



FruitLook May 2019: Winter is coming

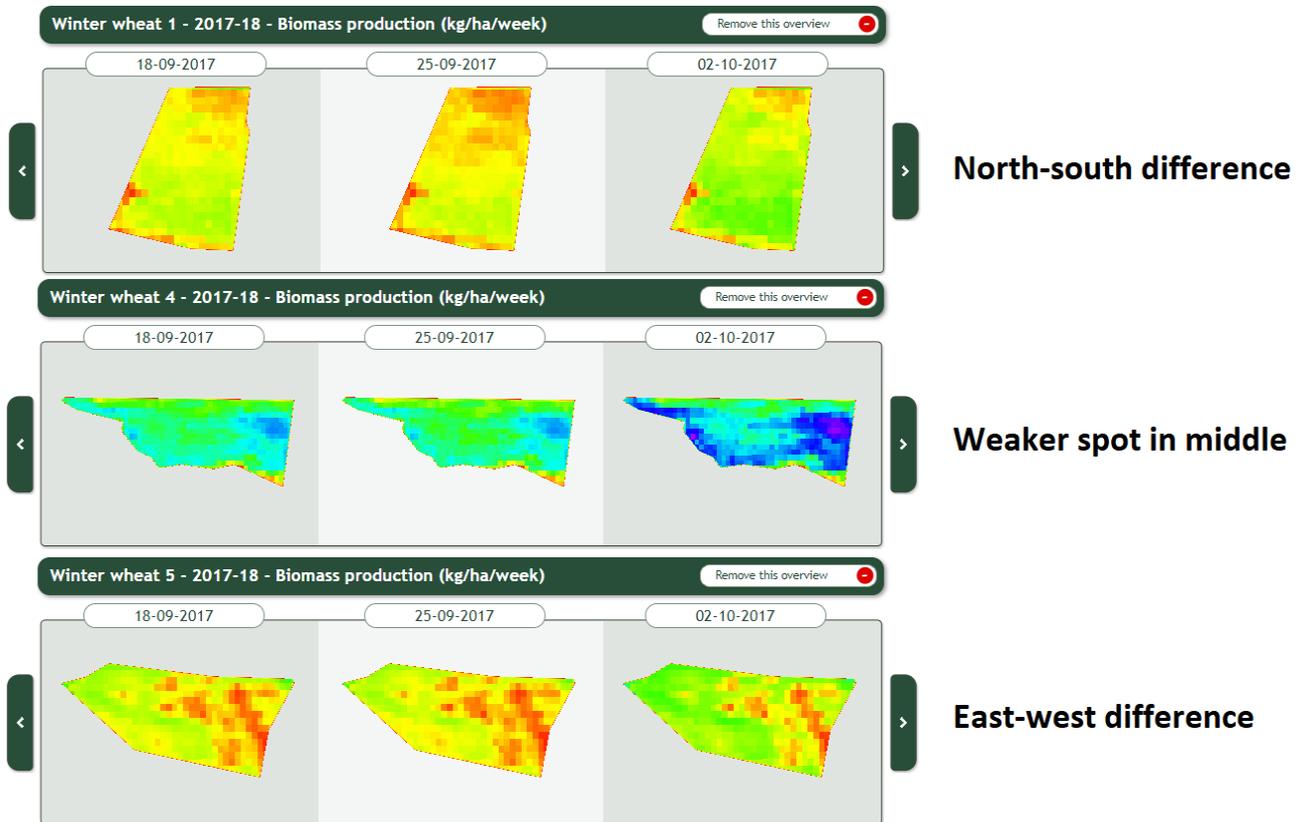
Dear Mr. Doe,

Normally our May-newsletter announces the closure of the running FruitLook season. Not this year though! For the first time in 10 years, FruitLook 2018-19 covers a full calendar year. This means the delivery of weekly data products will continue until the end of July 2019. Therefore we will monitor the closure of the summer season as well as the start of the rainfed winter cropping period.

In this newsletter, we discuss one example in which FruitLook information can be used for rainfed crops. If you would like to further explore FruitLook data use for your farm you are kindly invited to join [our monthly training sessions](#) at Elsenburg. The next training days are Thursday 9 May 2019, Thursday 13 June 2019 and Thursday 4 July 2019: you can register via info@fruitlook.co.za.

How to use FruitLook for determining your winter wheat fertilizer regime? While rain is the most important driver of a healthy rainfed crop, the right amount of fertilizer at the right location is also key. The soil needs to be prepared and regenerated with nutrients after last year's crop production process. In order to do so effectively, it is relevant to take into account the absolute crop growth as well as the production variation in your field. Hence, how do you do this?

There are two generally used information sources which can help you make your decisions. Number one being soil samples, normally taken at a half-hectare grid, to determine the status of your soil prior to planting. Secondly, most modern harvesters are equipped with GPS and capable of producing yield maps. This gives you a direct overview of the variability in your field at the end of the crop production process. By combining soil samples with yield maps both quantity and variation of nutrient requirements of your soil are captured.



FruitLook brings you a third source of information. Both the NDVI and biomass production can provide insight in block variation and productivity, both after and during the season. It is easily visualized in FruitLook, either via MyFields Overview or within MyField Analysis. Some examples are displayed above. Remember you can adjust the colour legend underneath the pictures to better display block variation. With each pixel being 20mx20m resolution, these high resolution overview maps can enhance your insight in the spatial variation within your block. It thereby helps you to make better decisions on fertilizer regimes across a field showing variation.

Additionally, there is a strong relationship between the biomass production (in kg/ha) provided on FruitLook and dry matter yield (in kg/ha) for field crops. Using the (cumulative) biomass production data can also provide more insight in how blocks compare in terms of nutrient uptake. Just keep in mind the cumulative biomass production will reflect growth over a period of fallow and crop growth for winter grains, as the cumulative biomass production is summed from 1 August 2018 onwards.

To our winter crop producers: we wish you a productive season. To our summer crop producers: we sincerely hope your production season has been successful and FruitLook has been of benefit to you. Please remember our Elsenburg training sessions will continue throughout the winter, covering both training on FruitLook basics as well as individual consultancy sessions.

If you have any remarks/questions about this newsletter or FruitLook in general, feel free to contact us via info@fruitlook.co.za. We hope to see you again soon on FruitLook.

The FruitLook Team



