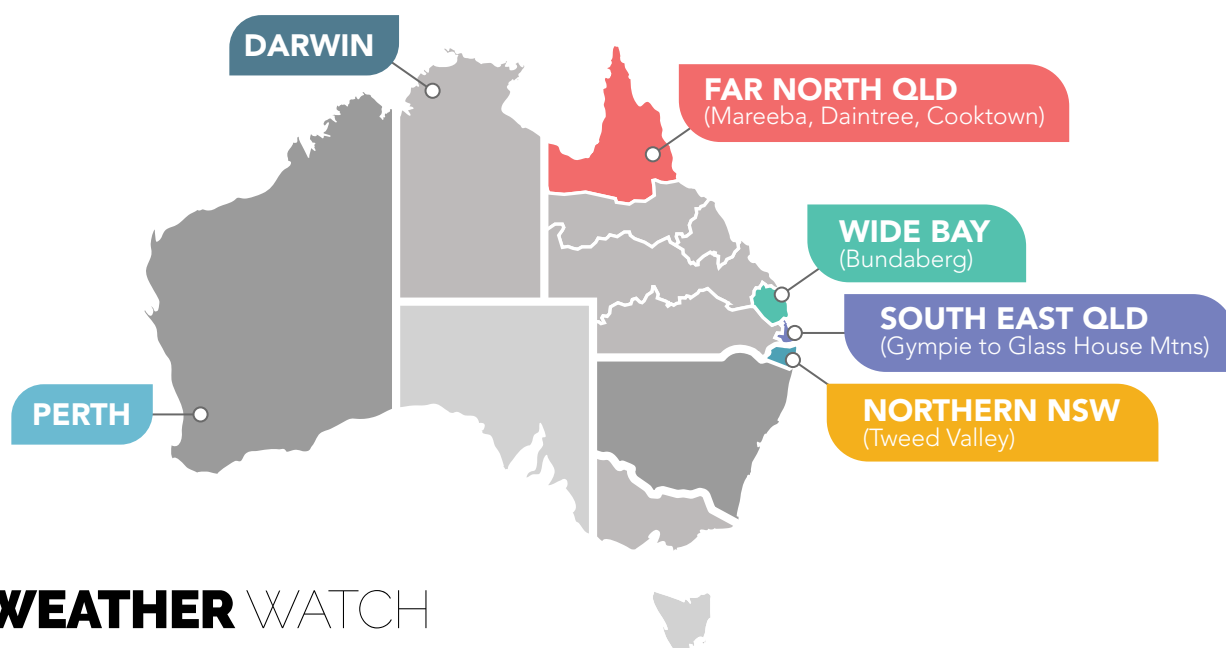


REGIONAL ROUND UP



WEATHER WATCH

FEBRUARY

- Both mean maximum and minimum temperature above average for much of the country
- Rainfall for the month below to very much below average for much of Western Australia, southern Queensland, far western and northeastern to central coast New South Wales
- Active monsoon trough and slow-moving tropical low produced extremely heavy rainfall and flooding in northern Queensland

MARCH

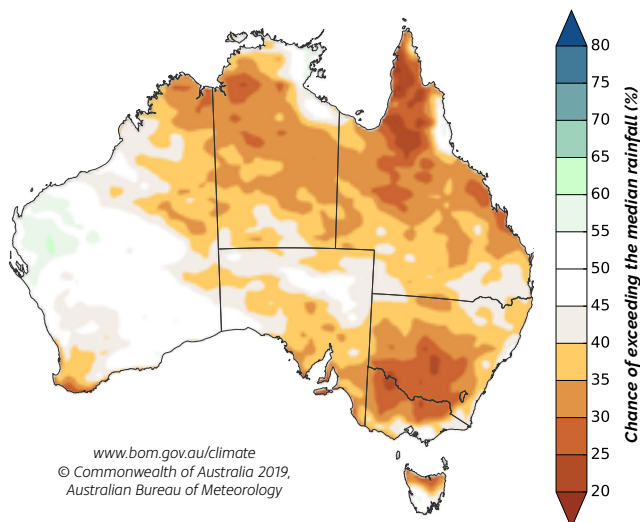
- Warmest March on record for Australia
- Two severe tropical cyclones contributed to very much above average rainfall in far northern Queensland and parts of the south and southeast of the State
- A wet end to the month brought totals to above average for eastern New South Wales and southeast Queensland

APRIL

- Both mean maximum and minimum temperature above average for most of the country
- Rainfall for the month was below to very much below average for much of mainland southeastern Australia
- Rainfall above average in a band between Central Coast of Queensland and northwestern New South Wales
- It has been the warmest January-April on record for Australia, with rainfall also below to very much below average over much of the country

RAINFALL OUTLOOK JUN-AUG 2019

CHANCE OF EXCEEDING THE MEDIAN RAINFALL



CLIMATE OUTLOOK OVERVIEW

(Issued 16 May 2019)

