






Burn SMART 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, 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>
Recommendations				
Postpone planned burn until moisture levels drop	Proceed with planned burn	Proceed with planned burn, but exercise caution	Do not proceed with planned burn	Do not proceed with planned burn

Find out more at dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning or email BushfireCoE@dfes.wa.gov.au.

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