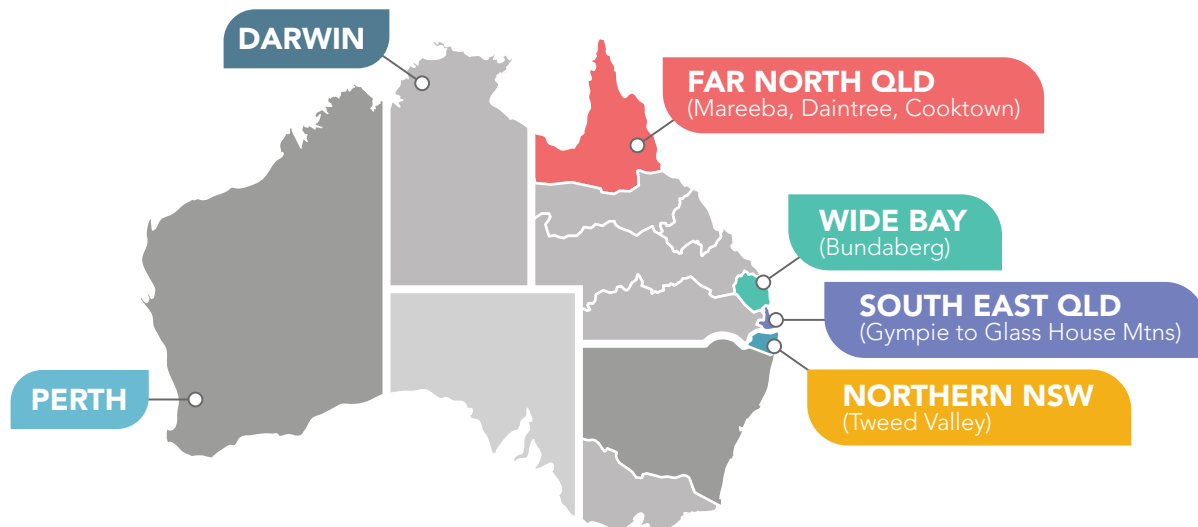


REGIONAL ROUND UP



WEATHER WATCH

MARCH

- In the first week of March, low-intensity to severe heatwave conditions affected large areas of northern Australia, from western Queensland, through much of the Northern Territory, and into eastern parts of Western Australia.
- Rainfall was above average for Australia as a whole, with totals for New South Wales more than double the March average, coming in as the second-wettest March on record for the state, behind March 1956 – extensive areas of flooding resulted.
- Mean maximum temperatures were warmer than average for much of the northern half of Queensland extending into the Wide Bay and Burnett District.

APRIL

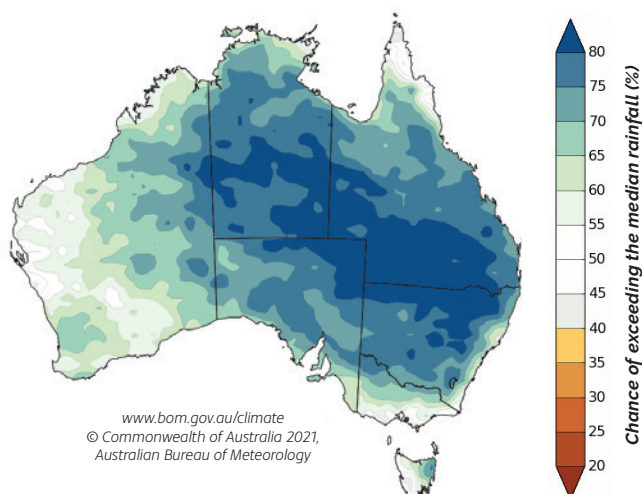
- Rainfall was below average for Australia as a whole, and for New South Wales it was amongst the driest Aprils on record.
- A coastal trough and low pressure system off the north tropical Queensland coast produced heavy rainfall between Cairns and Innisfail, with widespread totals of 150 mm to 220 mm in the 24 hours to 9 am on the 5th.
- Flooding occurred in catchments around Cairns after several consecutive days of 100 mm to 200 mm of rain at some sites beginning on the 19th.

MAY

- May rainfall was well below average (-39%) for Australia as a whole and mean maximum temperatures were warmer.
- The month began with particularly warm temperatures across the south-east, a number of sites in New South Wales had their warmest May maximum temperature on record on the 2nd.
- High pressure systems brought clear skies and settled weather, with cooler nights to most of eastern Australia.

RAINFALL OUTLOOK JULY – SEP 2021

CHANCE OF EXCEEDING THE MEDIAN RAINFALL



CLIMATE OUTLOOK OVERVIEW *(Issued 17 June 2021)*

- July to Sep rainfall is likely to be above average for most of Australia, though areas in western WA are tending towards a more neutral rainfall outlook.
- Maximum temperatures for July to Sep are likely to be above average for the northern tropics and across far southern Australia
- Minimum temperatures for July to Sep are very likely to be above average for most of Australia, with parts of western WA showing slightly lower chances. The pattern is similar for July and August minimum temperatures.

LONG TERM AVERAGE RAINFALL (mm)

WEATHER STATIONS	JUL	AUG	SEP
Mareeba	5.6	7.2	4.4
Bundaberg	38.6	33.6	35
Sunshine Coast Airport	63.6	73	52.9
Murwillumbah	59.6	53.1	40

GROWER REPORTS

Hello from Far North Qld. It was so delightful to finally catch up with other growers at our regional catch-up dinner. Like so many of you, we don't often get the opportunity to take time out from the farm so it was a wonderful occasion to enjoy a drink and a casual dinner with friends. We were extremely happy with the attendance in FNQ and it was especially nice to meet some new growers as well as catch up with some familiar ones. We definitely look forward to doing it again really soon.

