

Burn SMART

Leaf moisture method



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Leaf moisture method - understanding the results

How quickly and intensely a dead leaf sample burns offers a strong indication of its moisture level. This is valuable to consider when judging the potential success of a planned burn. Use these markers as a guide.

Wet	Damp	Moist	Dry	Very dry
<p>Leaf burns only when pointed straight down or does not burn at all</p> <p>If in the area to be burnt, then the fuel is too moist to burn</p>	<p>Leaf burns when angled down but not when level</p> <p>If the leaf sample is from the:</p> <p>Top layer The fire will burn slowly</p> <p>Bottom layer The fuel moisture is okay</p> <p>Fires with damp fuels tend to need the wind and/or a slope to spread</p>	<p>Leaf burns when level but not when angled up</p> <p>If the leaf sample is from the:</p> <p>Top layer The fire will burn at the upper level of intensity for a burn</p> <p>Bottom layer The fuel moisture is okay</p>	<p>Leaf burns when angled up, but not if vertical</p> <p>If the leaf sample is from the:</p> <p>Top layer The fire will burn at too high an intensity for a burn</p> <p>Bottom layer The fuel is too dry to perform a burn</p>	<p>Leaf burns when angled straight up</p> <p>The fuel is too dry to burn</p>
<p>Recommendation Postpone planned burn until moisture levels drop</p>	<p>Recommendation Proceed with planned burn</p>	<p>Recommendation Proceed with planned burn, but exercise caution</p>	<p>Recommendation Do not proceed with planned burn</p>	<p>Recommendation Do not proceed with planned burn</p>

Find out more at: dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning / Email: BushfireCoE@dfes.wa.gov.au

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