

THE SPRING FORECAST

FOR MDB REGIONS 2023



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THE BUILDING EL NINO FORCES HAVE HALVED THE RECENT WINTER RAIN EVENTS

Since early Winter, rain events have been on the slide, as the El Nino system has taken hold. This has resulted in a very dry finish to the Winter season.

Hence, the risk of damaging floods during this Spring period has now been greatly reduced, due to most MDB catchments drying out after being quite saturated in early Winter.

I still forecast a small lift in rainfall events during mid-to-late Spring, when a small number of positive rainfall drivers will be in competition with the drying forces of the El Nino system which is now dominant.

RECENT PLANETARY CYCLES WERE NOT AS INFLUENTIAL AS I HAD EXPECTED

The recent planetary alignment (i.e. Sun, Venus, Earth, and Saturn) had no discernible positive effect on our weather.

This is not a good sign for Spring rains, as we are currently relying on what will be the most powerful planetary alignment of this year, in order to provide a brief lift in the rainfall cycles during November when we will witness the close alignment of the Sun, Mercury, Earth, Mars, Jupiter and Uranus).

(Last year, a planetary alignment involving four planets delivered wide-spread catastrophic floods. This was due to a highly unusual combination of multiple factors, which included the dominant La Nina conditions, a peak in the Northeast Air Tides and boosted moisture levels still circulating after the Jan 2022 underwater Tongan volcano event.)

THE SPRING "MONEY RAINS"

The best Spring rains are very likely to fall within a few days of the New Moon periods in October and November.

These rains events will be the result of the strongest Northeast Lunar Air Tides of the year, combining with the strongest planetary forces of this year.

If October and November remain drier than average, a very hot dry and dangerous fire season will be the result!

FROSTS ARE VERY LIKELY IN EARLY TO MID-SPRING

I forecast a very high risk of crop-damaging frosts during September and early October.

Cooler than average Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) currently dominate most coastal regions around Australia. This dry climate force, together with a late surge in Antarctic Sea ice growth during late Winter, are very important indicators for a drier than average and frosty Spring.

Hence, I forecast many very good cereal crops may need to be cut early for hay.

GLOBAL TEMPERATURES ARE RISING AGAIN

A slowly developing El Nino system and record low Antarctic Sea ice (together with boosted high-altitude moisture levels left over from the 2022 Tongan volcano) have recently combined forces to produce near-record high global temperatures.

On the positive side for Australia, most ENSO models indicate this El Nino anomaly will peak during this Summer.

THE SPRING FORECAST

IN BRIEF: About 70% of average Spring rain.

- Weak patchy rain events, with only a few productive thunderstorms, will deliver most of the Spring rains.
- Spring rainfall totals are forecast to be less than one fifth of last year's Spring rainfall.
- The best chance of decent rain will be close to the New Moon periods of Oct and Nov.
- An elevated risk of damaging frosts during early to mid-Spring.
- A very high grass and bushfire season, with lingering smoke due to uncontrollable fires left burning in the Ranges.
- Maximum irrigation allocations and low water prices are locked in for this season.

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