

THE RAINFALL REVIEW

You may have been left wondering where some of the rain went this year given a La Niña was announced in spring. However, unfortunately or fortunately (no-one wanted a wet harvest!) a La Niña in our region doesn't necessarily equate to 'Above Average' rainfall. Whilst a La Niña typically increases the changes, historical data reveals that in the last 10 years there was only one other year (2011) where a La Niña was the sole climate driver in action and in that year the growing season rainfall (GSR) finished up as a decile 4-5 for many locations across the Wimmera and Mallee (Table 1). How does the 2020 GSR for your farm compare?

*Note the La Niña in 2011 was the continuation from 2010 where it combined with a negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and brought heavy falls across our region.

Table 1. Growing Season Rainfall (mm) across the Wimmera and Mallee, number in brackets denotes decile for the period (April to October).

Location	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Ouyen	277 (8)	129 (4)	127 (4)	199 (6)	335 (9)	145 (4)	180 (6)	175 (5)	100 (3)	168 (5)	270 (7)
Manangatang	201 (6)	139 (5)	98 (3)	193 (6)	280 (8)	127 (4)	159 (5)	201 (6)	118 (4)	152 (5)	256 (7)
Swan Hill	214 (6)	155 (4)	108 (3)	192 (6)	285 (8)	146 (4)	188 (6)	183 (5)	147 (4)	153 (5)	319 (8)
Sea Lake	197 (6)	140 (4)	101 (3)	207 (6)	343 (9)	127 (4)	197 (6)	182 (5)	150 (5)	154 (5)	313 (8)
Birchip	242 (6)	185 (5)	111 (3)	265 (7)	365 (9)	145 (4)	163 (4)	259 (7)	175 (5)	204 (5)	287 (7)
Hopetoun	253 (6)	172 (5)	130 (4)	209 (6)	319 (8)	137 (4)	138 (4)	207 (6)	158 (5)	168 (5)	264 (7)
St Arnaud	329 (6)	279 (5)	189 (3)	343 (6)	513 (8)	178 (3)	241 (4)	311 (5)	284 (5)	246 (4)	483 (8)
Kerang	243 (6)	156 (4)	121 (3)	221 (6)	340 (8)	172 (4)	233 (6)	228 (6)	168 (4)	170 (4)	401 (9)
Warracknabeal	239 (5)	249 (6)	172 (4)	261 (6)	384 (8)	176 (4)	182 (4)	290 (7)	161 (4)	170 (4)	348 (8)
Longerenong	322 (7)	250 (5)	187 (4)	302 (6)	374 (8)	142 (3)	202 (4)	313 (7)	243 (5)	202 (4)	322 (7)
Nhill	291 (6)	238 (5)	232 (5)	334 (7)	339 (7)	122 (2)	203 (4)	339 (7)	156 (3)	181 (4)	258 (6)
Kaniva	330 (6)	292 (6)	299 (6)	400 (8)	428 (8)	180 (3)	213 (4)	388 (7)	282 (5)	229 (4)	336 (6)
Boort	281 (7)	197 (5)	160 (4)	253 (6)	433 (9)	159 (4)	207 (5)	267 (6)	177 (4)	233 (6)	418 (9)
Murrayville	240 (7)	155 (4)	114 (3)	208 (6)	317 (8)	142 (4)	179 (5)	203 (6)	106 (3)	145 (4)	247 (7)
Climate Driver	<i>La Nina</i>	<i>+IOD</i>	<i>+IOD</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>-IOD</i>	<i>El Nino/ +IOD</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>+IOD</i>	<i>La Nina</i>	<i>La Nina/ -IOD</i>