

## Keeping A WeatherEye™ Out

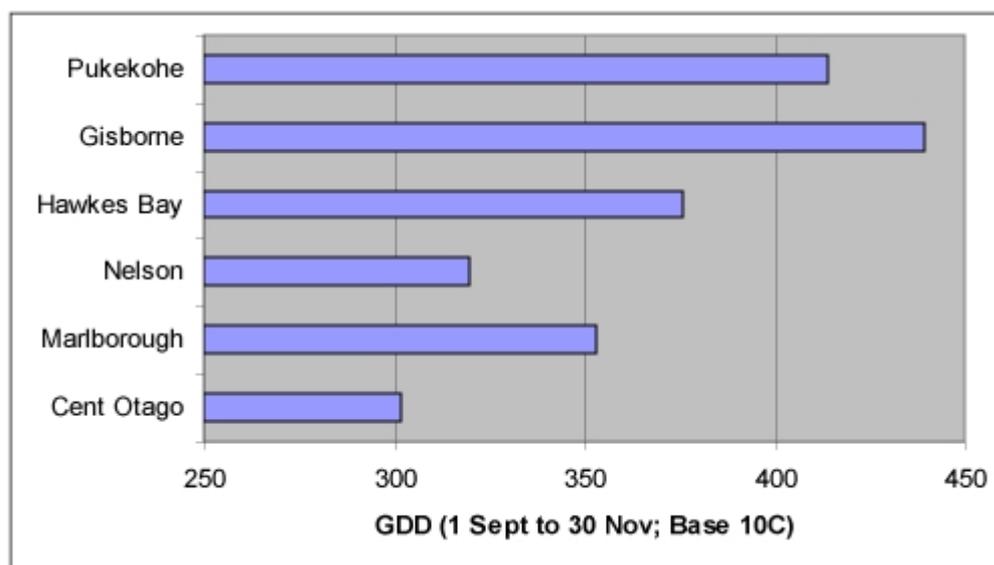
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WeatherEye is an email and fax based information service for growers of all types of crops throughout New Zealand. WeatherEye provides critical weather information, including an hour-by-hour forecast for the next 2-3 days, and summaries of weather recorded on the 50+ weather stations located in all the major growing areas. For those growing apples, grapes and summerfruit there is additional information provided on disease risk based on interpreting the weather data via scientific models.

One of the vital pieces of information presented in every day's issue of WeatherEye is a summary of temperature information. Winter chill summaries are provided in winter, and Growing Degree Day summaries at other times. Growing Degree Days are a means of objectively comparing the amount of heat driving plant growth between seasons and between locations.

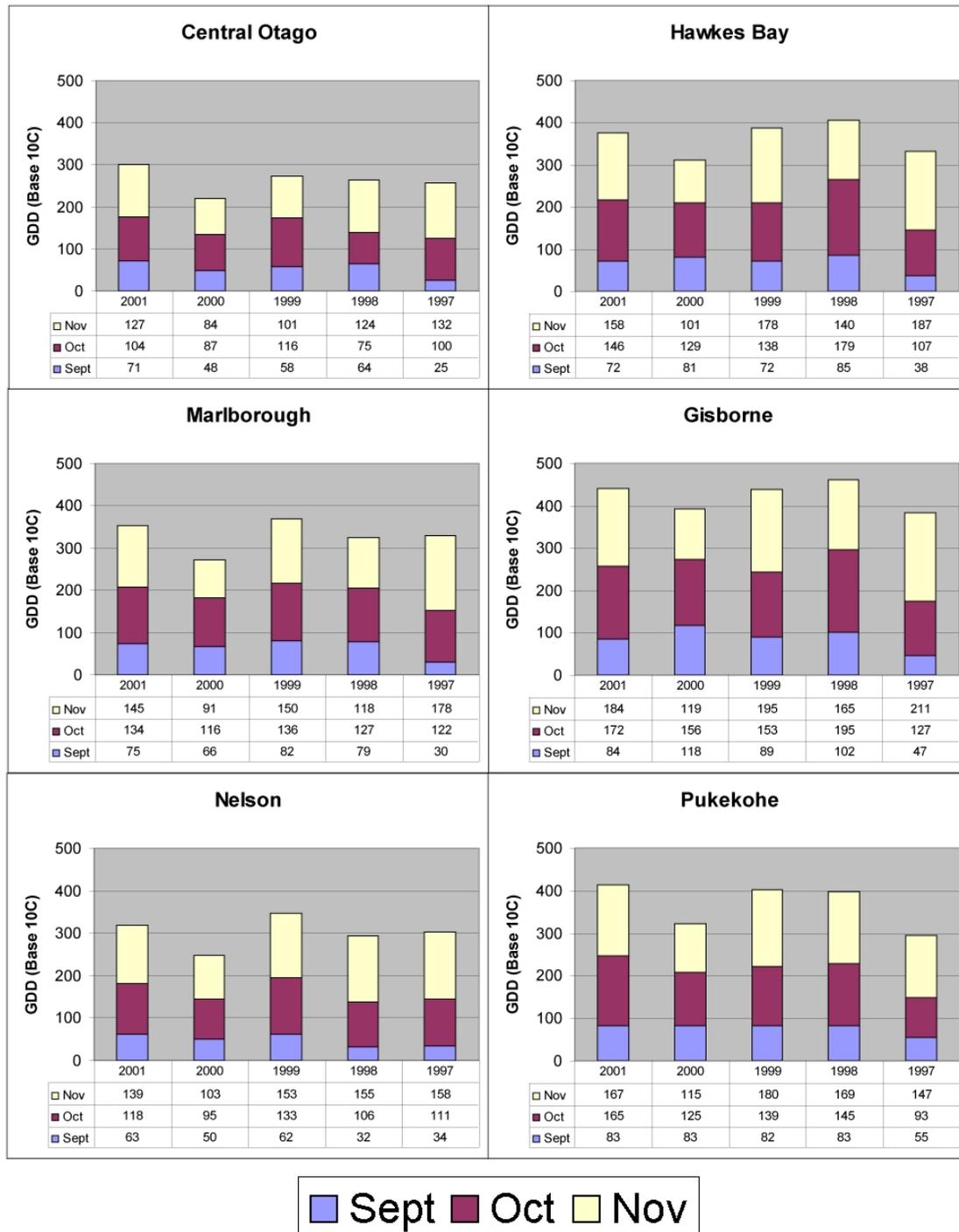
Spring and early summer heat totals are always of great interest as these early season temperatures have a large effect in determining final size and quality of most crops. New Zealand's wide range of growing conditions is well illustrated in Figure 1 showing total Growing Degree Days for various regions for the months of September to November 2001.



**Figure 1. Growing Degree Days for the period September to November, 2001 across New Zealand.**

How these regional totals compare between seasons is the subject of Figure 2. This figure additionally shows the accumulation of heat by month at each location. For the period September to November, this season is the warmest or the second warmest of the five years shown in virtually all areas. The only downside to this is the weather systems bringing this warm weather have produced some interesting conditions for

disease control in many areas. But that is another story. (And one whose plot is followed with interest every day by WeatherEye clients.)



**Figure 2. Comparison of Growing Degree Days between seasons for the period September to November across New Zealand.**