

Australian Oilseeds Federation Crop Report



January 2010

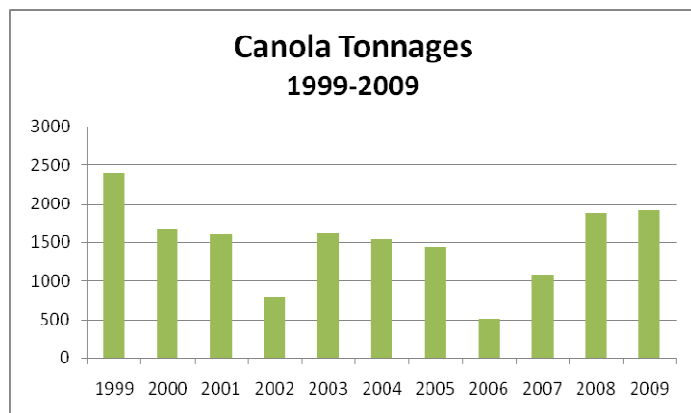
Canola 2009/10

	2008/09	2009/10 Estimates	
	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	262,000	227,000	243,000
Vic	251,000	234,000	402,000
SA	227,000	184,000	290,000
WA	1,138,000	745,000	975,000
Total	1,878,000	1,390,000	1,910,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 15/1/10

With the majority of the harvest now complete, more accurate estimates of canola tonnages received are now available.

The most significant difference from previous estimates is from WA where initial areas under canola cultivation were underestimated, and yield potential over estimated. The net effect was to deliver a tonnage of 975,000 tonnes (up 125,000 t). This combined with modest tonnage increases in NSW and Victoria had the effect of lifting the national tonnage forecast to 1.9 million tonnes. (vs 1.77 million tonnes previously). This places the 2009 crop at the highest tonnage level since the 1999/2000 crop.



(Source: AOF Estimates)

This is an excellent outcome for the 2009/10 season, and while disappointing for much of NSW, strong yields and good returns in other states are expected to bolster canola planting intentions for the coming season, tempered as always by weather and price expectations.

Soybean 2009/10

	2008/09	2009/10 Estimates	
	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	52,300	17,400	39,400
Qld	48,000	15,950	21,925
VIC	1,200	600	1,500
Total	101,500	33,950	62,825

Source: Industry Estimates 15/01/10

Whilst rain over the Christmas and New Year period was welcome, it did not provide widespread sowing opportunities for soybean in all of the growing regions. This has been particularly the case in many of the Queensland growing areas with the exception of the south east coastal areas. Combined with the very hot conditions in most areas in early and mid December, and the subsequent delay in planting, it is expected that any late planted crop may suffer in yield. As such the national forecast has been reduced from the predictions in December.

In **NSW** planting on the north coast is expected to match that of recent years with almost 12,000 hectares estimated as planted. Like other areas the late planting may affect yields, unless the growing season is very favourable.

The late rains have come too late to change predictions for the inland areas of the state, as the sowing window for soybeans in most of these areas has closed. It is more likely growers will choose mungbeans or late sunflowers as alternative summer crop options.

In the far north of **Queensland** the, the expectations are that closer to 90% of the sown crop will be ploughed back in as green manure as current market conditions have not strengthened sufficiently to make harvesting a viable alternative. The irrigation areas around Emerald have been taken up for forward sale cotton positions and the planting estimate for this area has also been reduced. The Wide Bay region is well back on last year's planting

due to the high water use on sugar crops prior to Christmas and the fact that many growers had not prepared their ground for soybeans and so missed the opportunity when the late rains came during the holiday season. Similarly the Burnett received rain too late for a large planting to occur.

The inland areas of southern Queensland have not fared well with the recent rain. Many areas on the Darling Downs were lucky to get 12 mm of rainfall, which is insufficient for planting. If rainfall does come in late January, it is likely growers will opt for more water efficient alternatives such as mungbeans. Closer to the coast, the Lockyer Valley received patchy rainfall and while some crop has been sown, there is still a window of opportunity with adequate rainfall before the end of January. The Brisbane Valley has received much better rainfall and approximately 2,500 hectares having been sown.

Sunflowers 2009/10

	2008/09	2009/10 Estimates	
	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	48,600	17,800	26,800
Qld	31,700	16,700	17,050
Total	80,300	34,500	43,850

Source: Industry Estimates 15/01/10

In **NSW**, excellent rain in the Liverpool Plains over the Christmas and New Year period has relieved some of the heat and moisture stress in early plant sunflowers and enabled a late plant to occur. Early plant sunflowers range from late seed fill to flowering for most of the early plant, although growth stage is varied due to the extended planting. Yield prospects have improved due to the rain. Planting of late sunflowers has progressed well with reasonable interest due to the prices and soil moisture profiles, although storm activity on the plains has delayed some sowing. Further to the North West around Moree, early plant sunflowers range in development from maturity back to flowering. Heat and moisture stress prior to Christmas have combined to reduce yield potential, however good rains have been received since Christmas. The rainfall has ranged from 75mm up to 300mm. This has enabled widespread planting, with storm events continuing to interrupt sowing at this point. Sowing should be completed by the end of this week. Most of the early plant sunflowers have received at least 1 rutherglen bug spray.

In **Queensland**, the early expected plant of monos on the Darling Downs did not eventuate due to the lack of rainfall.

Only 500Ha was planted from an expected 2800Ha. This crop is in urgent need of follow rain as temperatures continually are 6-8 Degrees above average for this time of the year.

What's Ahead...

2010 Australasian Milling Conference

The emphasis of the conference will be to challenge existing industry practices and gain a better insight into our Australian industries in a global context. Participants will be challenged to benchmark their companies performance by industry leaders through examining a range of areas to determine "Australia's Edge – Are We Sharp Enough?" Both international and local speakers will contribute to the program addressing a range of topics relating to the feed and flour industries.

Melbourne's Etihad Stadium April 13-15, 2010.

"Australian Summer Grains - Opportunity through Unity"

This inaugural summer grains conference brings together the 5 primary summer crops (maize, sunflower, sorghum, soybean and mungbean) in one event to provide growers and scientists a forum to exchange tailored information for improved farming systems.

Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast. June 21-24, 2010.

"Australian Grains Industry Conference"

The Australian Grains Industry Conference is the premier annual grains industry event. A number of issues will be covered, including: Global grains outlook and marketing; Australian grains industry supply chain consolidation; Review of the industry post deregulation; Volatility/risk management; Global issues - climate change, food security, biotechnology, etc; and specific sector, issue and commodity sessions.

Crown Promenade, Melbourne July 26-28, 2010

AOF Crop Report is provided free due to the support of the Oilseed Development Fund (ODF).

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