

NEWSLETTER



**KYOGLER
GARLIC**
BORDER RANGES | NSW, AUSTRALIA

KYOGLER GARLIC GROWERS GROUP INCORPORATED

SEASON WRAP

2018 stock sell out

It was a tough season for the farmers of Kyogle Garlic Growers Group. The drought certainly caught us by surprise. For as long as most farmers could remember, they had never seen the place so dry.

Thinking that the summer rains would come, several of our

farmers who have cattle as well bought in hay to keep their cattle going. The supply of hay quickly dried up in the area and farmers were having to have it shipped in from wherever they could find. Added to this the rest of NSW was facing far

worse conditions so the supply of hay had already mostly been bought up.

When the rains didn't come and the availability of hay diminished with the price escalating beyond affordable, most farmers started to sell off their cattle. Dramatically decreasing the numbers.

Fortunately for our farmers, garlic sales had picked up thanks

to our fabulous customer supporters. This meant that the farmers at least had some income coming in that they could then use on cattle feed.

The demand for Kyogle Garlic was so great

that we unfortunately sold out early. Don't despair we will be back early in September with a limited supply of purple garlic.

**KYOGLER GARLIC FARMERS
WOULD LIKE TO THANK
EACH AND EVERY ONE OF
ITS CUSTOMERS WHO HAVE
SUPPORTED US THIS YEAR.
THIS HAS MEANT THAT WE
HAVE BEEN ABLE TO
SURVIVE THE DROUGHT IN A
BETTER POSITION
COMPARED TO MANY OTHER
OF OUR REGIONAL FARMERS.
WE THANK YOU FOR BUYING
LOCAL AND SUPPORTING
KYOGLER GARLIC.**

2019 GROWING SEASON

The growing season is well underway this year. After a late start and some thankful rain, all of our farmers managed to plant their 2019 crop.

The purple garlic is reportedly doing remarkably well. The Russian garlic, always a slow starter is still on track. As the days start to get longer and the weather warms up, we'll notice a rapid growth in the Russian variety. The ever-faithful weeds are also there again and our farmers are hard at work hand weeding these out.

WESTERN KYOGLE FARMERS STILL STRUGGLING

Who knew there could be such a variance across Kyogle

Depending on where you live in Kyogle will depend on how you still see the drought. For those fortunate to live north of Kyogle near the Border Ranges, you will have received a good share of rain from March onwards. This has kept the creeks flowing much to everyone's relief. One grower at Collins Creek recorded 120mm in 2 weeks. Whilst at the same time, only 20mm was recorded west of Kyogle by another grower. This 20mm being his highest rainfall to date this year.

Whilst all of our growers were able to replant this year, none of our growers were able to put in a

green manure crop prior. There simply wasn't any rain. Even those with irrigation licenses couldn't justify using the water when their fellow neighbours downstream would need it for stock. Come harvest time we will soon tell if this has made any difference to our yield.

The drought also presented a new problem for our growers. There was no availability of mulch. Any mulch that was available was quadruple the price if you were lucky. Our farmers as a result resorted to truck loading in large round bails of sugar cane mulch from over

the coast. Any mulch that was available in the area could then be used to feed cattle which our growers felt was more appropriate. The sugar cane mulch proved easy to spread. It is apparently very encouraging of earth worms. The cane itself had not been sprayed for 3 years so you can rest assured that it's chemical free. The only thing we were told to watch out for is that in very wet conditions, the mulch can break down rather quickly. I guess if we got to that point, the rain would be a welcomed relief and we would just have to pick up our act with weeding.