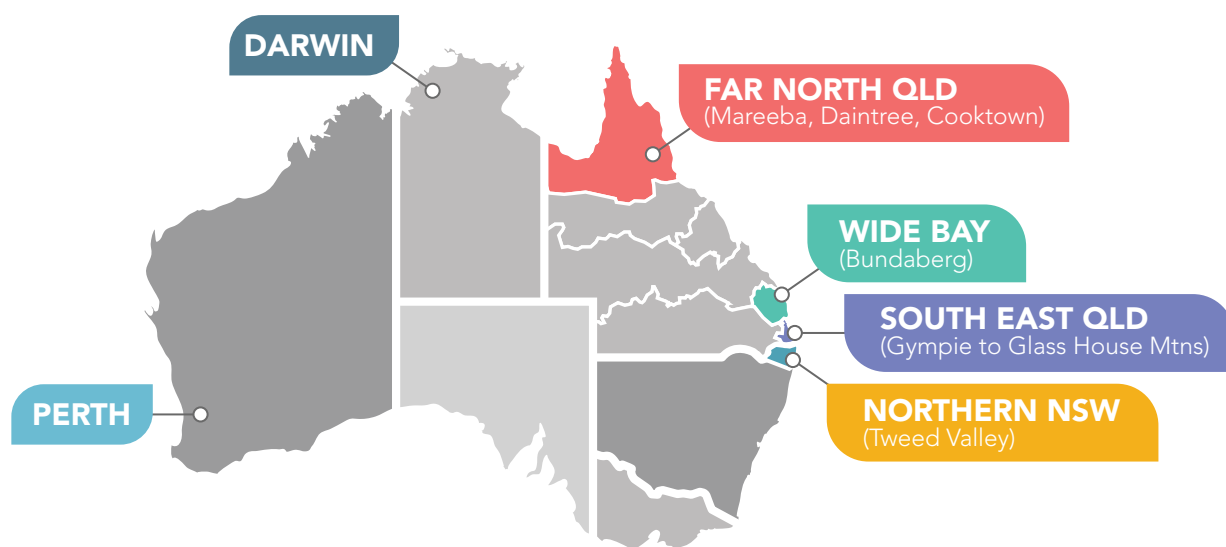


REGIONAL ROUND UP



WEATHER WATCH

MAY

May was an exceptionally dry month for Australia. Nationally, it was the driest May since 2008 and the fourth-driest May on record (May 2008 was Australia's driest May on record).

May was warmer than average for Australia as a whole; the national monthly mean temperature was 0.18 °C above average. Maximum temperatures were particularly warm, with a national anomaly of +0.86 °C.

JUNE

June daytime temperatures were warmer than average across most of Australia, with highest on record mean maximum temperatures experienced in many parts of Australia. Australia-wide, June rainfall was 23% below the long-term average. Very much below average rainfall was experienced in areas scattered across central and eastern Australia, with the largest dry area observed in north-eastern New South Wales, and the Darling Downs and Granite Belt districts in southeast Qld.

JULY

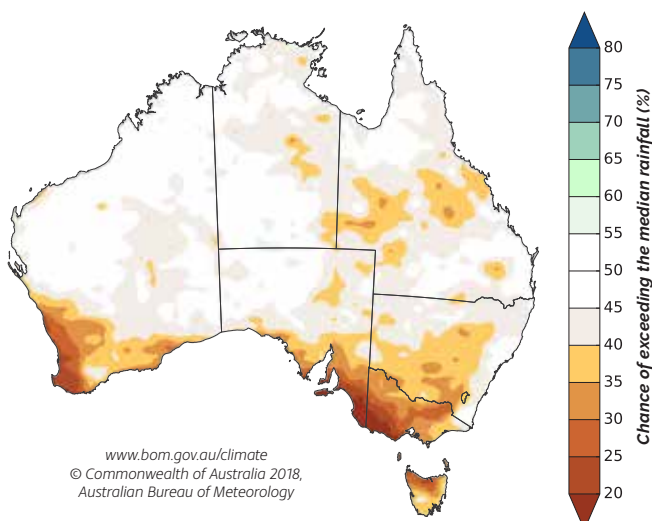
Nationally, it was the driest July since 2002 and below average for most of southern Australia. Temperatures were warmer than average across many parts of the country.

Despite the month overall being very dry, there were areas that received above average rainfall in the far north coast of Queensland.

Rainfall deficiencies have increased in both area extent and severity for almost all of New South Wales and inland southern Queensland.

RAINFALL OUTLOOK SEP–NOV 2018

CHANCE OF EXCEEDING THE MEDIAN RAINFALL



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CLIMATE OUTLOOK OVERVIEW

(Issued 16 Aug 2018)

- Spring is more likely to be drier than average for southern inland NSW, and parts of central Queensland. Elsewhere, there are roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier than average three months.
- Spring days are likely to be warmer than average for Australia.
- Nights are also likely to be warmer than average for most areas, except for parts of northern Australia and the southeast of the mainland.

