

How Many Words Are There For Rain?

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As an ex-pat Canadian, I know about snow. And like all Canadians, I know the urban legend that because snow is such a part of the life of the Canadian Eskimo that they have between 50 and 120 different words to describe snow in its various guises.

After this past couple of months, I wonder how many words were added to the Kiwi lexicon to describe rain?!

With a break in the weather appearing it seemed to be a good time to dry out our boots, shake off the swanni, and review how this past couple of months of rain compares with previous seasons. This comparison was done using the HortPlus MetWatch software to summarise the rainfall recorded at weather stations situated throughout the major growing areas. Rainfall totals were determined for each of the months of October, November, December, and the first 3 weeks of January. These are presented in the accompanying figure.

To state the obvious, in all but one of the areas reviewed, this has been the wettest summer of the past 5 years. In every area except Central Otago we have seen more rain in virtually every month of the summer. So if you have been feeling a bit waterlogged, if you have been wondering if it has been as damp as it felt, the answer is in and it is official. This summer has so far been The Big Wet.



Comparing Rainfall Between Seasons & Areas