Fusarium Solani remains a concern to us and after speaking to a number of growers at the regional dinner it was surprising how many growers' farms were affected. We would still like to establish if this is a major concern to the whole industry so if your farm is affected and you haven't already notified Passionfruit Australia, I urge you to please do so.

Our most recent season has been very fruitful and the eating quality has been exceptional. And with one flush blending into the next it seems like we may continue to be busy harvesting well into August. Prices on Panama have fluctuated throughout our last flush from favourable to disappointing and then back to reasonable... *But as we all know; this is nothing unusual.*

The weather here has also been very mixed over recent months. With less fine days than cloudy to showery, our usual farm duties have been more of an effort and reports that delays for some growers' harvests are projected. Heavier falls and a prolonged wet season have resulted in good moisture in our orchards for longer this year so we will not be complaining of wetter than usual weather as we know that this is a far better outcome than the contrary. So, for now, best of luck for the winter season.

Cynthia & Dale Barbagallo, Mareeba

Hello everyone. Trying not to sound monotonous, since the promised rain in mid- March, Bundaberg has only received approximately 200mm which is still very dry and I am irrigating every second day to compensate. To make things even more interesting next year we have been told that our water allocations will be reduced by up to another 20% unless substantial rain is received. Some farms, not just passionfruit, will not be able to operate on these reduced allocations.

Now in mid-June, courtesy of an Antarctic blast, we have received a series of 4-5°C mornings. This has relieved the insect pressure that we have been experiencing due to the dry conditions. The cold weather has also slowed up the fruit production, noticeably the Panama. A good winter crop is set in the purple varieties which we will start picking soon.

Regarding the Paradise Dam debacle, I only just found out that the Qld Government still hasn't decided to what final height the dam wall will be after repair. There is talk on minus 10m, minus 5m or even back to the original spillway height. How are farmers, and there are some very large Macadamia plantations relying on this water, supposed to maintain and develop their operations with all this uncertainty! Until next time. Thanks.

Peter & Sally Griffiths, Bundaberg

There have been no major weather events here on the Sunshine Coast in the past few months. We have had a few storms and just lately - in early June - there have been a couple of light frosts. It does seem a little early to be so cool.

Fruit quantities were good through March and April, but the past six weeks have been fairly quiet for us. It appears that our next crop will come in about the last week of June and going by the flowering, will continue well into August. This will depend on this cool weather though. A few more cool mornings might convince the plants to stop setting any more buds.

This year has been a little unusual for us in that the cropping has been more seasonal. Normally our production is more continuous, but this year we have had shorter peak periods and longer lulls. It has made life a bit easier, so I'm not complaining. It was great to catch up with other growers recently at Palmwoods. Thanks to Sacha for organising an enjoyable night. Hopefully, we all have a profitable Winter season. Good luck.

Jim & Jill Gordon, Yandina

Hello all, Winter has certainly hit in our area with some very chilly weather in the first half of June. This slowed our fruit up after a steady April/May period. Fruit quality through this period saw plenty of spot in the second- and third-year vines, which was to be expected after the extended wet in February and March. However, the fruit from our first-year vines was of excellent quality.

In our nursery the new vines are going well after a shaky start thanks to some mice or rats causing a lot of damage.

I unfortunately wasn't able to attend the Tweed dinner that was organised by the Association but well done to all involved. It's always nice to catch up with those that you may not have seen for a long while. All the best.

Nick & Nerida Hornery, Newrybar

FAR NORTH QLD

(Mareeba, Daintree, Cooktown)

Mareeba (station 031210)	MAR	APR	MAY
 MEAN (mm)	90.8 [163.8]	152.6 [38.6]	5.8 [11.8]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	9 [10.6]	13 [4]	2 [2.1]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	30.2 [29.8]	28.4 [28.5]	26.5 [26.9]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	20.5 [20.6]	19.9 [19]	17.1 [16.8]

WIDE BAY

(Bundaberg)

Bundaberg (station 039128)	MAR	APR	MAY
 MEAN (mm)	111.6 [112.9]	37.2 [55.9]	7.4 [66.8]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	13 [6.9]	4 [4.8]	4 [4.5]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	29.7 [29.3]	27.3 [27.5]	25.9 [24.8]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	21.0 [20.1]	16.9 [17.6]	13.8 [14.2]

SOUTH EAST QLD

(Gympie to Glass House Mtns)

Sunshine Coast Airport (station 040861)	MAR	APR	MAY
 MEAN (mm)	345.6 [173.7]	194.8 [153.8]	107.0 [154.9]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	13 [11.9]	12 [11.2]	3 [10]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	27.6 [28.0]	25.4 [26.0]	23.5 [23.6]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	20.2 [20.2]	15.9 [17.1]	13.8 [13.7]

NORTHERN NSW

(Tweed Valley)

Murwillumbah (station 058158)	MAR	APR	MAY
 MEAN (mm)	361.4 [216.4]	154.7 [153.5]	128.1 [128.6]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	16 [13.8]	10 [10.5]	8 [9.5]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	27.5 [28.2]	25.1 [26.2]	23.2 [23.6]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	19.0 [18.4]	14.6 [15.6]	13.2 [12.5]

THANK YOU ALL ONCE AGAIN FOR YOUR REPORTS.

Figures in [] are long term historical averages. All weather data from www.bom.gov.au