Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



April 2008

Sunflowers 2007/08

Sunflower prospects have been revised upwards slightly with good yields expected from the NSW late crop. There has been no change to outlook for the Queensland crop.

	2006/07	2007/08 Estimates	
	Production	Area Planted	Production
	(tonnes)	(hectares)	(tonnes)
QLD	2,960	20,100	30,550
NSW	15,040	28,300	41,770
Total	18,000	48,400	72,320

Source: Industry Estimates, 11/04/08

In the **Moree region**, the late plant is ranging from flowering to physiological maturity. Most crops are in late grain fill stages with some about to be desiccated. Rutherglen bug pressure has been less of an issue for the late plant. Conditions have remained very dry for the last 7 weeks, reducing yield potential for dryland crops. Irrigated crops that have received 1-2 waterings look reasonable. Average yield potential is likely to be variable, but should reach around 1.3t/ha.

The late plant on the **Liverpool Plains** varies from drying down to just finishing flowering. While dry conditions have continued most crops are still in very good condition. Rutherglen bug pressure remains low, but high numbers of whitefly have been found in most crops. Powdery mildew progress has been halted by the dry conditions although a number of crops were sprayed just prior to/ following Easter. Yield potential for the late plant remains high, with an average of 1.8t/ha estimated at this stage of crop development and given the number of crops under irrigation. Rain would still benefit most of the crop if it occurred in the next fortnight. There was some concern with a few light frosts around the end of March, however, no reports of damage have been received.

Crops in the **Coonamble region** have generally just finished flowering and appear to still have reasonable subsoil moisture supporting their yield potential. Rutherglen bug may be an issue and rain would assist the crop through grain filling in the next 3 weeks.

Canola estimates will commence next month.

Soybeans 2007/08

Soybean estimates have been revised down by around 10% due to wet weather and frost. Harvest is just commencing.

	2006/07	2007/08 Estimates	
	Production (tonnes)	Area Harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
QLD	11,125	8,000	21,530
NSW	20,760	6,855	15,080
VIC	0	0	0
Total	31,885	14,855	36,610

Source: Industry Estimates, 11/04/08

Crops in north and coastal **Queensland** are mixed. There are some very good crops, but others that have been impacted by wet weather, inoculation problems and disease. Inland crops are generally looking good.

The NSW north coast has been impacted by continuing rain, with recent falls of between 60 and 320 mm across the region. Further wet weather is forecast and the impact on the crop is uncertain. The next two weeks will be critical for crops and, while area harvested and yields have been revised down this month, further revision could occur if the current conditions continue.

In the north west of **NSW**, yields have been revised up as crops benefited from the mild conditions last month. Conditions on the tablelands have been mixed with some crops lost to frost, although the remaining crops should yield quite well. The crops in the Riverina are looking good and are on track for targeted yields. A late heat spike may have some effect of seed size, but that is unconfirmed at this stage.

Upcoming Events

28-30 July 2008 Australian Grains Industry Conference, Melbourne www.agricultureaustralia.com.au

3-6 November 2008, International Safflower Conference, Wagga Wagga NSW. Register at www.australianoilseeds.com

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