



SOI FAX HOTLINES

(Southern Oscillation Index)

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this page is updated each Wednesday, usually by 5pm



SOI MESSAGE - 14 July 1999

SOI (a) AVERAGES / PHASE		
April 99	*	+16.8
May 99	*	+ 0.9
June 99	*	- 0.5

Last 30 days		+ 2.1
Last 90 days (b)		+ 4.2

SOI phase (b) during May-June was '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.		

SOI Phase at the end of May indicates that frosts (-2 degrees C in the screen) can be expected to be later than 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 July-September 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 +2.1. Based on recent trends in the SOI, the probability of exceeding median rainfall during the total July to September period is around 40% for most of Queensland, NSW and Victoria.

THE BOTTOM LINE

REVIEW OF CLIMATIC FORECASTS AND INFORMATION

Based on latest values and trends of the SOI, the probability of exceeding median rainfall during the July to September period is around 40% for most of Queensland, NSW and Victoria. The same probabilities are also indicated by the experimental sea-surface temperature forecast system developed by the Bureau of Meteorology.

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 re-strengthening of the 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 about average. The

The next passage of the 30-50 day oscillation is expected about the second week of August.

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:
21st 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