

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW

AUGUST 2011

August 2011 was cold, cloudy and damp.

Light to moderate falls of rain were scattered throughout the month totaling 56.8 mm, 9 mm higher than the average. The highest daily fall was 16.6 mm on the 27th.

Day temperatures were warm for the first five days at the beginning, and last seven days at end of the month with cooler wintry conditions during the 19 days in between. Overnight temperatures were much milder than normal, and although there were 22 frosts (2 higher than the average,) only one was severe.

There were severe cold changes on the 9th and 18th. See details below.

It was an unusually cloudy month with only 11 sunny days, and the cloudy damp conditions contributed to an unusually high number of foggy mornings - nine in total.

Winds were much lighter than normal for late winter, and were predominantly westerlies.

There were thunderstorms on three days and hail on two days. See details below.

Noteworthy events:

9th August - A broad area of cold air in the upper levels brought cold conditions with light snow and hail to the Northern Tablelands. No snow fell in Armidale, but there were several showers of soft hail during the morning up until around lunchtime. Maximum temperature for the day was 9.9C with gusty winds making it feel much colder.

18th August - A severe cold front passed through the region in the early hours bringing showers and cold temperatures. The showers persisted throughout the day with several brief showers of small/soft hail. At 12.25pm a shower produced a few melting snowflakes mixed with rain (sleet). The maximum temperature for the day was 9.1C and the 3pm wind chill temperature was zero C. There were light snowfalls around Walcha, Guyra and Ebor.

27th August - A trough brought moderate to heavy rain to the Northern Tablelands. Armidale recorded 18.4 mm on the 27th which caused minor flooding in Dumaresq Creek that night and the following morning. Some nearby areas received much higher falls, for example Guyra received 45 mm. The system cleared quickly with a sunny dry day following on the 28th.

24 Consecutive frosts - From 24th July through to 16th August there was a frost every morning making a continuous run of 24 frosts. It is unusual to have an unbroken run of more than 20 frosts. The record is 25 frosts from 20th June to 14th July 1971. In this present run of frosts minimums were lower than -3.9C on seven mornings, and the lowest was -6.0C on 30th July.

AUGUST STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets):

Rainfall: 56.8 mm (47.9 mm)

Rain days: 17 (9)

2011 rainfall total Jan to Aug: 542.6 mm (495.9 mm)

Average maximum temp: 14.6 deg (14.1 deg)

Average minimum temp: 0.9 deg (-0.2 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 20.4 deg on the 25th

Lowest maximum temp: 9.1 deg on the 18th

Highest minimum temp: 6.5 deg on the 23rd

Lowest minimum temp: -4.9 deg on the 5th

Fine sunny days: 11 (18.5)

Ideal weather days: 5 (3.5)

Days with thunderstorms: 3 (0.5)

Days with frosts: 22 (20) light: 10, moderate: 11, severe: 1

Days with fogs: 9 (2)

Wind direction at 3pm & number of days: W: 12, E: 7, SW: 6, S: 3, SE: 2, NE: 1

Average daily evaporation: 1.4 mm (2.1 mm)

Thunderstorm details:

7th: 12.33pm - slight storm from north-west

1.35-4.30m approx. - slight storms from north-west

29th: 8.00-8.45pm - slight storms from west 3.8 mm rain

30th: 11.50am-2.00pm - intermittent thunder heard - no rain