



# SOI FAX HOTLINES

(Southern Oscillation Index)

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this page is updated each Wednesday, usually by 5pm



## SOI MESSAGE - 30 June 1999

SOI (a) AVERAGES / PHASE		
April 99	*	+16.8
May 99	*	+ 0.9
June 99	*	- 0.5
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Last 30 days		- 0.5
Last 90 days (b)		+ 5.5
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SOI trend (b) during May-June was Phase 5 (i.e. near zero ○).		
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.		

normal in the winter-cropping season around Moree, and slightly late in winter-cropping areas of southern and central Queensland. However, the frost risk is generally very low for June plantings. Burning wheat stubble before planting this year's crop may be necessary to control yellow spot.

The likelihood of above-average pasture growth during the June-August period is low for much of Queensland, as pasture growth has already reached its potential in many regions. However, above average rainfall in the last three-month period has enhanced prospects for winter pasture growth in parts of central-western and southern Queensland.

*The average SOI over the last 30 days was -0.5. Based on recent trends in the SOI, there is now about a 40% probability of exceeding median rainfall for much of Queensland. Note that this probability value is for the total rainfall amount for the July to September period. Actual probability values for individual shires can vary a little from this value.*

**THE BOTTOM LINE**

### REVIEW OF CLIMATIC FORECASTS AND INFORMATION

Based on latest values and trends of the SOI, the probability of exceeding median rainfall is close to about 40% for most of Queensland for the July to September period.

Colder-than-normal, equatorial sea-surface temperatures are now present from around the International Dateline to the central Pacific Ocean, and in most of the eastern Pacific. However, temperatures now are cooler than normal in waters off Queensland and the Northern Territory. Sea-surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean reflect a very weak La Niña pattern, although some experimental models suggest the re-strengthening of the La Niña pattern towards the end of the year. In general terms, such a pattern means reduced rainfall for our trade competitors in south-western USA, Argentina and central Asia.

Rainfall prospects over the winter cropping areas of central and southern Queensland are mostly average. The SOI Phase at the end of May indicates that frosts (-2 degrees C in the screen) can be expected to be later than

The next passage of the 30-50 day oscillation is expected about mid July.

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:**  
7th July 1999

**Climate Impacts and Natural Resource Systems - Department of Natural Resources**  
Compiled by Col Paull and Dr Roger Stone, QDPI.

*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 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, USA*