

August Summary of Marlborough’s Pruning Progress

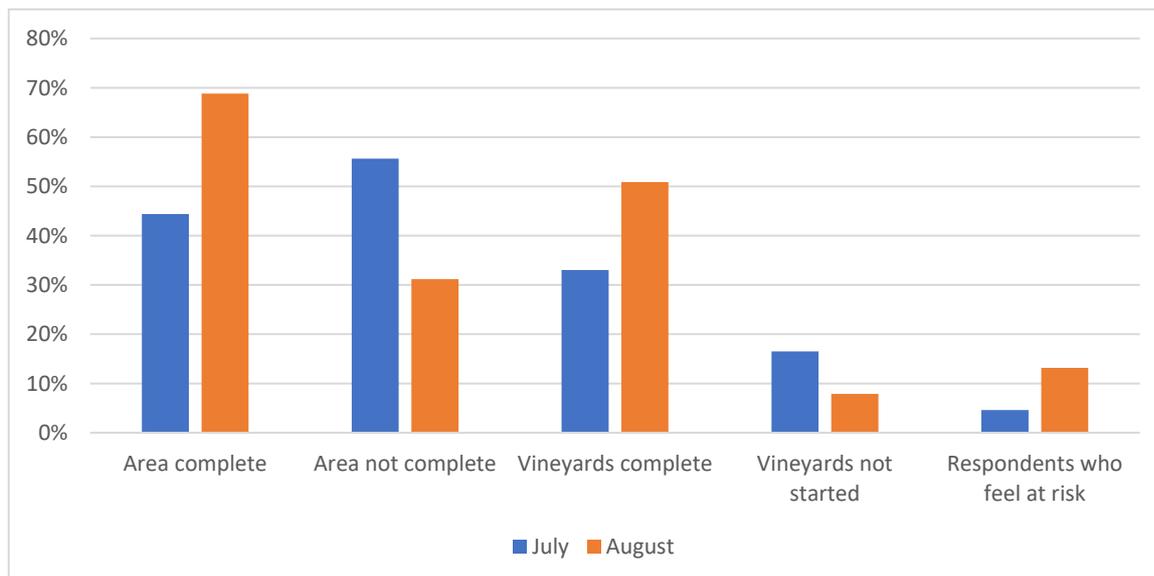
Wine Marlborough has conducted two mid-season pruning surveys across our members. This information, along with the labour forecasting from NZEE, has been used to summarise the current pruning progress for Marlborough and forecast progress for the remainder of the season.

Information in this summary is based on both surveys, and information obtained up until August 12, 2021. This summary does not offer a full explanation of the approach, please refer to the previous “Summary of Marlborough’s Mid-Season Pruning Progress”.

Overview of survey respondents:

