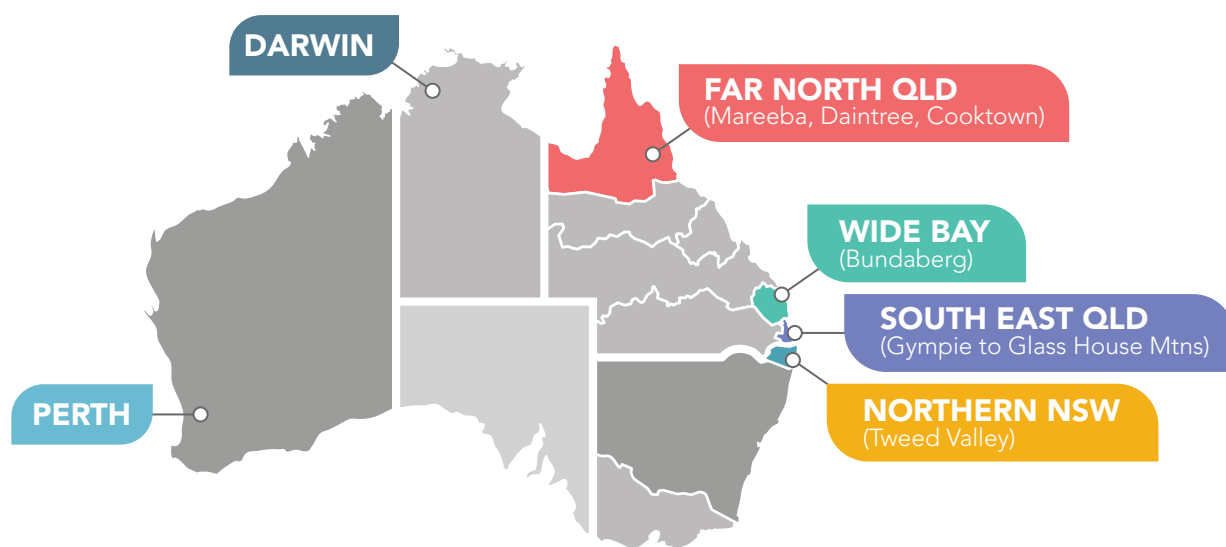


REGIONAL ROUND UP



WEATHER WATCH

FEBRUARY

- Tenth-warmest February on record for Australia, in terms of mean temperature
- Mean maximum temperature above to very much above average for much of northern Australia
- Nationally, February rainfall was 11% above average. Rainfall was above average for NSW, and 104% above the long-term average, making it that State's wettest February since 2012, and its wettest month since September 2016

MARCH

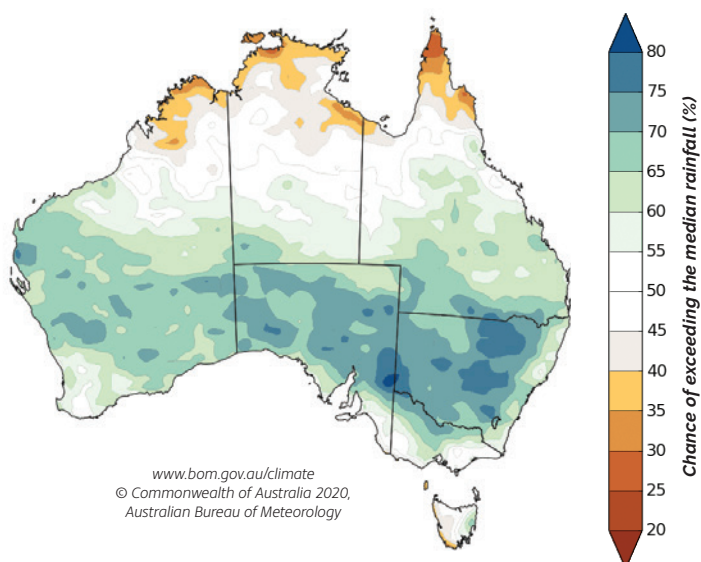
- Both mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures above average for Australia as a whole
- March rainfall slightly below average for the country as a whole
- Rainfall below average for much of the northern tropics and parts of eastern Queensland

APRIL

- Nationally, April was the fifth warmest on record for Australia. The mean temperature was amongst the ten warmest on record for April for Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and Queensland
- Rainfall below average for the west and south of Western Australia, much of eastern Queensland, and parts of coastal New South Wales

RAINFALL OUTLOOK JUL-SEP 2020

CHANCE OF EXCEEDING THE MEDIAN RAINFALL



CLIMATE OUTLOOK OVERVIEW

(Issued 28 May 2020)

- Winter days are likely to be warmer than average across northern and eastern Australia and winter nights are very likely to be warmer than average nationwide.
- Winter (June to August) is likely to be wetter than average for most of Australia (mostly 60-80% chance).
- Similarly, July to September is also likely to be wetter than average for most of the southern two-thirds of the continent (60-75% chance).

