



SOI FAX HOTLINES

(Southern Oscillation Index)

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this page is updated each Wednesday, usually by 5pm

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW FAX NUMBER !!



SOI MESSAGE - 23 September 1998

SOI (a) AVERAGES / PHASE

June 98	*	+8.2
July 98	*	+12.9
August 98	*	+9.8

Last 30 days		+ 6.6
Last 90 days (b)		+ 10.8

SOI trend (b) during July-August was Phase 2 (i.e. positive ▲).

NOTE : (a) SOI values calculated using mean barometric pressures from 1880 to 1992 - subject to revision by Bureau of Meteorology.
* Preliminary value ** Revised value
(b) See AUSTRALIAN RAINMAN for effects of SOI on rainfall at your location.

REVIEW OF CLIMATIC FORECASTS AND INFORMATION

Most climatic indicators suggest continuing improvement in the rainfall outlook.

Use of the AUSTRALIAN RAINMAN package indicates that the probabilities of exceeding median rainfall during the September-November period are generally 60-80% in the eastern half of Australia.

Some USA agencies are predicting the development of a La Niña pattern this year. Such a development would probably result in reduced rainfall for our trade competitors in south-western USA, Argentina and central Asia.

Wheat production models indicate high probabilities of above average yield potential in all major production areas of Australia. In order to achieve this optimum management is required (for example adequate fertiliser, pest and disease control). Producers should also be aware of the risk of

waterlogging on susceptible areas. Commencing harvest when mature grain is about 15% moisture, followed by grain drying, is likely to pay dividends this year.

Colder-than-normal, sea-surface temperatures are now spreading throughout the entire eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. In addition, sea-surface temperatures are considerably warmer than normal in waters off northern Australia.

Our pasture production model indicates that above-average growth is likely over most of Queensland during the spring.

The average SOI over the last 30 days remains positive at +6.6 . The probabilities of exceeding median rainfall for the September-November period remain relatively high at 60% to 80% for most of Australia.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The next passage of the 30- to 50-day Oscillation is expected about the end of September.

The April-May SOI Phase indicated that there was generally a low probability of late, damaging frosts this year.

To obtain more detailed information for your location, we recommend combined use of the AUSTRALIAN RAINMAN package and the Bureau of Meteorology's Seasonal Climate Outlook. Also a lot of additional information is available on our SOI Fax Hotlines, our Internet World Wide Web service called 'The Long Paddock', and on BoM's fax and Internet information services.

**NEXT UPDATE of the SOI MESSAGE:
30th September 1998**

Climate Impacts and Grazing Systems - Department of Natural Resources

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If you would like any further information, please contact Col Paull on (07) 389 69587, or one of the climate extension officers at the DPI in Charters Towers, Emerald, Gympie, Kingaroy, Longreach, Mackay, Mareeba, Roma and Toowoomba.

Some information courtesy Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, USA