

Australian Oilseeds Federation Crop Report



Canola 2021/22

Nov 2021

	2020/21 Final		Nov 2021 Estimate	
	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Sown Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	500,000	1,150,000	700,000	1,365,000
Vic	450,000	1,030,000	460,000	850,000
SA	225,000	386,000	230,000	370,000
WA	1,105,000	1,710,000	1,540,000	2,450,000
Total	2,280,000	4,276,000	2,930,000	5,035,000

Source: Industry Estimates, GIWA; NSW DPI, DEDJTR (Vic)

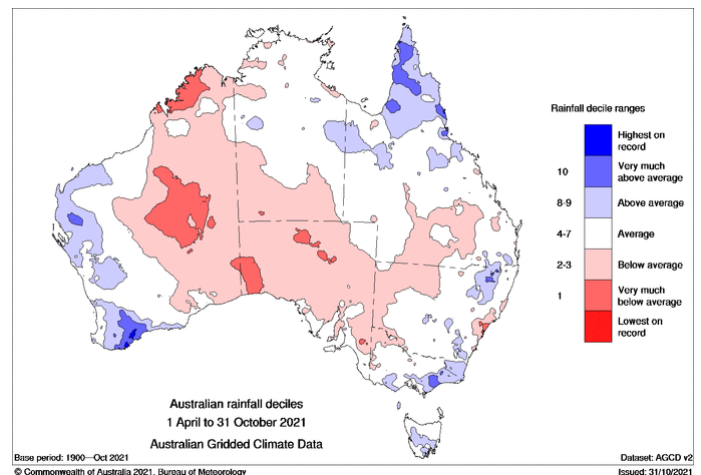
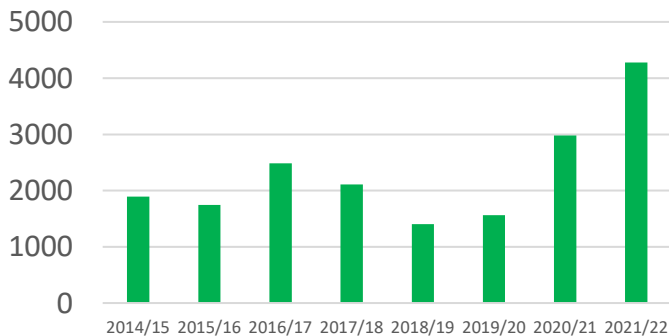
Firm canola prices at the start of the season triggered a near 30% increase in area sown. Since then, prices have only firmed as the global dynamics of the Canadian drought, the US oilseed demand for biodiesel and ongoing supply deficits in Europe have become apparent, impacting both the supply and demand for oilseeds. Soybeans reached a 3 year high in May, nudging USD 15/bushel; Sunflower oil reached a 10 year peak at USD 1700t, palm oil just shy of its 10year peak; while rapeseed oil broke through USD 1600tonne. This translated back to record canola seed prices in Australia, with prices in excess of AUD 1000/t not uncommon.

Decisions made by growers based on market signals back in March-April have paid off handsomely, despite pockets of disappointment from frosts and waterlogging. On latest estimates, the 2021 canola crop will be a record for Australia, breaking the

previous record set only last year by 18%. The value of the 2021 crop is likely to exceed that of last year's by an outstanding 43% to over \$4 billion.

Seasonal rainfall for most canola growing regions was average or above average, with the exception of South Australia which had a very dry start to the season, with only the last few months experiencing average rainfall. The Mallee regions of South Australian and Victoria also suffered from drier than average conditions, although this improved towards the end of the season.

Canola Crop Value
(\$'000)



Seasonal rainfall deciles (Apr-Oct)

Source: BOM

NSW experienced another near-perfect season, with good sub soil moisture enabling an early start to the season in many districts. The cooler, moist conditions towards the season's end, with no temperature

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spikes, hot winds or frosts will help to deliver a very strong crop with good oil levels. Yields are unlikely to match last year's, with the cost of nitrogen tempering application, while some crops have suffered from water logging. Generous use of fungicides have mitigated the risk of the impact of later blackleg or sclerotinia infections, particularly after the incidence of relatively widespread blackleg leaf infections early in the season. The incidence of insect pests has been low.

Victoria has experienced similar season to NSW, including isolated instances of water logging. As with NSW, yield estimates are expected to be slightly behind that of last year, as the impact of a drier start and patchy establishment come to the fore. The Mallee region has had lower than average rainfall, and canola crops in this region have, in the main, not fared well. Disease levels are generally low, having been well controlled with judicious use of fungicides.

South Australia had a slow start to the season as a result of very dry conditions, although average conditions towards the end of the season will help bring through those well established crops to an acceptable finish. As with Victoria, crops in the Mallee suffered from a lack of moisture throughout the season. Windrowing has commenced, although direct heading seems to be gaining popularity. Pest and disease pressure has been low. This has been the first season of GM canola in SA, with most GM crops reported to have been planted to assess the relative performance. Dry conditions at the start of the season kept weed pressure low, so the full benefit of GM canola probably could not be fully realised.

Western Australia had a good start to the season, and conditions didn't waver throughout the season with average to above average rainfall being experienced in most growing areas. This was combined with a very large area planted to canola. At over 1.5m in Ha, the 2021 plant has been the largest on record. Frosts in the central wheatbelt that were first reported as bad in mid September, may not end up being that bad, while seasonal conditions through spring have also been mild in the west, assisting grain fill and yield potential. There are emerging indications that the state average yield may exceed the 1.6t/Ha applied in this report, leading to a crop size potentially 20% above the previous record.

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