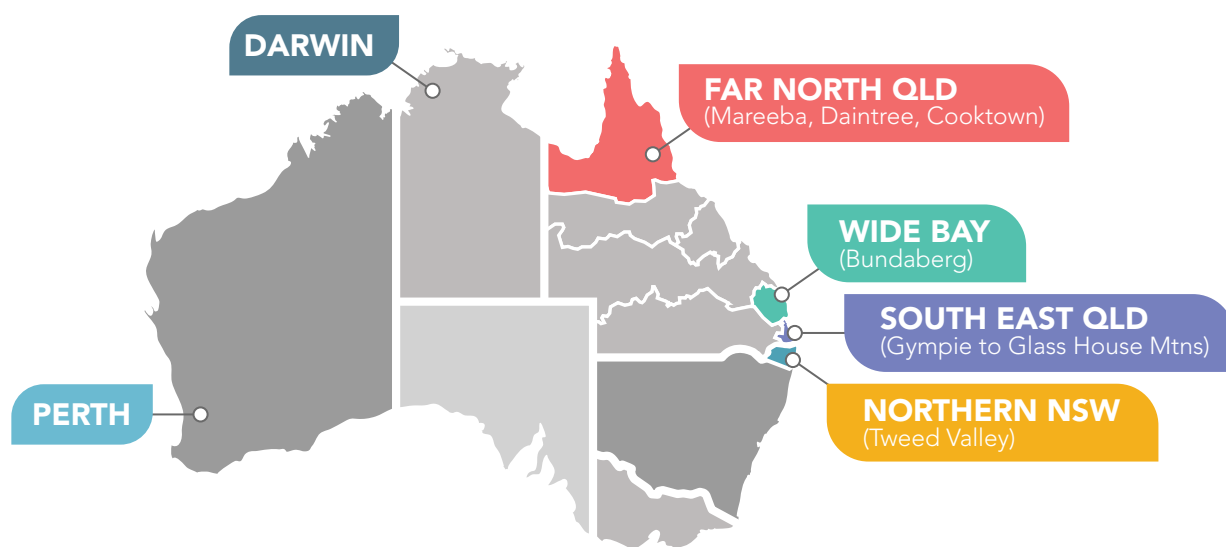


# REGIONAL ROUND UP



## WEATHER WATCH

### MAY

- Warmer than average May for Australia
- Rainfall for the month below to very much below average for most of Western Australia and along the east coast but very high rainfall in the topical north - 967.2 mm rain recorded at Bellenden Ker just outside Cairns for the month of May!

### JUNE

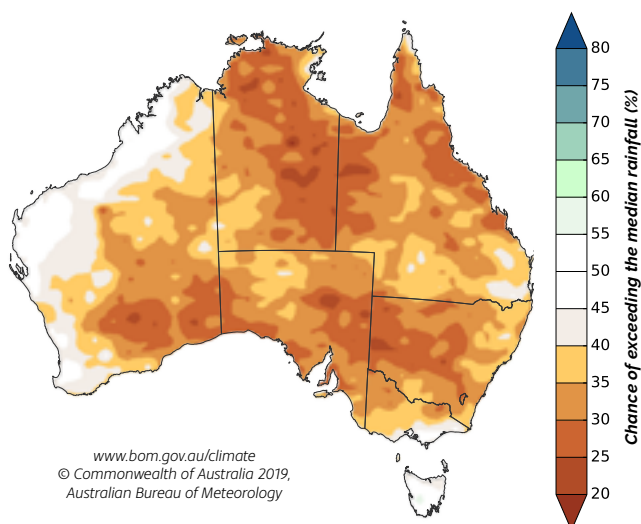
- It has been the second-warmest January-June on record for Australia (spanning 110 years), with rainfall also below to very much below average over most of the country, and seventh lowest for Australia as a whole
- Rainfall for the month was below to very much below average for very large areas, including most of New South Wales and eastern Western Australia

### JULY

- Temperatures for Queensland were warmer than average with record warm days in the southeast
- The southeast of QLD and NNSW remained very dry with some areas recording their driest July since the early 1970's

## RAINFALL OUTLOOK SEP-NOV 2019

### CHANCE OF EXCEEDING THE MEDIAN RAINFALL



### CLIMATE OUTLOOK OVERVIEW

(Issued 15 August 2019)

- The spring climate outlook indicates a drier than average season is likely for most of mainland Australia.
- Spring maximum temperatures are likely to be warmer than average, except in the southeast, which has a 50-50 chance of warmer or cooler than average days.
- Spring nights are likely to be warmer across northern and western Australia. With more cloud-free days and nights expected, there remains an increased risk of spring frost in susceptible areas.

### 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

North Queensland has had its share of extreme weather for the first half of 2019. Crops are retarded for most of NQ. Winter keeps us on edge in Mutchilba as we remember temperatures fell to -8 degrees in 1984. The cold blast from Antarctica arrived in August this year dropping temperatures to -3 degrees. Thanks to irrigation, frost damage was prevented. Cold weather will have crops running slightly behind this seasons end. The extended wet season and cloudy days that went for weeks has affected Lakeland Downs and coastal areas.

Lack of sunlight has not helped trellis coverage and their season will run later than normal. Hopefully the dollar returns on fruit this season will make up for the extreme circumstances that prevailed at the season's beginnings!

