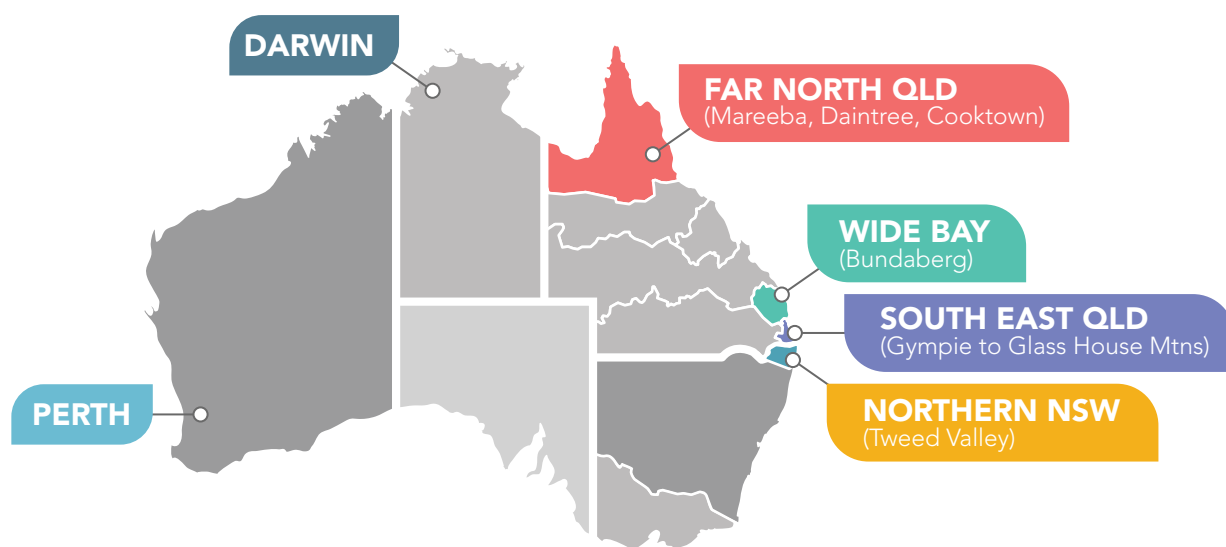


REGIONAL ROUND UP



WEATHER WATCH

AUGUST

- Warmer than average across Australia with August rainfall below to very much below average for much of the country
- Whilst the Sunshine Coast was ablaze with bush fires, parts of southeast Australia struggled with damaging winds, squally showers, and storms
- The cold outbreak brought widespread heavy snow to many elevated areas in New South Wales and Victoria

SEPTEMBER

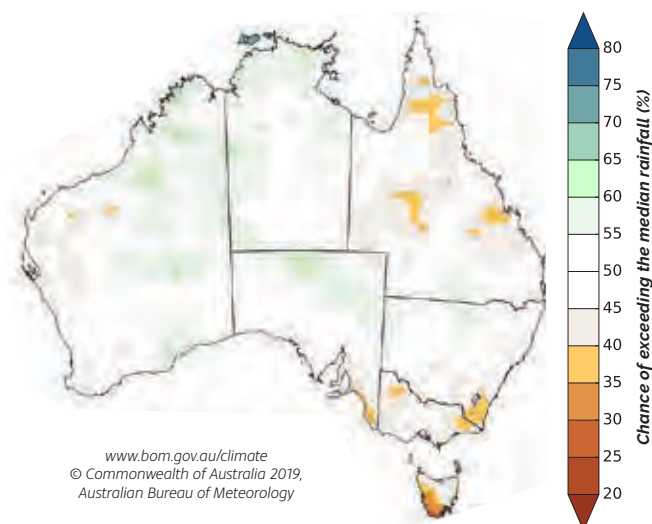
- Warmer than average September for Australia. September rainfall below to very much below average for most of Australia; overall tenth-lowest on record nationally
- It has been the second-warmest January-September on record for Australia (spanning 110 years), with rainfall also below to very much below average over most of the country, and fourth lowest on record for Australia as a whole (spanning 120 years)

OCTOBER

- Third-warmest October on record for Australia
- October rainfall below to very much below average for most of Australia
- It has been the second-warmest January-October on record for Australia (spanning 110 years), with rainfall the second lowest on record for Australia as a whole (spanning 120 years)

RAINFALL OUTLOOK JAN-MAR 2020

CHANCE OF EXCEEDING THE MEDIAN RAINFALL



CLIMATE OUTLOOK OVERVIEW

(Issued 12 December 2019)

- January to March 2020 daytime and nighttime temperatures likely to be above average across Australia.
- The rainfall outlook suggests only small areas of the southeast and northeast are likely to be drier than average, with some small scattered areas of the northwest likely to be wetter than average.
- The good news is much of Australia has roughly equal chances of being wetter than average for January to March.

