

WINTER WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW June-July-August 2020

Winter 2020 was cool to cold, partly cloudy, and with good falls of rain.

June and July were partly cloudy months, and August was mostly sunny.

Although the rain totals for each month were slightly below the average, soil moisture was retained because of the regular nature of the falls, and low evaporation which is typical in winter.

June recorded 35.6 mm, July 45.2 mm and August 44.2 mm. The total for the three months of 125.0 mm on 34 days was 25 mm lower than the average for the three months, and represented 83 per cent of the normal winter rainfall.

The cold winter weather started on 21st May and lasted, with occasional mild days, for around 14 weeks until 28th August when warmer conditions arrived.

Both day temperatures and overnight minimums were slightly higher than the long term average.

Maximum temperatures reached 20.0 degrees or higher on 0 days, and were lower than 10.0 degrees on 10 days. Minimums dropped to -5.0 degrees or lower on 7 days.

There was one notable temperature extreme on 22nd May - see below.

There were seven major cold outbreaks - 21st-24th May, 2nd June, 22nd-24th June, 13th-15th July, 26th-28th July, 9th-10th August, and 21st-24th August.

Light snow fell on two days - 2nd June and 22nd August

Prevailing winds were westerlies, and were light in June, moderate in July, and moderate to strong in August.

There were 53 frosts, 15 of them severe, with July being the frostiest month.

Noteworthy events:

22nd May - The maximum temperature of just 6.7C recorded at 3.25pm was the lowest maximum for the month of May since 30th May 2000 (6.5C). Overcast skies and cold westerly winds, following a severe cold front which moved through the state on the 21st, caused the extreme wintry conditions.

2nd June - Snow fell in Armidale city from 8.30 to 9.15am but did not settle on the ground. Very cold conditions resulted in light snowfalls along parts of the Northern Tablelands including Armidale and Guyra. Cold south-westerly winds following the passage of a cold front the previous evening, and an upper level cold pool caused the extreme wintry weather. Armidale's maximum temperature for the day was 7.0C.

22nd-23rd June - Very cold winds combined with an upper level cold pool following a cold front which passed through eastern New South Wales on 21st June, resulted in very light snow on the higher parts of the Northern Tablelands around Guyra in the evening of the 22nd. Low day temperatures followed on the 23rd with Armidale recording a maximum of just 5.5C at 11.15am. This was Armidale's coldest day since 18th July 2014 when 5.5C was also recorded.

22nd August - Very cold and windy conditions following a severe cold front which passed through north-east New South Wales in the early hours produced showers of rain, snow and hail on the Northern Tablelands. After a maximum of 8.5C at 10.05am, the temperature in Armidale dropped to just 2.4C at 3.30pm during showers of small hail and snow which partially whitened the ground. The hail and snow fell from 3.15 to 3.35pm. There were heavier snowfalls on higher parts of the region, mostly in the area south of Walcha. Very little snow fell in the Guyra/Black Mountain area.

WINTER 2020 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 125.0 mm (149.9 mm)

Rain days: 34 (28)

Average maximum temp: 13.9 deg (13.4 deg)

Average minimum temp: 0.6 deg (0.0 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 19.7 deg on 31st August

Lowest maximum temp: 5.5 deg on 23rd June

Highest minimum: 9.5 deg on 15th August

Lowest minimum temp: -8.7 deg on 6th August

Fine sunny days: 37 (47)

Days with thunderstorms: 2 (2)

Days with frosts: 53 (56)

AVERAGE WINTER TEMPERATURES - ARMIDALE NSW 1981-2020

