

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



March 2005

Sunflowers 2004/05

Estimates have been revised downwards slightly as the anticipated Central Queensland crop has not eventuated. We are now forecasting the crop to produce just over 68,000 tonnes which is an improvement on the previous two drought affected years, but still well below the industry's required production levels.

	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Queensland	22,010	24,810
NSW	25,915	43,545
Total	47,925	68,355

Source: *Industry Estimates, 9/31/05*

In **Central Queensland** the planting window is narrowing rapidly and we have dropped the potential area planted considerably. It is currently estimated that around 10,000 hectares will be planted, however, this remains subject to suitable conditions.

The early crop harvest in **northern NSW** is complete with average yields of 1.8 t/ha. The late plant crops range from budding to petal drop and are in need of 50-75mm of rain, with the exception of a few irrigated crops west of Moree which are progressing well. Whitefly are plentiful, but do not appear to be causing economic damage.

The **Liverpool Plains** early crop is being harvested with good average yields. Some slow dry down has delayed harvest. The late plant crops are between flowering and budding, with the latest sown only at the 10-12 leaf stage. Recent storm rain has aided in alleviating moisture stress. Insect populations have also remained low at this stage except for whitefly populations which are quite high.

Soybeans 2004/05

Dry weather in Queensland has impacted the soybean crop and overall Australian production has been revised down by almost 10%. However, the decline, in both area and production, in Queensland is more significant. This has been partly offset by an upward revision of area planted in NSW.

State	Area Planted (Ha's)	Production (Tonnes)
Queensland	9,000	18,030
NSW	18,550	46,354
Victoria	440	1,210
Total	27,990	65,594

Source: *Industry Estimates, 11/2/05*

Continuing dry conditions across much of Queensland has led to cutting and baling of some crops (particularly southern Queensland) and reduced yield prospects. On the coastal areas, the crops are under stress and there may be some further downside on yield in this region and across Southern Queensland. There is not expected to be much further loss of area due to crops being baled.

The NSW **North Coast** region is still looking good, although rain forecast for this week is needed. At this stage we have left estimates unchanged. The irrigated crops in the **northern NSW** regions have very good yield potential. The north west crops are relatively free of major insect worries, but may require another spray before maturity. The potential for the **Liverpool Plains** crop has been reduced due to crops that were sown on the late side not growing to expectations. The **north-west slopes/tablelands** crops are rapidly running out of moisture and the region is in need of 30-50mm to prevent yield loss.

The **southern NSW** and **Victorian** crops are in good condition and estimates remain unchanged. There has been little insect pressure.

Canola 2005/06

Canola forecasts will recommence in April/May.

Upcoming Events

Soybean Field Days Queensland – there are field days planned for Childers on 17 March and the Downs on 12 April. For further information contact Greg Mills on 07 4160 0742

9 & 10 August 2005 Agriculture Australia - the grains industry's annual conference will be held in Melbourne. Contact Rosemary Richards 02 9405 2340 or Geoff Honey 02 9402 9402 for further information.

12 October 2005 AOF Fourm. The AOF's annual conference will be held in Sydney. For further information contact AOF on 02 9405 2340 or aof@australianoilseeds.com

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