LONG TERM AVERAGE RAINFALL (MM)

WEATHER STATIONS	SEP	OCT	NOV
Mareeba	4.9	15.6	46.6
Bundaberg	36	76.7	85.7
Sunshine Coast Airport	55.5	80.5	85.8
Murwillumbah	40.5	105.4	125

GROWER REPORTS

FAR NORTH QLD

As winter should be coming to a close, we've just experienced another three days of frosty weather across the vast area of the Cairns highland region. Our 2018 crop was planted much later than usual and the cooler weather has not been helpful to get full trellis cover. The weather bureau prediction is for much hotter and drier weather in the near future. Hopefully it will benefit all crops in the Northern region. Lakelands Downs' season has been difficult, heavy soaking rains and cloudy cool windy days are not ideal for tropical crops like passionfruit.

The Cooktown crop is on track time wise and has also inherited Lakeland Downs' cloudy, cooler windy weather. Cooktown's wet weather season finished early and abruptly. It has not been this dry in years. Growers will have to physically use much more water than in previous years to finish their growing season. Thanks to our most northern growers for their input to NQ round up. Looking forward to the field day & industry meeting in Innisfail.

Brian Westwood, Mareeba

BUNDABERG

Hi everyone. Like a lot of Australia, we have had no substantial rain since February with nothing since the end of June. It's a dust bowl here in Bundy with the dreaded cane haul-out tractors doing their best to be disliked by covering our house & property with dust, even to start harvesting at 4.30am was just delightful, apparently rules & courtesy to fellow farmers doesn't apply to them!

Moving on, now in late August we are still experiencing 5° mornings with chilly south westerlies to top things off. There has been a good Pandora crop with size & volume & prices also reasonable. The Misty Gem have been consistently setting flowers & fruit with only an average size crop. They are forecasting some rain this weekend so we intend to do all things to make it rain, e.g. wash the car, hang the washing out, invite friends around for a bbq & possibly even a rain dance. Here's hoping! Until next time. Thanks.

Peter Griffiths, Bundaberg

SUNSHINE COAST

We are drawing to the end of yet another season and have managed to survive. The winter crop here has been steady, but far from spectacular. I held out high hopes at the onset of this quarter, but persistent showers in the early part of the season reduced the crop somewhat.

Everyone I have spoken to has said that they appreciated the reasonable prices, but were disappointed in the fruit volume. The more recent dry has meant the disease pressure was low, but we could certainly do with some rain now as we are preparing for the next planting. We have just had a couple of our coldest mornings in a while which is upsetting the new growth and the beginnings of a fruit set. They are predicting a bit of rain later this week so that may be the beginning of some warmer temperatures as well.

Most of us on the Sunshine Coast are winding down for the season, but will have a little fruit for a couple of weeks yet. Hopefully I will catch up with some of you at the A.G.M. up at Innisfail. Good luck with the next season.

Jim Gordon, Yandina

TWEED AREA

Hello all. This winter we have seen a long steady crop come off our Sweethearts. In my last report I thought that we had a small winter crop due to the amount of lost flowers in March & April however they must have already set. Quality has been reasonable, with the typical poor fruit coming through now at the tail end of the crop (which ironically you get the best money for!).

In our area we have been having some very cold nights and warm days. Some great frosts are followed by fruit burning on the ground! Normally in winter we could leave the fruit on the ground for a number of days, but this year we have noticed the fruit burning after one day left on the ground! Farmers are certainly at the coal face of climate change. On the Northern Rivers we are now heading into our storm season so time to steel the nerves. We had some trouble in our nursery getting the pandora rootstock up. After a slow start we now have them coming along and will be ready to graft in the coming weeks. All the best!

Nick & Nerida Hornery, Newrybar

FAR NORTH QLD

(Mareeba, Daintree, Cooktown)

Mareeba (station 031210)	MAY	JUN	JUL
 MEAN (mm)	1.0 [12]	1.0 [12.1]	0.2 [6]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	0 [2.1]	0 [1.9]	0 [1.6]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	26.4 [27]	25.0 [25.4]	25.9 [25]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	17.3 [16.7]	13.8 [15.3]	13.7 [13.9]

WIDE BAY

(Bundaberg)

Bundaberg (station 039128)	MAY	JUN	JUL
 MEAN (mm)	14.8 [68.4]	4.2 [51.5]	10.4 [39.6]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	3 [4.5]	2 [3.4]	4 [2.9]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	25.7 [27]	23.8 [25.4]	24.1 [25]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	14.1 [16.7]	10.7 [15.3]	9.8 [13.9]

SOUTH EAST QLD

(Gympie to Glass House Mtns)

Sunshine Coast Airport (station 040861)	MAY	JUN	JUL
 MEAN (mm)	237.2 [151.6]	87.8 [119.6]	85.4 [63.1]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	10 [9.9]	7 [9.4]	6 [6.6]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	24.2 [23.6]	21.7 [21.4]	22.1 [21.1]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	13.9 [13.6]	11.0 [11.4]	10.1 [9.6]

NORTHERN NSW

(Tweed Valley)

Murwillumbah (station 058158)	MAY	JUN	JUL
 MEAN (mm)	18.5 [132.6]	41.0 [108.1]	32.9 [61]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	3 [9.6]	6 [7.3]	6 [5.7]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	24.0 [23.6]	21.7 [21.3]	22.7 [21]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	12.1 [12.5]	9.3 [9.9]	8.3 [8.6]

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