

THE SPRING FORECAST

FOR THE MDB REGIONS 2021

As predicted by Kevin Long (Bendigo VIC) 1 Sep 2021 ph (03) 5443 8848



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A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE 2021 GROWING SEASON

- The tropical northern half of the MDB received good late-season monsoon rains.
- Central NSW regions received good Autumn rains, followed up by above-average early and mid-Winter rains.
- Southwest Victorian regions have received above-average growing season rains and are set up for a great harvest.
- MDB reservoirs have steadily filled throughout Winter and have now reached about 80% capacity over all.
- Irrigators will be very happy this year, with most receiving close to a full allocation by the end of this season.
- General rainfall has tapered off during August to about half of average, and frosty mornings are becoming common.
- Above-average Antarctic sea ice growth trends, and a declining La Nina anomaly both point to a drying climate.

TWO YEARS OF LA NINA HAS REDUCED UPPER ATMOSPHERIC MOISTURE LEVELS

The reduction of upper atmosphere moisture levels helps the growth of global sea ice and promotes global cooling. Both of these have moved significantly during the last 18 months.

There has been 0.65°C of global cooling and there is 1 million square km of above-average sea ice now floating around Antarctica (i.e. 18.67 million sq km in total.) That places Antarctic sea ice back up into the fifth highest position for this peak time of the year. Also, global average temperature dipped below average in early Winter.

There are presently below-average sea surface temperature in the southern oceans, together with a rapidly rising Antarctic sea ice trend. This means weaker and drier southern weather systems. Hence I forecast the southern half of Australia will be dominated by below-average rain during this Spring and Summer period.

RAIN DRIVERS FOR SPRING 2021

- Some positive effects are still with us from the weakening La Nina and the warm sea surface Temperatures that are presently surrounding the northern half of Australia.
- A weak negative IOD will also help the early development of the tropical weather systems during Spring.
- The Northeast Lunar Air Tides will be strongest during the October new moon period this year. The combination of all these positive rain forces should produce good average rains especially across the central MDB regions.
- The overall weather drivers will favor the northern half of Australia during this Spring and leave the southern half with only small and unreliable rain events. The present soil moisture “bank” will be the main driver of the Spring growth.

GLOBAL SEA ICE REBOUNDS

The fastest growth of Antarctic sea usually occurs during the developmental period of most El Nino events. Given that El Nino is due to develop again over the next two years, it is very likely we will see another record high Antarctic sea ice period soon. (Record high sea ice periods coincide with below-average rainfall and above-average Spring frost damage.)

THE SPRING FORECAST **IN BRIEF: Some early thunder storms. Above-average rain in the northern MDB.**

The strongest Northeast Air Tides for this year will help rainfall events during the Spring new moon periods. The southern regions of Australia will be on the tail end of these rain events and hence the north west of Victoria and the inland regions of SA and WA have little chance of receiving any decent spring rain events.

Sea Surface Temperatures off the northern half of Australia have shown a recent small warming trend, so the window is open for early season tropical storms to benefit the northern regions of Australia.

Northeastern regions of Australia should expect above-average rainfall, especially close to the Spring new moons.

I wish you all good luck for the critical end of this growing season. Kind regards, Kevin.

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