

# Australian Oilseeds Federation

## Crop Report



February 2005

### Canola 2004/05

Our final estimates for 2004/05 show that the crop was better than expected. Yields have been upgraded in all states, although the greatest increases have occurred in Victoria and NSW. While we have left area planted unchanged, it would appear that the area planted in these have been under estimated. The average yield across Australia is estimated at around 1.2-1.3 tonnes per hectare (adjusting for NSW & Victoria), which was better than expected given the difficult seasonal conditions.

State	2003/04	2004/05 Production	
	Production (Tonnes)	Area Planted (Hectares)	Production (Tonnes)
NSW	282,000	279,000	420,000
Victoria	420,000	240,000	395,000
SA	310,000	180,000	226,000
WA	610,000	420,000	490,000
Total	1,622,000	1,119,000	1,531,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 14/2/05

### Sunflowers 2004/05

The sunflower estimates have been revised upward slightly (around 5%), largely due to improved yield prospects. Total production is expected to be just over 73,000 tonnes with about 60% of the crop of monounsaturated type.

	Area Planted (has)		Production (tonnes)	
	Early	Late (est)	Early	Late (est)
Queensland	3,725	24,285	5,850	24,960
NSW	16,020	9,400	28,750	13,450
Total	19,745	33,685	34,600	38,410

Source: Industry Estimates, 14/21/04

**Central Queensland** has just commenced planting. Soil moisture is mostly marginal to average, so follow-up rain will be needed for decent crops and before final estimates can be determined. The **southern Queensland** crop has been impacted by hot and dry weather conditions.

Harvest of the early crop in **northern NSW** has commenced, with yields ranging from 1t/ha to 2.8t/ha. This could see an average yield of around 1.8 t/ha. There have been some delays to harvest due to slow dry down of some crops. The late-planted crop has been sown on good moisture profiles, however, January has been hot and dry for most of the region. Patchy rain between 12 and 75mm has been received with the heavier falls west of Moree and the eastern regions only receiving showers. These late season crops require rain now in the order of 50-100mm. Maturity ranges from 2 leaf to 12 leaf

The **Liverpool Plains** crop is slightly later, with harvest just beginning. The earliest of the irrigated crops are yielding on average 2.2t/ha and overall yield prospects look favourable.

The late sown crop is variable in growth stages. The mid December plant is late bud to early flower. At this stage the crop looks to have excellent potential. However, the crops have suffered under very hot conditions during January, but have excellent subsoil moisture from widespread rains in the order of 100 – 150mm in early December and good follow-up falls over Christmas of around 50mm. In the last week storm events have provided welcome relief ranging from 15 – 40mm, although this has been extremely patchy.

### Soybeans 2004/05

Estimates for 2004/05 soybean crop have increased slightly, largely due to upgraded yield potential in the North Coast NSW region. This should see production of around 71,500 tonnes. The area planted is predominantly light hilum types.

State	Area Planted (Ha's)	Production (Tonnes)
Queensland	11,500	28,065
NSW	17,000	42,185
Victoria	440	1,210
Total	28,940	71,460

Source: Industry Estimates, 11/2/05

The Queensland crop is looking reasonable although conditions have been variable with hot dry conditions in some areas. As mentioned the north coast of NSW is experiencing excellent conditions. Crops are at the flowering to podding stage and there has been little incidence of insects. The inland dryland areas of NSW have experienced variable conditions, with hot dry weather in some areas. Crops in Victoria look excellent and generally across southern NSW/Riverina crops are looking reasonable.

### Upcoming Events

**13th Australian Soybean Conference, 1-3 March 2005, Barooga Sports Club.** For further information or registration forms contact 03 5885 2135. Topics to be covered include, biopesticides/IPM, disease diagnostics, nodulation and inoculums, biofuel, health, breeding, organic production, rotations, history, marketing and manufacturing. A stimulating tour program on the third day will show case the best Northern Victoria has to offer.

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