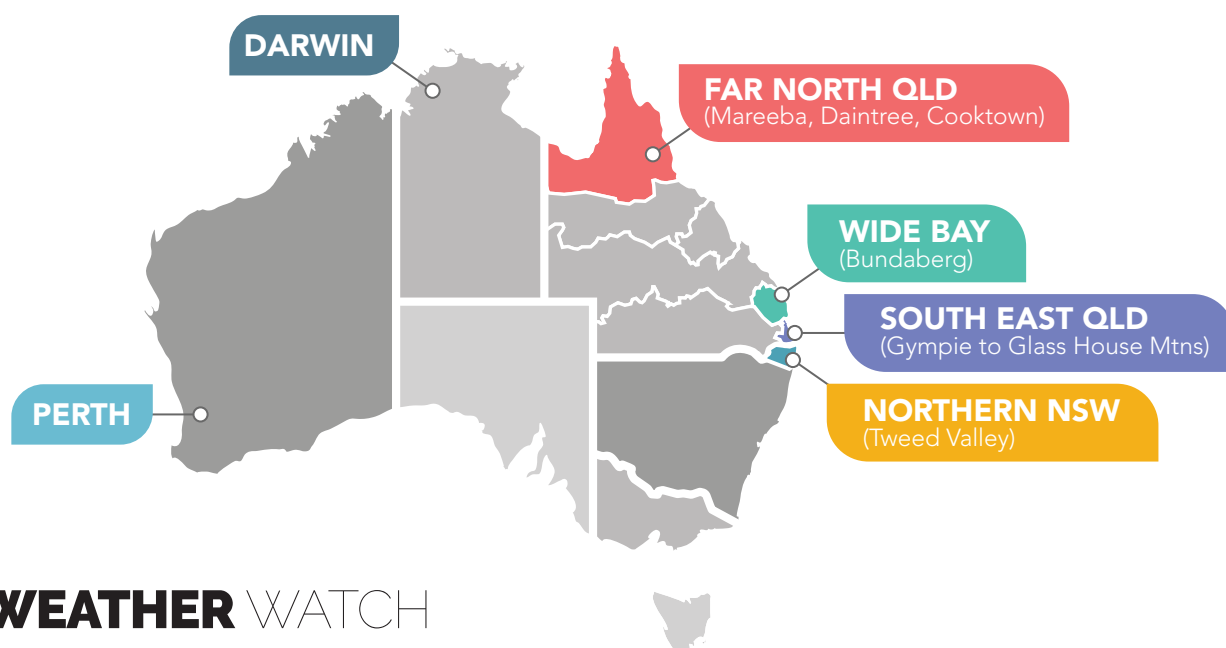


REGIONAL ROUND UP



WEATHER WATCH

NOVEMBER

- Drier than average for northern and eastern Qld, and northeastern NSW
- There were a number of extreme weather events including a heatwave in tropical Qld, fires in the Qld Central Coast and Capricornia districts and heavy rainfall across the central coast of NSW
- Eastern Australia saw daytime temperatures reaching into the high 30s and low 40s in southern Qld, southern and eastern NSW and northern Vic early in the month

DECEMBER

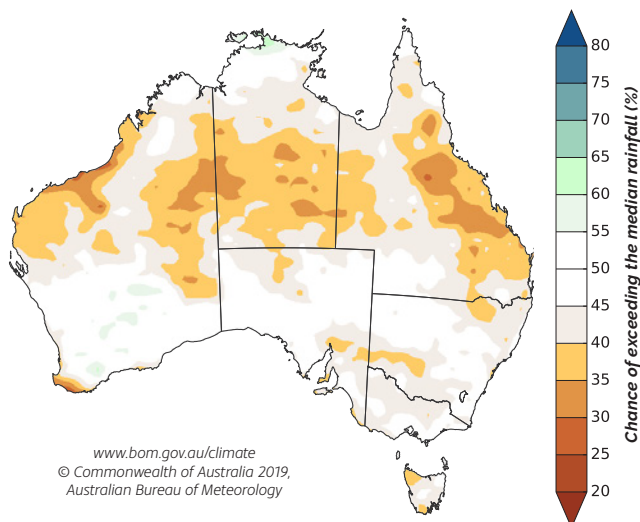
- Exceptionally wet in FNQ with Mareeba recording nearly 3 x normal mean rainfall for the month
- Bundaberg only received half its usual December rainfall
- Based on the rainfall monitoring locations, both NNSW and the Sunshine Coast were OK for rain but this does not actually reveal the patchiness of the rain. Beerburrum has received less than a quarter of its usual rainfall across Nov-Jan

JANUARY

- Bone dry in all southern growing areas and the FNQ regions drowned in far too much rain
- The excessive dry in both Sunshine Coast and NNSW areas meant just one day recorded any rainfall and that was a mere sprinkle
- This month has also been hotter than usual in all regions except FNQ, exacerbating the impact of the dry weather

RAINFALL OUTLOOK MAR–MAY 2019

CHANCE OF EXCEEDING THE MEDIAN RAINFALL



CLIMATE OUTLOOK OVERVIEW

(Issued 14 Feb 2019)

- Indicates a drier than average season is likely for large parts of northern Australia
- Warmer than average days and nights are likely for almost all of Australia for autumn. For daytime temperatures, the chances of being warmer than median are very high, greater than 80% for most of the mainland

LONG TERM AVERAGE RAINFALL (mm)