*Brian Westwood, Mareeba*

## BUNDABERG

Hello everyone. Not much to report this quarter. Now at the end of August, Bundaberg has not received rain for almost three months. Very dry and dusty, making it easy to see where the cane haul-out tractors are working. As expected, water allocations have been reduced to help manage the declining water resource.

The Misty Gem crop is coming to an end with the Pandora still picking for a few more weeks yet. At least this gives time to cut out and prepare the paddocks for new spring plantings, not like previous years where vines still had fruit on in planting season. Until next time. Thanks.

*Peter Griffiths, Bundaberg*

## SUNSHINE COAST

Overall it has been a fairly mild winter here on the Sunshine Coast. We have only had about four mornings with much frost and none of them were damaging. The end of August saw a few cool days with dry winds but that is fairly normal.

Production for most of us on the S.C. has been lower than usual this winter. A few rainy spells in the autumn and early winter interrupted flowering, but because it has generally been mild, there has been some fruit set throughout the last few months. Therefore, we should have small quantities of fruit for a while yet. I have been a bit disappointed with our quantity of fruit, but the prices have been generally quite good, so I assume everyone's numbers have been down.

The vines looked pretty good for most of the winter, but the recent dry, cool winds have made my vines look a bit average. Hopefully, that will quickly turn around once we have a bit of rain and the morning temperatures go up a few degrees.

We are spending most of our time at the moment, (late August), preparing our ground for the next planting. The only problem is that the vines I want to pull out still have a reasonable amount of fruit on them and with the current prices I'm reluctant to chop them out too soon! We will just have to have a last-minute flurry before the new plants arrive.

I was looking at the program for the Bundaberg field day on September 18<sup>th</sup> and it sounds extremely interesting. Unfortunately, I won't be able to make it, but it would be great if as many as possible could roll up. A lot of effort goes into organising these events so we should try to support them. Good luck with the spring season and hopefully I will see many of you at the Industry Dinner & AGM in October.

*Jim Gordon, Yandina*

## TWEED AREA

Hi All, Not a lot to report this quarter with a steady autumn/winter crop coming off the vines since Easter. Yellow spot was the main concern with quite a lot around through July. Our sweethearts are running well now and with our rootstock ready we will be starting grafting.

With the days warming up we are back to picking 7 days a week. Hopefully the fruit wraps up quick so we can get into the grafting and chopping vines out. Our dam is nice and full after plenty of rain in July, but we haven't received much at all for August and could definitely do with some rain. All the best,

*Nick & Nerida Hornery, Newrybar*

## FAR NORTH QLD

(Mareeba, Daintree, Cooktown)

| Mareeba (station 031210)                                                                           | MAY            | JUN            | JUL            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|  MEAN (mm)      | 20.2<br>[11.8] | 6.0<br>[11.2]  | 4.0<br>[5.6]   |
|  MEAN DAYS >1mm | 4<br>[2.1]     | 1<br>[1.8]     | 1<br>[1.5]     |
|  MEAN (MAX °C)  | 26.9<br>[26.9] | 24.5<br>[25.3] | 24.5<br>[25.0] |
|  MEAN (MIN °C)  | 18.2<br>[16.8] | 15.3<br>[15.3] | 13.8<br>[13.9] |

## WIDE BAY

(Bundaberg)

| Bundaberg (station 039128)                                                                         | MAY            | JUN            | JUL            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|  MEAN (mm)      | 27.4<br>[66.8] | 18.8<br>[50.2] | 5.2<br>[38.6]  |
|  MEAN DAYS >1mm | 7<br>[4.5]     | 4<br>[3.4]     | 2<br>[2.9]     |
|  MEAN (MAX °C)  | 25.7<br>[24.8] | 23.2<br>[22.7] | 24.3<br>[22.2] |
|  MEAN (MIN °C) | 14.6<br>[14.2] | 12.2<br>[11.7] | 10.5<br>[10.3] |

## SOUTH EAST QLD

(Gympie to Glass House Mtns)

| Sunshine Coast Airport (station 040861)                                                              | MAY              | JUN              | JUL            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
|  MEAN (mm)      | 149.2<br>[154.9] | 172.6<br>[120.5] | 55.4<br>[63.6] |
|  MEAN DAYS >1mm | 16<br>[10.0]     | 11<br>[9.4]      | 7<br>[6.6]     |
|  MEAN (MAX °C)  | 23.5<br>[23.6]   | 21.4<br>[21.4]   | 22.0<br>[21.1] |
|  MEAN (MIN °C)  | 14.7<br>[13.7]   | 12.7<br>[11.4]   | 10.5<br>[9.6]  |

## NORTHERN NSW

(Tweed Valley)

| Murwillumbah (station 058158)                                                                        | MAY             | JUN              | JUL            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
|  MEAN (mm)      | 62.1<br>[128.6] | 106.1<br>[106.6] | 39.5<br>[59.6] |
|  MEAN DAYS >1mm | 13<br>[9.5]     | 7<br>[7.2]       | 6<br>[5.7]     |
|  MEAN (MAX °C)  | 24.4<br>[23.6]  | 21.6<br>[21.3]   | 22.4<br>[21.1] |
|  MEAN (MIN °C)  | 13.0<br>[12.5]  | 8.4<br>[9.9]     | 6.9<br>[8.6]   |

Figures in [ ] are long term historical averages.  
All weather data from [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)