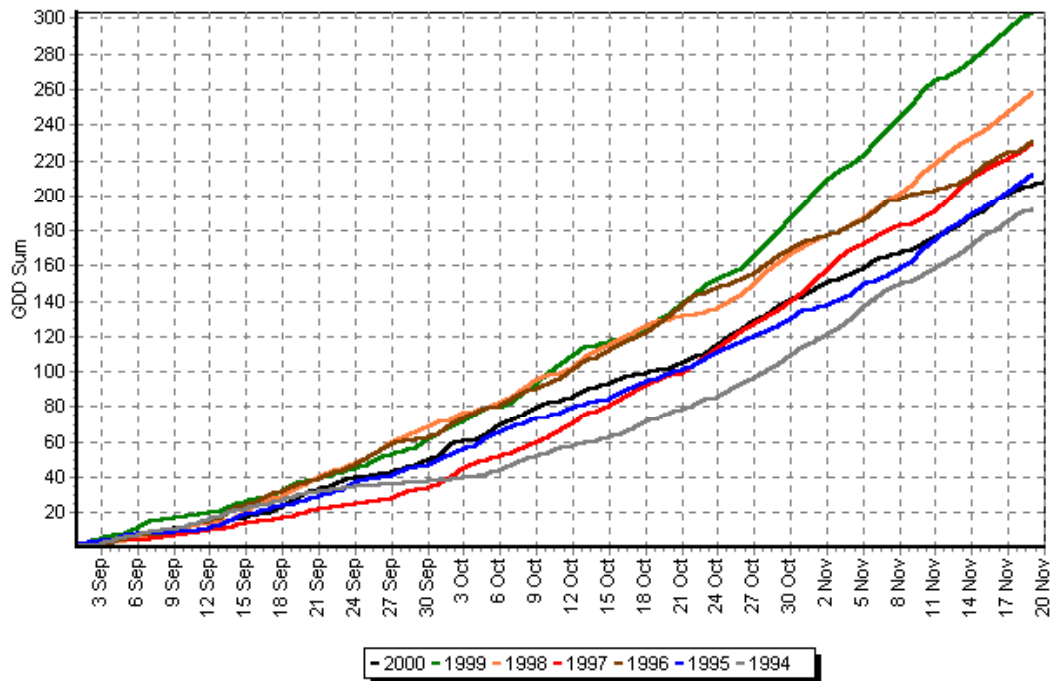


Figure 2. Nelson area accumulated heat over a number of seasons.

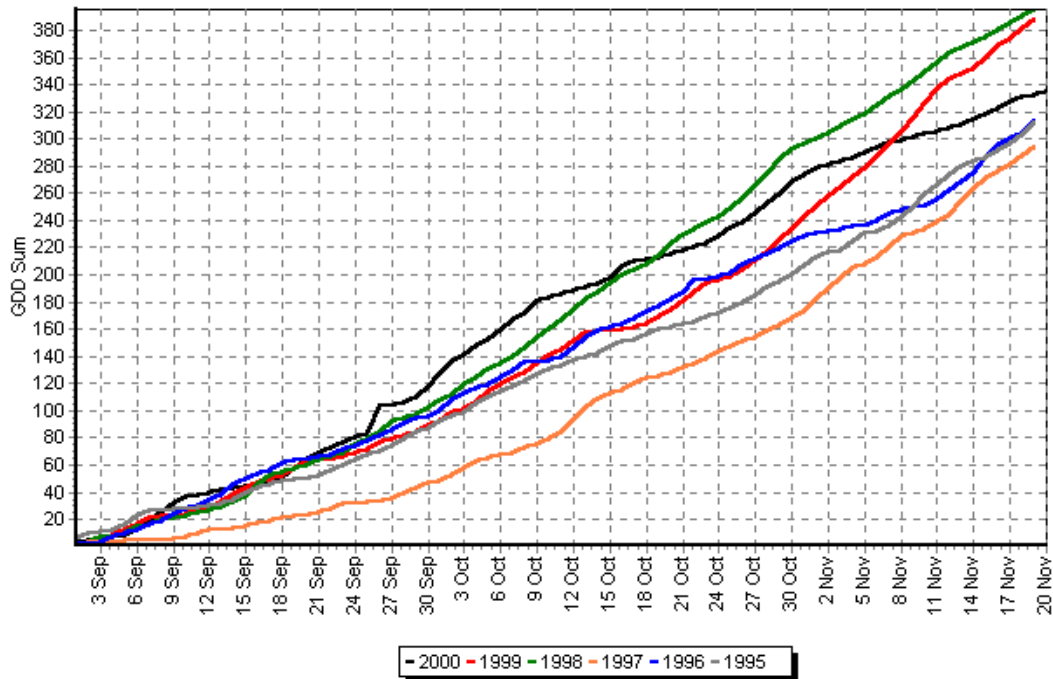


Figure 3. Gisborne area accumulated heat over a number of seasons.