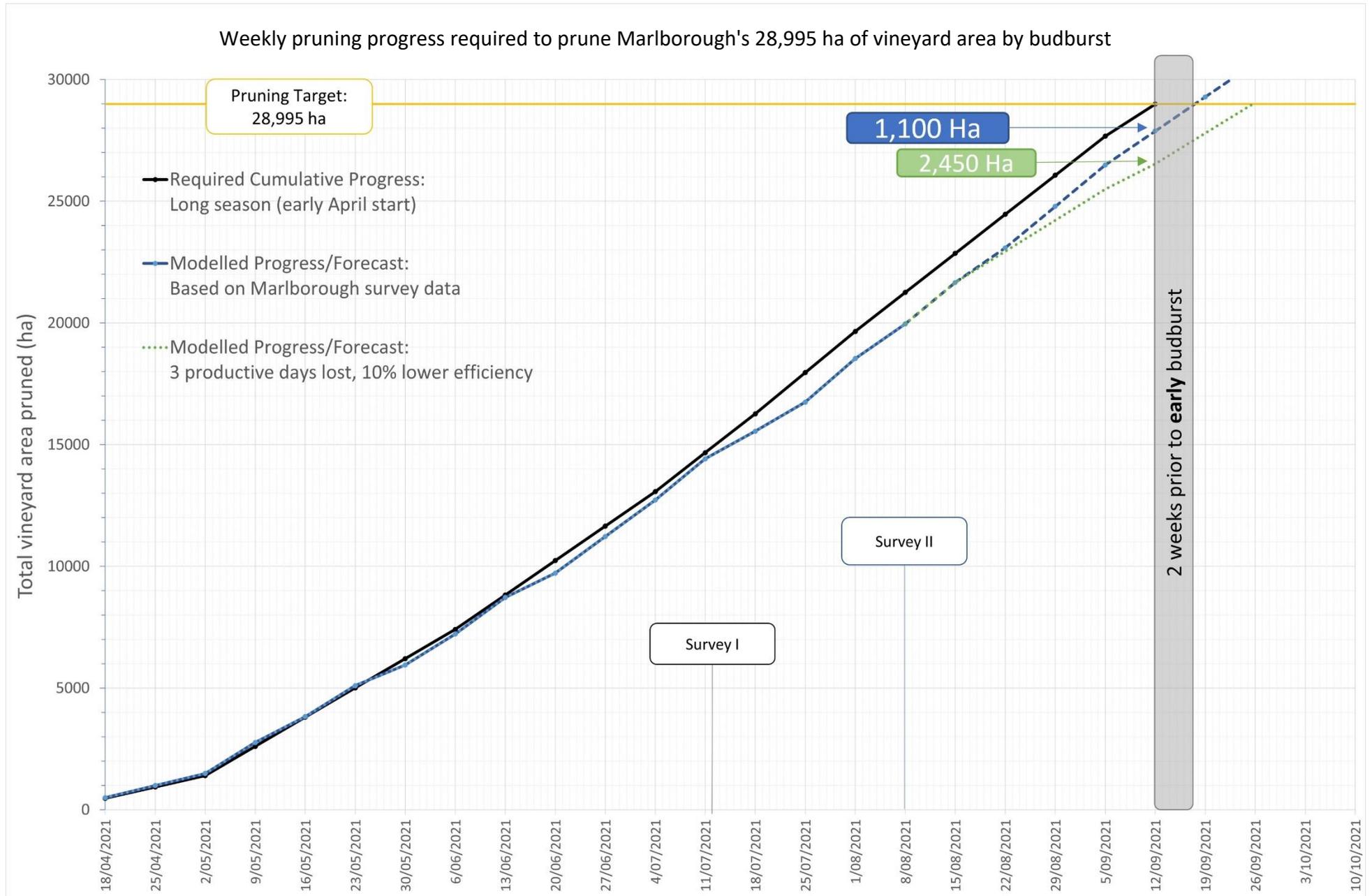
- 113 survey respondents covering 14,182 ha (49% of Marlborough’s total area)
- 69% of vineyard area reported complete, compared to 44% in July
- 31% of vineyard area not complete
 - 14% in progress
 - 17% not yet started
- An increase in respondents who feel there is a risk their vineyards won’t get pruned in time—across all sizes of vineyards. This group is 15/113 survey respondents and **24% of survey respondents by vineyard area**.

Pruning Progress July to Aug across Survey Respondents



The *extrapolated* pruning progress for the region by August 8, 2021, is approx. 20,000 ha. Of the ~9,000 ha of Marlborough’s total vineyard area remained to be pruned, the survey indicates that 4,100 ha may be in progress and 4,900 is yet to be started.

Forecasting Marlborough's Pruning Outcome



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The August pruning forecast reinforces what we learnt in July—that pruning is down to the wire. Current signs indicate that bud burst is tracking like 2020 and is likely to fall early this year. At Marlborough's current pruning rate, **we may fall short of the total pruned area by ~1,100 hectares. This is an estimate only.** The impact of additional rain days and lower efficiency due Covid-19 restrictions on operations could lead to 2,450 hectares incomplete by bud burst.

Marlborough's vineyards are under significant pressure this season. Factors that will affect our progress include:

- **Rain days:** If we lose three productive days due to rain between the survey date (Aug 8) and bud burst, then the shortfall may increase by an additional 800 ha.
- **Bud burst timing:** a week later sees us just achieving our target while a week earlier sees us ~2,510 ha short. Bud burst is defined as two weeks prior to historic 50% budburst dates as reported by Plant and Food Research.
- **Worker resilience and fatigue:** A decrease in current average work rate by 10% will lead to a shortfall of ~1,900 ha, while a 20% decrease will lead to a shortfall of ~2,700 ha.
- **Sub-region:** How well pruning is coordinated to prioritise the subregions with the earliest budburst will make a difference this season.

For consideration:

- Impact of pruning close to bud burst as buds swell will decrease yield, which may be compounded by lower bunch numbers predicted for vintage 2022. This is a serious risk compounding grape yield for V2022.
- The pruning forecast is based on the maximum pruning window for the season.
 - Physiologically, this is not the ideal pruning window and should not fall part of a long-term strategy to ensure vineyards are successful pruned.
 - The long pruning window has had an impact on coordinating and completing other vineyard tasks, which is likely to shift pressure into the next part of the season.
- **Wellbeing:** The constant pressure on people in the industry to plan in an unpredictable and shifting environment impacts all groups of stakeholders including vineyard workers, labour contractors, growers and vineyard owners, and wineries and their staff.
- Pruning contractors and growers have adopted different strategies to increase pruning efficiency. This will have an impact on pruning quality, we will aim to develop a better understanding of these impacts.
- Compounding challenges across 2020-2021 are expected to disproportionately impact small and medium growers.

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This summary was prepared based on information collected by New Zealand Ethical Employers (NZEE) and Wine Marlborough.