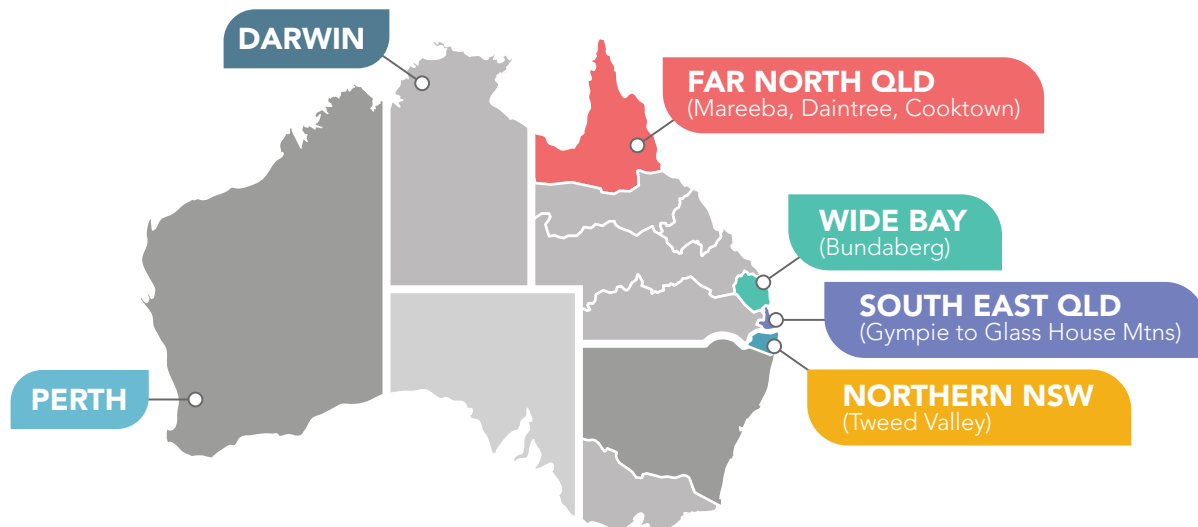


REGIONAL ROUND UP



WEATHER WATCH

MAY

- Nationally, May was cooler than average for Australia; the first month with a national mean temperature below average since October 2016.
- May rainfall was 31% below average for Australia as a whole.
- Northern coastal Queensland experienced heavy rain during the last third of May. The highest individual falls occurred when a surface trough and moist onshore flow brought locally heavy falls exceeding 250 mm around Mission Beach on the 20th.

JUNE

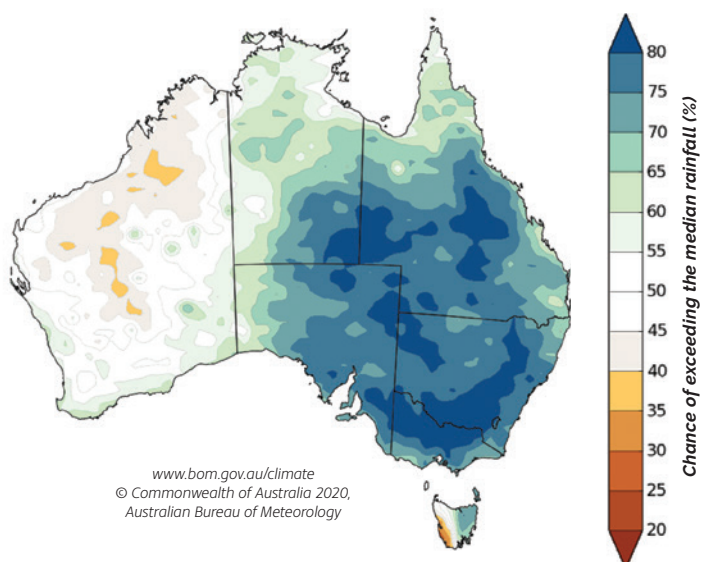
- For Australia as a whole the national mean temperature was the equal-seventh-highest on record at 1.10 °C warmer than average for June. Days were especially warm, with the mean maximum temperature for June the third-warmest on record for June nationally at 1.70 °C above average.
- June rainfall was the third-lowest on record for Australia as a whole.
- Rainfall was below average for most of the country, although large areas of the east and north had close to average rainfall.

JULY

- Daytime temperatures during July were warmer than average for most of the country; the maximum temperature was the seventh-highest on record for July for Australia as a whole.
- July rainfall was 43% below average for Australia as a whole.

RAINFALL OUTLOOK OCT-DEC 2020

CHANCE OF EXCEEDING THE MEDIAN RAINFALL



CLIMATE OUTLOOK OVERVIEW

(Issued 10 September 2020)

- The outlook indicates a wetter than average three-month period for most of Australia.
- The chance of La Niña developing in the coming months is around 70%. This is roughly triple the normal risk; potentially meaning an end to drought conditions this wet season.
- October to December days are likely to be warmer than average across northern Australia, and the far south-east.

