

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



October 2011

Canola 2011/12

	2010/11 Final		Area Planted* (hectares)	2011/12 October Estimate	
	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)		Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	310,000	620,000	395,000	395,000	575,000
Vic	240,000	450,000	390,000	370,000	570,000
SA	197,000	382,000	245,000	245,000	355,000
WA	845,000	709,000	800,000	800,000	1,040,000
Total	1,591,000	2,161,000	1,830,000	1,810,000	2,540,000

*Area planted as at July 2010 estimates.
Source: Industry Estimates: 14/10/2011

Good falls of rain through much of the canola growing region of the country over the past 4-6 week have firmed confidence in prior yield predictions, while the mid-late season rain in WA has seen a lift in yield projections for that state. The net effect is a lift in overall forecast tonnages to a record 2.54 million tonnes (80,000 tonnes up on last month). The previous record was 1.5mln tonnes in the 1999/2000 season.

In **NSW**, good widespread falls across much of the state (20-50mm), combined with milder temperatures has led to a far greater level of confidence in the yield projections for the State. In the north, the conditions have resulted in a good flowering period which is now being translated into good pod fill. In the far north and west, windrowing has commenced, which will begin to move south over coming weeks. Estimates are that the good conditions have brought crop development forward by around 7-10 days.

The drier conditions mid season did take a toll on some crops, with isolated number of crops in the far west grazed out as poor establishment has led to poor prospects for the crop coming to fruition. While there have been reports of frost on the southern slopes, these are not expected to significantly affect yield in these districts. Similarly, reports of insect damage (mostly

aphids and heliothis) are isolated, and where present, not widely sprayed because of the overall good condition of the crop.

Mice remain a risk through spring, and although numbers have fallen back significantly through the winter, where mice remain active, they are having a damaging effect. As numbers expand with the warmer weather, there are reports of them re-habiting holes from previously bated and destroyed colonies.

The 25-50mm of rain at the end of September in **Victoria** had a similar beneficial effect as in NSW, being much welcomed and easing the condition of plants that were beginning to show signs of stress resulting from the dry conditions. In the Mallee windrowing has commenced, although there is growing interest in direct heading in this district, which may lead to seed loss and a reduction in yield. In the Wimmera, flowering is ending and plants are beginning to pod up, while in the Western district, crops are still flowering. There have been some reports of frosts in patches, but not of any consequence to overall state yield, and while mice numbers are also reported to be low and expected to stay that way up to harvest.

South Australia has experienced another strong season this year, with good in-season rainfall across most districts, and crops bolstered by the September rainfall. Harvest estimates could come in as one of the highest on record, beaten only by last season's record. No significant insect or mice damage is being reported in SA this season.

In **Western Australia**, headers have begun to roll with first deliveries already having been made in the Geraldton zone with reported yields of up to 1.8t/Ha and oil content in the mid 40% (up to 47% in some cases). Further south, in the Kwinana zone, windrowing is well

under way although the good condition of the crops is causing some lodging, particularly in the west of the zone. Further south in the Albany port zone, the crop is also looking good, with forecast yields at around 1.5t/ha, and no further rain expected in the lead up to harvest. Late season rain the Esperance zone will help to ensure average yields of around 1t/Ha are achieved, following a drier than usual time for much of the season. Frost and insect damage across the state has not been of any significance.

Finally, there is a growing interest in canola in southern **Queensland** this season, with reports of up to two thousand hectares available for harvest with canola trials underway as far north as Emerald in CQ. Due to the relatively small size devoted to canola, this area is not included in the AOF estimates.

Summer Crops

Soybean: The prospects for soybeans look positive for the upcoming season, with plantings expected to cover inland northern Victoria through NSW MIA and north coast up to the central coastal region of Queensland. Firm global prices will encourage some growers to include soybean this year, although the high price of

cotton will mean little, if any, plantings in cotton areas of CQ and NW NSW. Queensland soybean planting could reach 10,000 Ha this year, which is in line with the 5 year average, although significantly up on last year. Strong interest in the MIA in NSW will see a good return to soybeans in this area, and combined with Nth Coast NSW, could see up to 15,000 Ha planted. Assuming long term average yield, this could result in over 50,000 tonnes this season, more than double that of last season.

Sunflowers: for early plant sunflowers, good conditions in Victoria leading into summer has driven growing interest in sunflowers this season, which will go some way to compensating for only moderate interest in the traditional growing areas of CQ and northern NSW. Price relativity to sorghum will determine the interest in late planting, and at present, sorghum remains more attractive. A new contract approach by Cargill is working to reduce grower risk, and appears to be gaining grower support. At this stage, around 35,000 Ha could be sown to sunflower, being 15,000 in Qld and the balance in NSW/Vic, which at average yield, could deliver around 50,000 tonnes. (domestic demand remains around 100,000 t).

Upcoming Events

Fats and Oils — Industry, Innovation and Health: Adelaide: Nov 9-11

The conference program will cover nutritional research, omega 3 oils, marine lipids, dairy lipids, oxidation, biotechnology, animal lipids, aquaculture, edible oil and ingredient supply, olive oils, oil analysis and other activities that support the lipid industry and oils research. This year a **hot topic session** will focus on the new olive oil standards in Australia and New Zealand. Furthermore two workshops, "Lipid Oxidation and Antioxidants" and "Production of Margarines, Dairy Blends and Spreads" will be held prior to the conference. This conference will provide an excellent opportunity for delegates to network with existing and new colleagues.

Time is now to register and secure your spot at the conference and workshops

For more information click www.aocs.org/goto/austral

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