

# LOWER SOUTH COAST

# EXTENSION MATTERS

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## Seedcane –

### Planning for Spring 2025

As most of our growers are replanting their long-fallow fields, there has been an increase in demand for seed.

Growers often start looking for seed sources close to planting time. However, it is advisable that we plan to have proper seed when planting time comes. This means planning to have the desired variety, of the right age, at the right time and required quantity.

We therefore urge growers to start thinking about what they would want to plant in Spring 2025.

If need be, place orders with the Sezela Transplant Nursery to have seedlings ready for planting this spring/summer to allow them to be ready next season. If seedlings are not a desired option, growers still need to plan where to source certified/approved seedcane (stick cane) from local suppliers.

This is very limited in our area, and we need to give these suppliers enough notice to make sure they can make seed available at the desired time.

Please note that the P&D Office must be notified of any movement of seedcane across farms. All seedcane has to be inspected by P&D teams and we can issue a Certificate when required.



## A visit to SASRI Plant Breeding Research Stations

During the recent SASRI RD&E engagements with growers throughout the industry, it was observed that there is limited understanding of the Plant Breeding Strategy by some growers.

In response to that, Plant Breeding grower days have been scheduled across all SASRI Research Stations.

This is an exciting opportunity to learn how sugarcane varieties are developed (from crossing through all selection stages, up to release).

**For Coastal growers the grower day is scheduled as follows:**

Date: 3 July 2024  
 Venue: Gingindlovu Research Station  
 Time: 2pm  
 RSVP: Vanessa.khumalo@sugarcane.org.za



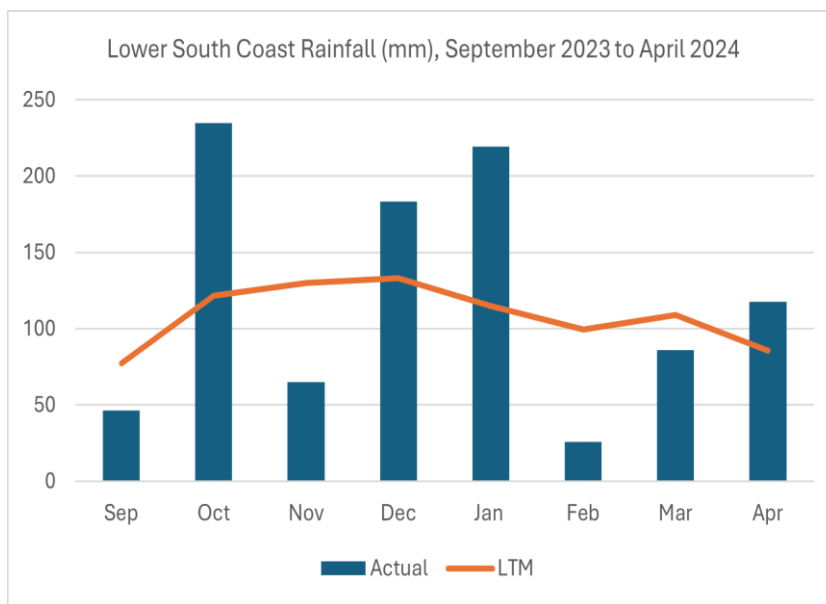
## Rainfall

The region received good rainfall over the past 8 months (September 2023 to April 2024). There were four months with rainfall above long-term mean (LTM) and four months below LTM. It must be noted that these are averages across the region, from the coastal to inland areas, the actuals at ward level might differ.

## Weather Outlook into Summer

As per the May 2024 The Link Publication:

- The El Niño has weakened substantially and the El Niño Southern Oscillation is expected to transition towards neutral conditions during winter 2024.
- La Niña is the likely category in the coming (2024/25) summer season.



Please visit the SASRI WeatherWeb at <https://sasri.sasa.org.za/weatherweb>