WEATHER STATIONS	MAR	APR	MAY
Mareeba	167.1	40.2	11.4
Bundaberg	113.4	55.9	67.5
Sunshine Coast Airport	167.7	152.1	155.2
Murwillumbah	217.3	153.8	130.1

GROWER REPORTS

FAR NORTH QLD

The hot days and cold nights during the 2018 season slowed crop maturity. The final fruit set came too late to meet the Christmas demand, panama prices post-Christmas did not meet production costs. The 2019 season began with hot dry weather followed by torrential rain that lasted for 17 days. Weather conditions proved rife for fungal diseases that will not be controlled before paddocks dry out. Looking forward, Tinaroo Dam is now overflowing, and growers will have 100% allocation for the following season. I purposely did not contact our most Northern growers as I was unsure of their circumstances from this rain event. As I write this report, my mind is only a moment away from the tragedy that the graziers in North West Queensland are going through. My best thoughts go to our fellow counter parts and others affected by the floods.

Brian Westwood, Mareeba

BUNDABERG

Hello everyone. After about 100mm of rain in late November & December, Bundaberg has received no rain in January and about 15mm to mid-February. We need rain, but not in the quantities that FNQ have just endured. The newly planted vines are performing well with no deaths from wet feet. The Misty Gem picked well and maintained good quality with good prices extending to New Year. The Pandora started picking in January and are about finished now. The extended hot, dry weather is delaying the flower set on both Misty and Pandora. Looking forward to autumn, cooler weather & a little bit of rain. Until next time. Thanks, Peter

Peter Griffiths, Bundaberg

SUNSHINE COAST

We have just seen one of the driest summers on record here on the Sunshine Coast. The pump has been running nearly every day and we just received our power bill to confirm that. At least we don't have to pay for the water. The positive is that there is a good fruit set and so far, the crop is disease free. Mite and scale are taking a toll though in the older vines.

The summer crop was a little slow to start but we had a couple of intense periods just prior to Christmas and then the first half of January. Our quantities were down, but I know of others who had near record consignments, thus the low prices.

Normally we have a few weeks in February where we can have a break or at least catch up on some neglected jobs. This year we only slowed down for a fortnight, but still had fruit right through. Valentine's day has seen a sudden increase in passionfruit here on the coast. Good sized, clean fruit is a pleasant change. The colour is a bit ordinary but can only be expected after the heat we have just had. Hopefully the price will hold for a little longer.

February has given us a little rain, but once again is patchy. Some of us had a week of good showers with falls of up to 100mm over four or five days, while others have had next to nothing.

I would like to let our Northern growers know that we were thinking of you during the recent torrential rains, and I hope you are well on your way towards recovery. Good luck.

Jim Gordon, Yandina

TWEED AREA

Hello to everyone. It's nice to be sitting inside on a rainy day writing my report after a hot dry summer. It's mid-February and we have finally received a little rain. The vines felt the pinch with no rain from mid-December through to the start of February. Luckily, we had a fair bit of water in the dam and were able to irrigate.

Our fruit started out a week before Christmas, and really came on throughout January. This was generally the case for the rest of the Tweed growers. The summer crop that came through was big in quantity and overall fairly good quality. Not a lot of spot on the fruit due to the dry. The main issues were green fruit dropping on hot days, and the dreaded calyx! Every day I was filling a wheelbarrow with the sweepings of calyx and leaf from around the grader!

Our new vines slowed down a bit in the second half of January and were a bit slow to set a crop. The rest of our vines will set a crop in the coming weeks, which should give us a bit of a break through March and into April. All the best,

Nick & Nerida Hornery, Newrybar

FAR NORTH QLD

(Mareeba, Daintree, Cooktown)

Mareeba (station 031210)	NOV	DEC	JAN
 MEAN (mm)	13.0 [44.9]	260.6 [96.0]	247.4 [210.8]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	3 [4.1]	16 [7.7]	13 [11.9]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	33.4 [31.6]	31.5 [32.1]	29.9 [31.2]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	19.8 [19.3]	21.8 [20.8]	20.9 [21.4]

WIDE BAY

(Bundaberg)

Bundaberg (station 039128)	NOV	DEC	JAN
 MEAN (mm)	32.0 [84.8]	68.4 [126.6]	6.8 [171.4]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	3 [5.6]	9 [6.2]	3 [7.7]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	30.3 [28.5]	30.2 [29.6]	32.0 [30.4]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	18.6 [18.8]	21.0 [20.5]	21.2 [21.5]

SOUTH EAST QLD

(Gympie to Glass House Mtns)

Sunshine Coast Airport (station 040861)	NOV	DEC	JAN
 MEAN (mm)	35.8 [83.8]	136.0 [147.1]	0.4 [139.7]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	3 [6.9]	11 [10.0]	0 [9.8]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	29.0 [27.2]	28.4 [28.3]	29.9 [29.1]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	17.7 [17.9]	21.1 [19.8]	21.9 [21.3]

NORTHERN NSW

(Tweed Valley)

Murwillumbah (station 058158)	NOV	DEC	JAN
 MEAN (mm)	37.8 [123.1]	140.8 [167.9]	2.4 [204.1]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	5 [9.7]	10 [10.9]	1 [11.9]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	29.0 [27.7]	29.0 [29.1]	31.3 [29.6]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	16.1 [16.7]	18.6 [18.5]	19.5 [19.8]

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