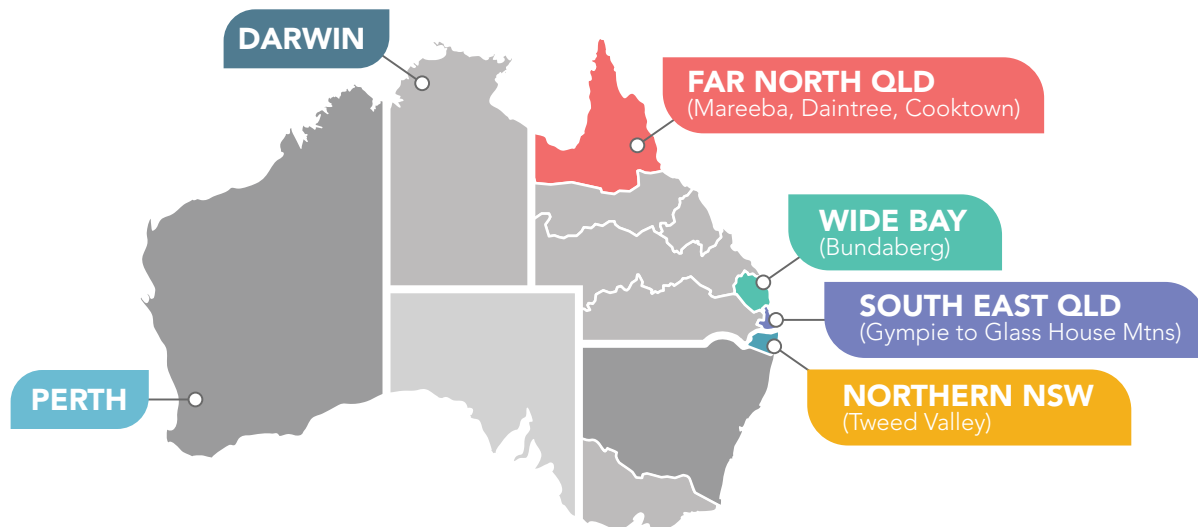


REGIONAL ROUND UP



WEATHER WATCH

AUGUST

- Australia's 6th warmest August on record
- August rainfall was very much above average in north-east New South Wales, parts of the country's south-east coasts, and southern coasts of Western Australia
- As a result of the big wet early in the month, Sydney's Warragamba dam spilled on the 16th, the first time since July 2016

SEPTEMBER

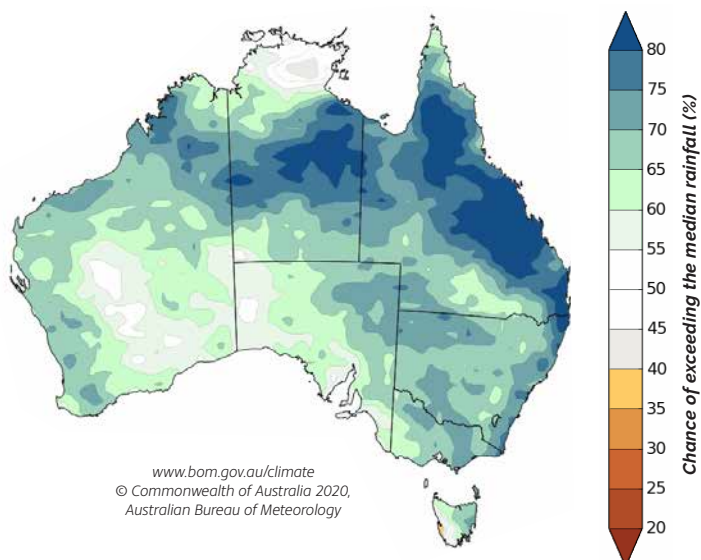
- Australia's 2nd warmest September on record overall
- September rainfall was close to average for Australia overall
- Night temperatures were very much warmer than average for most of the country and overall it was Australia's warmest September nights on record

OCTOBER

- The national mean maximum temperature was warmer than average and the mean overall temperature was one degree above the October average
- Rainfall was above average for Australia overall, and South Australia was the 9th wettest October on record, despite below to very much below average rainfall in south-west Western Australia