LONG TERM AVERAGE RAINFALL (mm)

WEATHER STATIONS	SEP	OCT	NOV
Mareeba	4.4	15.1	42.6
Bundaberg	35	77.4	83.7
Sunshine Coast Airport	52.9	91.4	81.7
Murwillumbah	40	108	120.7

GROWER REPORTS

FAR NORTH QLD

They say its 'fools' and 'tourists' that predict the weather in Northern Queensland. In the last round up I quoted the weather bureau forecast for a hotter and wetter winter across northern Australia. But mother nature did as she pleased for a couple of weeks.

Temperatures fell to -6° in lower areas as the cold Antarctic blast took away the chance of a reasonable season for many farmers across the tableland region. Our passionfruit vines had ice forming up to 5 foot above ground on the stalks. They would not have survived without overhead sprinklers that ran from midnight to midday to stop cells from bursting within the plant as the sun rose. The unexpected cold blast along with weeks of high winds will extend the tableland season to well into the new year.

COVID-19 has not helped, more book work 'health management plans' etc., and less labour around to complete the season. Hopefully, time will permit me to catch up with the North and Coastal growers for the next edition.

Brian & Irene Westwood, Mareeba

BUNDABERG

Hello everyone. It's still very dry in Bundaberg with only about 75mm falling in the last 3 months and are still drought declared. As expected, the water allocations have been decreased with my farm currently set at 65%. Also as expected the winter crop has just about ceased production allowing the older vines to be chopped out in preparation for spring plantings. Looking forward to warmer, sunnier weather after still experiencing single digit mornings in early September. Also, the increasing chances of La Nina developing in the coming months will hopefully deliver the rainfall we desperately need.

Peter & Sally Griffiths, Bundaberg

SUNSHINE COAST

The beginning of Spring has brought a welcome change in the weather – warmer temperatures and a little rain. It has arrived just in time for those wanting to plant early and has helped promote some new growth and flowering. Here on the Sunshine Coast, winter was very mild. Only a couple of cold days early and then a few frosty mornings at the end of August. There was enough rain to keep everything fairly green for most of winter. A few inches of rain now would be ideal. The forecast sounds promising.

From what I have heard, most coast growers had a fair winter crop – not huge amounts but fair prices especially considering "COVID". I thought we would be completely finished picking by early August, but there was obviously a bit of a late set which sees us still picking a few in the first week of September.

The last couple of weeks have kept us busy cutting out the old vines and preparing for the next planting. I'm glad we aren't replacing too many this year, seeing our picking season lasted longer than expected. It is always difficult to chop out vines that still have valuable fruit hanging on them. I don't expect to be picking much fruit again until December, so we should be able to have a break once the new plantings are in and a bit established. Looks like there won't be any visit to the Victorian grandkids this year so we will have to head north. It's tough when you only have all of Qld. to holiday in. Sorry N.S.W. Good luck for the new season and keep well.

Jim & Jill Gordon, Yandina

TWEED AREA

Spring has sprung the grass is riz!! It's always this time of year that you say goodbye to the relatively quiet winter period and turn towards the busy spring and summer. It's now mid-September and we are just getting the last of our fruit off. It's been quite a good winter crop. We have started chopping vines out and decided this year to burn it instead of slashing it up. We are hoping this will help with the fusarium troubles that we are currently experiencing.

Grafting is well under way. This year we have decided to go back to flavicarpa rootstock for some of the vines. I managed to get my hands on some seed and have around a third of pots with the flavicarpa and the rest Pandora. I'm hoping the flavicarpa will have better resistance to the fusarium. The older vines have been a little slow to start running due to a cool September to date. With good moisture levels in the soil, when it warms up a little, I expect them to set a good crop.

Nick & Nerida Hornery, Newrybar

FAR NORTH QLD

(Mareeba, Daintree, Cooktown)

Mareeba (station 031210)	MAY	JUN	JUL
 MEAN (mm)	39.2 [11.8]	4.2 [11.2]	0.4 [5.6]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	4 [2.1]	3 [1.8]	0 [1.5]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	26.2 [26.9]	25.3 [25.3]	25.4 [25.0]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	16.6 [16.8]	16.5 [15.3]	14.0 [13.9]

WIDE BAY

(Bundaberg)

Bundaberg (station 039128)	MAY	JUN	JUL
 MEAN (mm)	14.8 [66.8]	26.6 [50.2]	24.2 [38.6]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	6 [4.5]	4 [3.4]	4 [2.9]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	24.5 [24.8]	23.7 [22.7]	22.6 [22.3]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	13.3 [14.2]	13.3 [11.7]	11.0 [10.3]

SOUTH EAST QLD

(Gympie to Glass House Mtns)

Sunshine Coast Airport (station 040861)	MAY	JUN	JUL
 MEAN (mm)	67.0 [154.9]	81.4 [120.5]	137.4 [63.6]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	11 [10]	10 [9.4]	9 [6.6]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	22.9 [23.6]	21.6 [21.4]	20.9 [21.2]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	13.5 [13.7]	12.5 [11.4]	10.4 [9.6]

NORTHERN NSW

(Tweed Valley)

Murwillumbah (station 058158)	MAY	JUN	JUL
 MEAN (mm)	48.8 [128.6]	102.8 [106.6]	155.8 [59.6]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	9 [9.5]	9 [7.2]	9 [5.7]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	23.0 [23.6]	21.3 [21.3]	21.2 [21.1]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	12.6 [12.5]	10.8 [9.9]	9.6 [8.5]

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