- Warmer than average winter days are likely for most of Australia
- Winter nights are likely to be warmer than average across WA, and parts of the north and east
- Winter is likely to be drier than average for much of Queensland, NSW, the NT, and northern and far southwest WA

LONG TERM AVERAGE RAINFALL (mm)

WEATHER STATIONS	JUN	JUL	AUG
Mareeba	11.5	5.7	7.5
Bundaberg	50.7	39.1	34.0
Sunshine Coast Airport	118.3	64.0	75.0
Murwillumbah	106.6	60.0	53.9

GROWER REPORTS

FAR NORTH QLD

I feel out of sync weather-wise as I write the Winter growers report as the tail end of the wet season lingers on in most growing districts up north. According to the BOM outlook for June – August, Northern Australia is likely to have warmer than normal winter which would benefit the recovery of vines from the excessive wet season. Cooktown is having a good standard growing season, vines are growing strong and that continuation will depend on winter temperatures.

Northern coastal growers have had an extremely punishing wet season with over three metres of rain recorded and it's still raining! Without sunshine, their crops will be running behind time this season. Lakeland Downs weather has also been unfavourable. Looking at my own crops, I believe Mareeba district crops would have almost repaired themselves from the past unusual rain event.

Brian Westwood, Mareeba

BUNDABERG

Hello everyone. Not much to report this quarter. Bundaberg has only received approx. 250mm of rain this year, definitely not a wet season. As mentioned in the last report, the extended hot, dry weather has delayed the flower set, with the Misty Gem crop still about six weeks away. The Pandora also have plenty of green fruit hanging and should only be a couple of weeks away. One advantage of the extended dry weather is the low disease pressure. Our water allocations are still 100% even though much irrigation is happening across all crops.

Until next time. Thanks.

Peter Griffiths, Bundaberg

SUNSHINE COAST

We had our driest Summer on record only to be followed by the highest number of wet days in Autumn that I can remember. It certainly is a land of extremes. The up side is that we are beginning a new season with a full dam. The down side is a fair bit of diseased fruit and that looks like continuing for a while yet.

Overall, I think most growers had a reasonable Autumn, enjoying good prices and fair quantities for the past two months. Anybody who was able to get their last planting established early enough seems to have done well.

The continuous wet weather will probably reduce our chances of having much fruit later in the Winter period and if it cools down too soon it may be a short season. Hopefully, we will have a late setting and have a bit of fruit in August and September.

The wet weather has been a good test for our trial plants. Some have shown that they cannot handle the disease pressure, while others have fared surprisingly well. It will be interesting to see if the same plants have performed as well on other farms. A couple of the Pandora x 12 varieties are looking ok, but it is still too early to get too excited.

All the best for the Winter season.

Jim Gordon, Yandina

TWEED AREA

At Newrybar we have had a typical wet Autumn, with frequent small totals of rain. No flooding rain as yet but our dam has filled quite well.

Easter was fairly quiet fruit-wise, with fruit increasing around the start of May. Overall quality was ok.

With the wet weather we have been having lots of 2nd and 3rd year vines dying. They are developing cracks around the base and rotting off right at ground level. In our nursery we have our seedlings up and running nicely after a very good strike. With some fine weather forecast for the next few days' time to catch up on some spraying!

All the best,

Nick & Nerida Hornery, Newrybar

FAR NORTH QLD

(Mareeba, Daintree, Cooktown)

Mareeba (station 031210)	FEB	MAR	APR
 MEAN (mm)	239.4 [230.2]	104.6 [163.8]	11.2 [38.6]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	17 [13.8]	9 [10.5]	3 [4.0]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	31.1 [30.7]	29.7 [29.8]	28.0 [28.5]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	21.3 [21.4]	20.9 [20.6]	19.4 [19.0]

WIDE BAY

(Bundaberg)

Bundaberg (station 039128)	FEB	MAR	APR
 MEAN (mm)	51.2 [156.2]	81.4 [112.9]	54.6 [55.9]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	10 [8.0]	14 [6.9]	6 [4.8]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	32.3 [30.1]	31.3 [29.3]	28.4 [27.5]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	21.5 [21.4]	21.4 [20.1]	17.9 [17.6]

SOUTH EAST QLD

(Gympie to Glass House Mtns)

Sunshine Coast Airport (station 040861)	FEB	MAR	APR
 MEAN (mm)	82.6 [189.8]	319.0 [173.7]	194.6 [153.8]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	9 [11.2]	12 [11.9]	17 [11.2]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	29.5 [28.9]	29.0 [28.0]	25.6 [26.0]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	22.1 [21.3]	21.6 [20.2]	18.5 [17.1]

NORTHERN NSW

(Tweed Valley)

Murwillumbah (station 058158)	FEB	MAR	APR
 MEAN (mm)	43.1 [220.1]	175.8 [216.4]	143.1 [153.5]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	13 [13.0]	14 [13.8]	10 [10.5]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	29.9 [29.0]	29.6 [28.2]	15.7 [26.2]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	20.2 [19.7]	20.0 [18.4]	26.0 [15.6]

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