RAINFALL OUTLOOK JAN-MAR 2020

CHANCE OF EXCEEDING THE MEDIAN RAINFALL



CLIMATE OUTLOOK OVERVIEW

(Issued 26 November 2020)

- December to February rainfall is likely to be above average across most of Australia, except west coast Tasmania.
- Average daytime temperatures during December to February are likely to be above the long-term average across parts of southeast and far west Australia, as well as along the northern coastline.
- Average night-time temperatures during December to February are very likely to be above the long-term average across almost all of Australia.
- La Niña is underway in the tropical Pacific. La Niña typically increases the likelihood of above average rainfall across eastern Australia during summer.

LONG TERM AVERAGE RAINFALL (mm)

WEATHER STATIONS	JAN	FEB	MAR
Mareeba	209.8	226.4	163.8
Bundaberg	171	156.2	112.9
Sunshine Coast Airport	144.8	207.5	173.7
Murwillumbah	205.3	230.5	216.4

GROWER REPORTS

FAR NORTH QLD

Already the festive season has arrived signalling time to prepare for the next seasons plantings. The road behind us will not have been smooth for all growers. We also must remain optimistic about the future season that lays ahead. Our most northern growers in the Cooktown and Mossman region, have sailed through an average growing season receiving fair yields and I imagine, fair prices.

As was mentioned in the previous edition the cold Antarctic blast caused considerable damage across the Tablelands district including crops other than passionfruit. The cold slowed growth and delayed the passionfruit flowering consequently missing the better market prices. The district is now experiencing extremely hot and dry conditions. Tinaroo Dam is now at 50% and dropping at 0.5% daily. The tableland region hopes the coming season will revert back to normal growing conditions. I am not sure if looking towards the sky in anticipation for fair weather will be fruitful!

I would like to wish all involved in the passionfruit industry a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year for 2021.

Brian & Irene Westwood, Mareeba

BUNDABERG

Hello everyone. It's still very dry in Bundaberg with only about 45mm falling in the last 3 months and we are still drought declared. As the water allocations have been decreased, the DNRME are asking everybody to check their water account balance so as to gauge their water usage and make sure that they don't exceed their authorised entitlement. Now at the end of November the local summer crop of purples is just starting to get into full swing, with quite large reported volumes being sent to market thus resulting in lower returns. However, it was a bonus to have fruit for a few weeks in the good money period which seemed to last a bit longer this year.

Until next time - thanks.

Peter & Sally Griffiths, Bundaberg

SUNSHINE COAST

Summer has certainly started with a sizzle on the Sunshine Coast, and just in time for the pre - Christmas rush. The first week of December has produced a sudden increase in fruit after nearly two months with little or none. It's good to have a bit of an income again.

Spring was generally fine with only a couple of worthwhile falls of rain. The last month has been very dry and the dam is starting to look a bit ordinary. The upside is that there is no fungal disease, but I suspect that mites will soon be a problem. We seem to have a fair crop coming on. The early fruit was small, but it is improving.

The biggest problem is going to be finding enough labour to help pick the crop. There is going to be a bit of competition between the growers to secure any of the few backpackers who are still in the area. It is going to be a busy time for the next six weeks or so with picking, packing, vine training and all the other fun jobs.

Good luck for the Summer season and merry Christmas.

Jim & Jill Gordon, Yandina

TWEED AREA

It's the last week of November and things are hot and dry here on the Tweed. We had good rainfall in the 2nd half of October, but November has been bone dry. Our first plantings went well with the rain, but later plantings could really benefit from a few showers. Our 12-month-old vines are just starting to drop some fruit with a good big crop hanging. With the October rain there is a little disease present but not too bad. Our 2-year-old vines have set a good crop now but are a few weeks behind the younger vines.

All the best to everyone for Xmas.

Nick & Nerida Hornery, Newrybar

FAR NORTH QLD

(Mareeba, Daintree, Cooktown)

Mareeba (station 031210)	AUG	SEP	OCT
 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)	AUG	SEP	OCT
 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)	AUG	SEP	OCT
 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)	AUG	SEP	OCT
 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