

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



May 2007

Canola 2007/08

The timely break has seen the canola outlook improve, with estimates for area planted up 6% and overall production up 10% on last month.

	2006/07	2007/08 Estimates	
	Production (t)	Area Planted (ha)	Production (t)
NSW	30,000	206,000	288,000
VIC	42,000	238,000	518,000
SA	75,000	160,000	240,000
WA	365,000	420,000	504,000
Total	512,000	1,024,000	1,550,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 13/04/07

NSW has seen a good autumn break with 12–70mm recorded, although it has not been general across the state. The central west fared the worst, as did the lower south west region. Planting is well underway, although there are no real sub soil moisture reserves and surface moisture is disappearing fast with temperatures above average. Most areas will need more rain to continue planting.

There has been a great start to the season across **Victoria**, with the best autumn break seen for many years. As a result, optimism is very high for a good season. Rainfall has been good to very good, ranging around 15-20 mm in the North East through to 100 mm in the southern Wimmera. Planting is well underway in most areas, though moisture, like NSW, is disappearing. Insect pressure, particularly lucerne flea, is expected to be high. Early weed control will be paramount this year.

Good rainfall across **South Australia** in late April has seen an increase in hectares. Rainfall has ranged from 15-20 mm in the South East through to more than 100 mm in the Mid North. Planting is underway, although soils are drying quickly. Further rain is forecast for both Victoria and SA mid next week.

Good rainfall occurred across **Western Australia** in April varying from 25 to 100mm, with the south and coastal districts receiving the higher amounts. This has seen an increase in expected plantings. The South Coast region is about 80% planted, with average to above average yields possible and planted area up 10 to 15% on last season. The Central region is about 50% seeded, with a 10% increase in area expected. The North has not yet had enough rain, however, some dry sowing is occurring. Final estimates for planted area will depend on rain in central and northern regions. Insect resistance issues are causing concern particularly red legged earth mite. There is also expectation of higher than normal blackleg pressure.

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Meadow Lea Foods	Unilever Australasia	Peerless Foods
Cargill Australia	Atlantic Pacific Foods	Alba Edible Oils
Riverland Oilseeds	MSM Milling	Cootamundra Oilseed
Bartter Enterprises	Ridley Agriproducts	Milmaster
Grain Pool WA	GrainCorp	Louis Dreyfus
ABB Grain	AWB Limited	

Soybeans 2006/07

Estimates for the soybean crop have been revised down by just over 10%, reflecting the continuing dry conditions and lack of irrigation water.

	2005/06	2006/07 Estimates	
	Production (t)	Area Planted (ha)	Production (t)
QLD	14,710	5,050	11,525
NSW	40,688	8,515	20,760
VIC	900	0	0
Total	56,298	13,565	32,285

Source: Industry Estimates, 11/05/07

The **Queensland** northern and coastal crop is pretty much unchanged from last month, with forecast yields revised up for Central Queensland (CQ). Harvest is 90% complete on the coast, but still a week or so away from starting in CQ. However, inland areas have not fared as well and yields have been revised down in all areas. Overall, production is forecast at 13% below last month. Quality (protein) of the beans from coastal areas has been very good, although in some areas late moisture stress has resulted in some small seed.

Yields have been revised down slightly in the north coast region of **NSW**. While there have been some very good crops, yields have been variable and protein has been a concern in some crops. Harvest is about 80% complete. The inland areas continue to suffer from lack of water and both area and yield for the dryland crop have been revised down slightly. The small crop in the Riverina performed well above expectation with an average yield of just under 4 t/ha. There were some excellent crops, yielding up to 4.7 t/ha.

Sunflowers 2006/07

Sunflower estimates have also been revised down slightly. The crop is forecast to finish at 70% mono, 10% poly and 20% confectionary/ birdseed.

	2005/06	2006/07 Estimates	
	Production (t)	Area Planted (ha)	Production (t)
QLD	2,400	4,100	2,960
NSW	92,500	12,850	14,820
Total	94,900	16,950	17,780

Source: Industry Estimates, 11/05/07

Crops in Central Queensland are struggling, with lack of rain and there has been some incidence of tobacco streak virus. Yield potential has been revised down.

The late planted crop in NSW is rapidly approaching maturity and has had the benefit of rain during the last few days of April. Temperatures have, been unseasonably warm assisting the very late sown crops to avoid any frost damage issues. Late infections of powdery mildew have been a concern for several crops. Yield potential has remained high (1.8-2.0t/ha) in crops on the Liverpool Plains as most have had the benefit of centre pivot irrigation. Dry down to harvest moisture is likely to be a slower process from this point in the season as temperatures cool down.

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Australian Oilseeds Federation PO Box R1826 Royal Exchange NSW 1225 Tel: 02 9427 6999 Fax: 02 9427 6888 Email: aof@australianoilseeds.com