



Why is the Mango Timing Forecast so important to your business?

Chelsea Hennessy, Industry Development Officer, DPIFM Darwin

What is it?

The Mango Crop Forecast shows the predicted time for the harvest peaks in the Northern Territory, north Queensland and northern Western Australia. It is based on flowering surveys from growers and heat sum calculations which convert flowering data into a harvest pattern. The forecast is used by the NT industry to plan for each harvest.

Each year the forecast is checked against the actual production for the season through information from the major packing sheds and consolidators.

Forecasts are updated fortnightly so that the information remains accurate.

Why is it necessary?

Mangoes are highly seasonal with periods of heavy and light supply fluctuating greatly. They are extremely perishable and need to be moved quickly through the supply chain for good shelf life and best eating quality.

The major production areas (NT, northern QLD and northern WA) are often many thousands of kilometres from the major markets (Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth).

These factors cause the industry to have problems with:

- harvest labour;
- transport;
- logistics;
- cooling and ripening infrastructure;
- quality outturns;

Growers often “jump the gun” in anticipation of being swamped by other local growers or following regions with the price plummeting. This has resulted in immature fruit being harvested and dropping prices. The crop forecast allows you to manage the season more effectively.

How can it help?

The crop forecast identifies peak periods of production and potential overlaps between regions. This allows growers and packers to organise labour and transport to correspond to the peaks in their regions.

It provides seasonal volumes estimates, identifying large, medium or small volumes which in turn can impact on the availability of labour and transport.

The crop forecast also predicts the timing of the season, which has an impact on the likelihood of rain and the potential for disease. This can be used in conjunction with the Bureau of Meteorology information to help you make informed decisions on disease management.

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY, FISHERIES AND MINES

Crops, Forestry and
Horticulture Division

GPO Box 3000

Darwin NT 0801

Tel: 08 8999 2357

Fax: 08 8999 2049

Email: horticulture@nt.gov.au

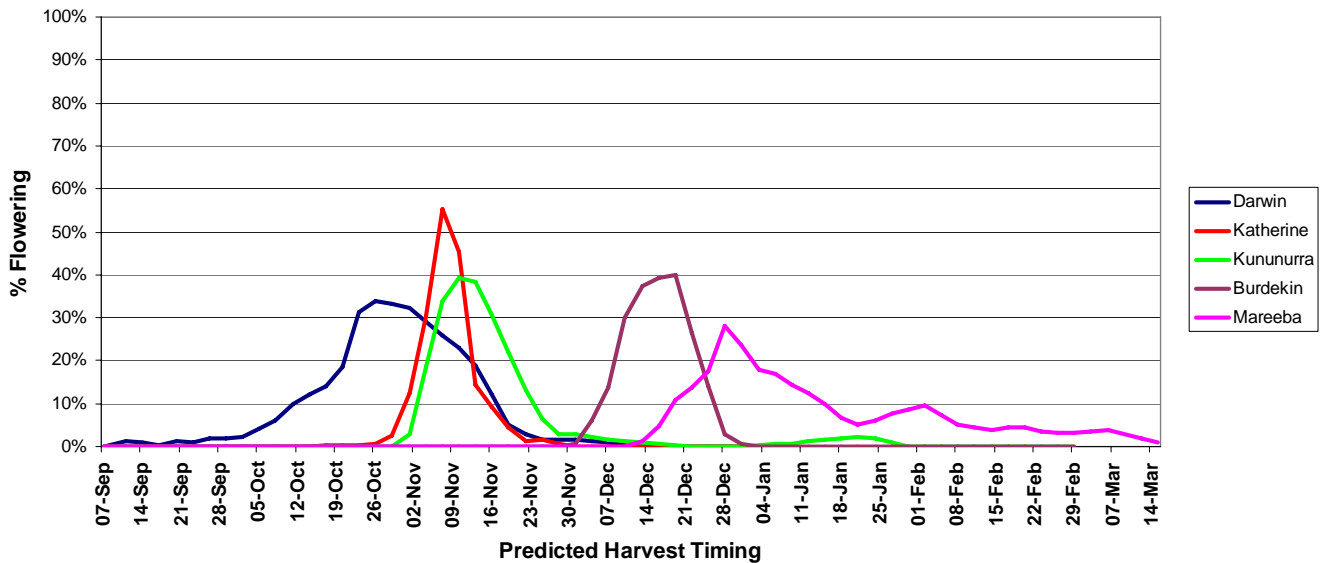
Web: www.horticulture.nt.gov.au

Disclaimer:

While all reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the information contained in this publication is correct, the information covered is subject to change. The Northern Territory Government does not assume and hereby disclaims any express or implied liability whatsoever to any party for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions, whether these errors or omissions result from negligence, accident or any other cause.

Combined Mango Timing Forecast Update 1 December 2007

Sample size
 Darwin Region: 167,500 trees
 Katherine Region: 114,000 trees
 Kununurra region : 108,600 trees
 Burdekin region: 65,500 trees
 Mareeba: 58,500 trees



The 2007 Forecast

The 2007 forecast accurately predicted a late season with overlaps between the Darwin and Katherine regions; this caused some transport and labour difficulties in Katherine. The timing of the season meant that fruit was still on the trees in late October and November, when the rains started, which led to a high incidence of Anthracnose and Stem End Rot.

The Mango Crop Forecast is published on the DPIFM web site fortnightly starting in August each year. If you are a grower and would like to submit flowering information the mango flowering survey will be online from June. Visit www.horticulture.nt.gov.au for more information.