LONG TERM AVERAGE RAINFALL (mm)

WEATHER STATIONS	APR	MAY	JUN
Mareeba	5.6	7.2	4.4
Bundaberg	38.6	33.6	35
Sunshine Coast Airport	63.6	73	52.9
Murwillumbah	59.6	53.1	40

GROWER REPORTS

FAR NORTH QLD

COVID-19 changed the world. A change in the weather could turn a passionfruit grower's world upside down. Luckily the weather right across the northern growing district has been reasonably kind. Northern coastal growers, Mossman north and Cooktown have had fair growing conditions, vines are vigorous and pushing well across the trellis tops.

Mareeba overheads are two months behind schedule as the 2019 season ran late. We are pushing plants hard to make time up for the Christmas markets. The weather bureau forecast for northern Australia is for a hotter and wetter winter period than average. Before finishing, I must tell you about the weather events we had in Mareeba district across three consecutive days- Saturday 30mm of rain, Sunday light hail and then on Monday we had scattered frost. Passionfruit farming can be really quite challenging!

Brian & Irene Westwood, Mareeba

BUNDABERG

Hello everyone.

After good rain in January & February we have been let down again with only about 70mm falling in the last three months, thus Bundaberg is still drought-declared.

The vines set a good crop over the last few months, but now with this cold weather, some varieties are struggling to support the crop load. We have been picking both purples & panama for a few weeks now, but we are slowing up now with this colder weather.

Also, to keep us entertained is the Paradise Dam debacle! Why would you start pulling down a new dam that has survived the 2013 - 1 in 100 year flood - instead of investigating all remedies to fix it and not jeopardise the livelihood of many farms that have invested large sums in the area? "If man made it, man can fix it!" Until next time. Thanks.

Peter & Sally Griffiths, Bundaberg

SUNSHINE COAST

Erratic is the best description for the past few months here on the Sunny Coast!

Fruit quantities have been very fickle, but going by the unusually high prices, it has been the same everywhere. Now, in the last week of May, most of us on the Sunshine Coast are picking fairly decent quantities - so there goes the good returns. Hopefully demand picks up as the virus restrictions are relaxed.

The weather has been reasonably kind to us here. That cold snap on the 23rd of May slowed things down for a couple of days though. We went from 120 buckets one day down to 20 the next, but things have gradually picked up again.

Our main problem of late is the unusual amount of alternata spot. Another grower I have spoken to has the same concern. We have both found that it is worse in the first-year vines. Hopefully, we aren't seeing increased resistance to our fungicides.

I expect that we are going to have a busy June, but my feeling is that it will be a short season. I doubt that we will have much fruit by mid-July, if not sooner. The cooler weather is giving us a bit of a break from the weed spraying and mowing. I must admit that I'm enjoying the shorter days. Good luck for the Winter season and keep well.

Jim & Jill Gordon, Yandina

TWEED AREA

Not a lot to report this quarter with a very quiet Autumn on our farm. The February rain saw very little fruit set and aside from the odd bigger drop occasionally, there was plenty of time to catch up on some other jobs.

We had to put in place some COVID-19 measures on the farm but overall felt lucky to be in an 'essential' industry with very little changing in our day to day lives. With the kids home from school I found myself tackling a few curly year 3 maths questions!

Our newer vines are now producing a fair amount of fruit. With the older vines, whilst they have a good crop on, have been a little slow off the mark. All the best.

Nick & Nerida Hornery, Newrybar

FAR NORTH QLD

(Mareeba, Daintree, Cooktown)

Mareeba (station 031210)	APR	MAY	JUN
 MEAN (mm)	37.6 [163.8]	39.4 [38.6]	39.2 [11.8]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	8 [10.6]	6 [4]	4 [2.1]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	29.8 [29.8]	29.6 [28.5]	26.2 [26.9]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	21.3 [20.6]	19.8 [19.0]	16.6 [16.8]

WIDE BAY

(Bundaberg)

Bundaberg (station 039128)	APR	MAY	JUN
 MEAN (mm)	22.6 [112.9]	53.6 [55.9]	14.8 [66.8]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	3 [6.9]	5 [4.8]	6 [4.5]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	29.6 [29.3]	28.8 [27.5]	24.5 [24.8]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	20.2 [20.1]	18.3 [17.6]	13.3 [14.2]

SOUTH EAST QLD

(Gympie to Glass House Mtns)

Sunshine Coast Airport (station 040861)	APR	MAY	JUN
 MEAN (mm)	255.0 [173.7]	23.2 [153.8]	67.0 [154.9]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	13 [11.9]	3 [11.2]	11 [10.0]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	27.3 [28.0]	27.2 [26.0]	22.9 [23.6]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	20.1 [20.2]	17.2 [17.1]	13.5 [13.7]

NORTHERN NSW

(Tweed Valley)

Murwillumbah (station 058158)	APR	MAY	JUN
 MEAN (mm)	119.1 [216.4]	16.5 [153.5]	48.8 [128.6]
 MEAN DAYS >1mm	11 [13.8]	3 [10.5]	9 [9.5]
 MEAN (MAX °C)	27.5 [28.2]	28.1 [26.2]	23.0 [23.6]
 MEAN (MIN °C)	18.3 [18.4]	15.4 [15.6]	12.6 [12.5]

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