LONG TERM AVERAGE RAINFALL (mm)

WEATHER STATIONS	JAN	FEB	MAR
Mareeba	208.8	229.7	167.1
Bundaberg	174.2	157.8	113.4
Sunshine Coast Airport	145.5	194.3	167.7
Murwillumbah	208.5	223.9	217.2

GROWER REPORTS

FAR NORTH QLD

Welcome to the last report for 2019. Looking back at last season, growing conditions have been less than perfect followed by an extreme and extended wet followed by weeks of cloudy weather. Winter arrived delivering the first frost at -2 degrees in late July, followed by another 13 frosts at mostly -4 down to -6 in lower areas where cold air pooled. (can this be climate change)?

The cold affected most tropical fruit crops from the Atherton Tablelands to Cooktown. The outcome from this weather condition for passionfruit was little flower and fruit set until November. Normal harvesting would start in September not December. Cooktown also had yield and timing of crops changed, Lakeland Downs has come to a close and will be followed by Cooktown and north coast growers by December's end.

I would like to thank the past executive for their time and excellence in doing a great job and congratulations to the new executive. All the best to everyone for the festive season.

Brian & Irene Westwood, Mareeba

BUNDABERG

Hello everyone. Still has not rained much. Bundaberg has not even reached 400mm for the year yet. The last couple of weeks we have had to endure warm northerly winds & the smoke from the surrounding bush fires. Most farms in the area have finished planting new vines now & are busy training the new growth. The different weather pattern over the last few months resulted in a small portion of fruit being picked through the good money period. Now the Misty Gems have set a reasonable crop but seem to be a few weeks behind in production volume. The Pandoras have finally decided to set and should produce a good January crop. Until next time. Thanks.

Peter & Sally Griffiths, Bundaberg

SUNSHINE COAST

From all accounts, it has been a tough Spring for growers everywhere.

It has been a mixed bag for the Sunshine Coast. Well below average rain, cool nights, dry windy days and hail storms are some of what we have had to contend with. Some of us have been lucky enough to avoid any disasters while others have been less fortunate. The southern end of the coast has been hit hard with severe hail storms.

Fruit production continued a little longer than usual this year - early October for most of us. With the dry spell and the cool early Spring most of us won't have much fruit until well into December. It's looking like another busy Christmas/ New Year period.

One advantage of the dry is lower disease and pest problems. We have a fair crop of clean fruit. We just need a bit more rain to wash in the fertiliser and hopefully get a few decent consignments away before the prices drop.

I hope everyone has a great summer.

Jim & Jill Gordon, Yandina

TWEED AREA

Hello Everyone! It's been fairly quiet on our farm recently. We managed to get our new vines in early, however a lack of rain has meant they didn't hit the ground running.

Our last rainfall in double digits was back in mid-August with very little falling in the meantime. We were lucky the dam filled in winter, which has allowed us to keep the vines topped up.

However, the vines are still feeling the pinch. Quite a big crop has set and they are now struggling to keep up, especially the 12 month olds with the 2 year-olds faring better.

I've heard some reports of some good rain in the Tweed/Murwillumbah area in the last week (mid-November). We also hope the Sunshine Coast growers were spared from the hailstorms.

All the best for the busy summer period.

Nick & Nerida Hornery, Newrybar

FAR NORTH QLD

(Mareeba, Daintree, Cooktown)

Mareeba (station 031210)	AUG	SEP	OCT
 MEAN (mm)	1.2 [7.9]	0 [4.9]	3.6 [15.6]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	1 [1.2]	0 [1.2]	2 [1.4]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	26.2 [26.3]	28.4 [28.8]	30.7 [30.5]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	14.3 [13.8]	12.9 [15.5]	17.1 [17.4]

WIDE BAY

(Bundaberg)

Bundaberg (station 039128)	AUG	SEP	OCT
 MEAN (mm)	9.0 [34.3]	0.2 [36]	35.8 [76.7]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	3 [2.8]	0 [2.9]	5 [5]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	25.1 [23.5]	28.2 [25.6]	27.9 [27]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	10.4 [10.9]	12.7 [13.7]	16.9 [16.5]

SOUTH EAST QLD

(Gympie to Glass House Mtns)

Sunshine Coast Airport (station 040861)	AUG	SEP	OCT
 MEAN (mm)	20.8 [77.2]	4.6 [55.5]	151.6 [80.5]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	3 [5.3]	1 [5.5]	9 [6.9]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	22.6 [22.2]	25.3 [24.4]	25.2 [25.7]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	10.3 [9.9]	12.8 [12.9]	15.8 [15.6]

NORTHERN NSW

(Tweed Valley)

Murwillumbah (station 058158)	AUG	SEP	OCT
 MEAN (mm)	62.1 [54.1]	106.1 [40.5]	39.5 [105.4]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	13 [5.2]	7 [5.3]	6 [7.9]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	24.4 [22.5]	21.6 [25.1]	22.4 [26.4]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	13.0 [8.8]	8.4 [11.5]	6.9 [14.1]

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