

Australian Oilseeds Federation Crop Report



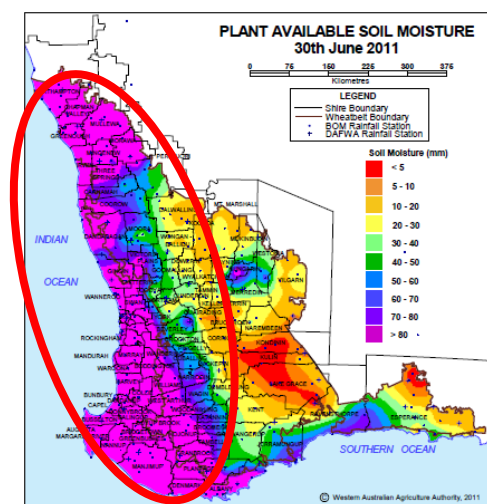
July 2011

Canola 2011/12

	2010/11 Interim Final		2011/12 July Estimate	
	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted* (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	310,000	610,000	395,000	630,000
Vic	240,000	440,000	390,000	625,000
SA	197,000	382,000	245,000	370,000
WA	845,000	709,000	800,000	960,000
Total	1,591,000	2,141,000	1,830,000	2,585,000

Source: Industry Estimates: 11/07/2011

Recent rains in WA and Victoria have served to significantly increase yield prospects in those states, with the net effect being an overall increase in the projected national tonnage of close to 6% to 2.585 million tonnes. If this tonnage was to be realised, this would place the 2011 crop as being the largest crop in 15 years, and at current prices, valued close to \$1.5billion.



Map of the plant available soil moisture for south east Western Australia, indicating the positive effect of recent rains.

In **NSW**, rainfall during June was below average, leading to surface drying. When compounded with the cooler than average weather, including frosts in some areas, progress of the crop has slowed. The good/excellent sub-soil moisture

levels, however, continued to provide confidence that yields will be above average, currently estimating 1.6t/ha.

Total area in NSW has lifted since last month, following some late plantings following failure of lupins, and the limited options following use of atrazine. While the later planted crops are at the 4-6 leaf stage, early planted crops are at budding stage, with some already at flowering stage.

Mice damage has receded, but still significant in patchy areas, and numbers are still high enough to present a strong concern for spring. Baiting activity is continuing. Other pest and diseases such as slugs and blackleg are present, but not significant.

In **Victoria**, the situation is generally very good, with recent rains in many areas building the necessary bridge between dry topsoil and the existing good levels of sub-soil moisture. In the Mallee, drier topsoil has affected germination of late planted crops, while further south crops have responded well to recent rains. The Western District still remains very wet, which is creating crop stress, and creating on-going problems with slugs. As with NSW, mice continue to be a challenge, with ongoing baiting still the most prevalent control means. Overall, conditions remain favourable for the state, with yield projections lifting to 1.6t/Ha, above the 5 year average, but not yet reaching the levels achieved last year (1.8t/Ha).

South Australia, like Victoria is also looking very good, with an increased area devoted to canola this year compared to recent years. However, as with much of the eastern states, rain in June was below average in many areas (Decile 3-4). There are some minor issues with mice in a few areas but this tends to be dependent on previous paddock history. Odd paddocks have had problems with fertiliser toxicity with crop being sown into drying sandy soils in close proximity to fertiliser. Some crops in upper South East were sown into relatively dry soil and only began to germinate with rain later in June, although the late start is not considered to be significant given the high level of subsoil moisture. On the Eyre Peninsula, some crops are beginning to flower. Blackleg levels seem similar to previous years.

Recent rains in **Western Australia** during June and July have been a welcome relief for WA farmers, with those crops surviving the dry start being able to benefit from the rains. Certain areas, particularly the central wheat belt is still very dry however, at below decile 1, with canola now no longer part of this season's program. Where canola is in, crop development in

some districts is up to 2 weeks ahead of expectations with the warmer conditions and moisture bonus driving the crops ahead. In the north, up to 80% of the crop is in flower, with the growth at bolting stage further south. Where RoundUp® Ready canola has been chosen, growers are reporting very effective weed management. With the improved conditions in WA, the

projected yield has been increased to 1.2 t/Ha, delivering close to a 10% increase in expected tonnage.

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