

# Bananas and climate change in Australia

Some of the possible climate change impacts that could occur in subtropical banana growing regions in Australia include:

- Drier, hotter springs could mean water shortages. Evaporation rates are expected to increase with rising temperatures, resulting in increased irrigation demands.
- Hotter temperatures will mean losses of fruit due to sunburn. Higher temperatures will probably also impact fruit size and bunch emergence.
- Plantations are typically planted with ground covers to retain moisture. However, these could be compromised with prolonged dry conditions and hotter temperatures.
- Plantations without irrigation will be more susceptible to stress.
- Increased storm frequency and intensity earlier in the year, resulting in banana 'blowdowns, damage to shuttler structures and windbreaks, and damage to infrastructure.
- Increased risk of disease due to extended leaf wetness and soil saturation.
- Increased leaf tearing from more frequent and intense storms resulting in reduced opportunities for photosynthetic ability.
- Changes in temperature and climate will see changes to pest/predator ratios (e.g. tropical zone pests may move further south).
- Possible increase in flying fox damage in plantations due to reduced nectar flows in native forests.
- Increased pressure on agricultural land and higher land values as human populations seeks more favourable areas.
- Increased energy costs impacting on farm operations, such as harvesting, storage and transport.



Source: Australian Banana Growers Council ([abgc.org.au](http://abgc.org.au))

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