

THE SPRING FORECAST

FOR SOUTHERN MDB REGIONS 2020

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Forecasts for your local region (supported with regular email updates) are available via my subscription forecast service.

For further information **VIEW THE 3-MINUTE VIDEO** www.TheLongView.com.au

CONSISTENT RAIN EVENTS IN 2020 HAVE SET UP A PROMISING FINISH TO THE GROWING SEASON

This year started off with a good late Monsoon season “flush”. This was followed by several good Southern Air Tide rain events in Autumn. These events produced an excellent start to the Winter growing season for most of the MDB.

During Winter, strong moist Jetstreams have consistently been feeding into the central MDB weather systems, producing well above average rains (especially around the Dubbo region). Hence, since early April the central and southern regions of the MDB have had regular small rain events, setting up most regions for a very productive Spring finish and harvest season to come.

ANTARCTIC SEA ICE “GROWTH SPURT” INCREASES RISK OF FROST DAMAGE

During most of 2020, the Antarctic “sea ice extent” has grown slowly, but during the last 40 days of Winter this growth rate has moved into “top gear” (surging to the sixth highest extent in 40 years. If this growth rate continues for another few weeks, a new maximum record would be set, (possibly smashing the Spring 2014 record).

Above-average Antarctic sea ice greatly increases our risk of crop damage from Spring frosts. I now forecast that this Spring, has an enhanced chance of producing extensive frost damage across the southern regions of the MDB.

RECENT “LA NINA” TRENDS ARE INDICATING A VERY PRODUCTIVE SPRING

We have recently seen cooler Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) in the central and eastern Pacific, together with a steady rise of the SOI. A continuation of many small rain events during Spring should finish the growing season nicely.

These building “La Nina” forces will combine with strong surges of the Northeast Air Tides, and positive planetary forces when Earth passes closest to Mars. These forces should all work together to deliver about 120% of Spring rain across most MDB regions. I forecast most of this rain will fall during the last half of Spring.

CLIMATE DATA IS BEING RESTRICTED FROM PUBLIC ACCESS

It is becoming increasingly difficult for the general public (such as myself) to get access to accurate and up-to-date climate data from reputable sources. Some key data is now no longer available to the public at all.

The main tool for informing my forecasts (for over 15 years) has been access to Sea Surface Temperature (SST) anomaly or “heat maps”. The US institution NOAA has maintained high-level records of ocean temperatures for over 30 years, but is now delaying the release of new data for many weeks at a time and even up to six months. Alarming, NOAA has recently removed access to its SST data archives, so that it is now impossible to compare previous periods.

Many other critical data graphs on sites like climate4you.com have not been updated for several years. Hence the latest global cooling trends are not being revealed to the public!

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IN BRIEF: Above-average rains in the last half of Spring, especially for northern MDB regions.

The strongest surges of the Northeast Air Tides will help set off an early monsoon season during late October. A warming trend of QLD coastal seas will draw in several “coast-crossing cyclones” in late Spring / early Summer. High risk of a damp harvest season and wet hay during Oct / Nov for the southern regions of the MDB.

Due to the frequent, light nature of most rain events (as we have seen so far in 2020) the MDB will generally receive above-average rain in late Spring, but will produce very little runoff into dams and reservoirs.

Most large reservoirs have started this irrigation season off with only a slight increase in volume compared to last year, with the exception of those in the central east MDB region (east of Dubbo) which has already received good reservoir-filling rains during Winter.

I wish you all the best for the 2020 growing season. Kind regards, Kevin.

For more information: www.TheLongView.com.au