

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



September 2011

Canola 2011/12

	2010/11 Final		Area Planted* (hectares)	2011/12 August 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	960,000
Total	1,591,000	2,161,000	1,830,000	1,810,000	2,460,000

*Area planted as at July 2010 estimates.
Source: Industry Estimates: 11/07/2011

Minor revisions in projected yields in NSW and SA have driven a slight reduction in overall forecast tonnage by some 30,000 tonnes. Notwithstanding this adjustment, the outlook for canola remains very buoyant at close to record tonnages.

The prospects for **NSW** improved just prior to compilation of the report with good falls of rain in the hitherto drying areas of the north of the state. This has served to prevent a more significant reduction in yield in NSW, though there were insufficient falls further west to prevent a projected drop in yield. Further south, rainfall has been below average for the past month in many areas. Combined with wind and warmer temperatures, moisture levels in the topsoil are quite variable in the south. Sub soil moisture levels throughout much of the state remain good, the exception being in the regions further west where the sub soil is also beginning to dry out. Forecast cooler weather over the coming week will be welcome as much of the crop in the south either in flower or budding.

Pest and disease incidence is low, including mice numbers due to baiting and overall cooler season. Where mice are present, however, their impact is significant

In **Victoria**, the situation remains relatively the same as last month, with continued drying out in the Mallee being the major risk. Crops are now patchy in this area, with an expected yield less than 0.9t/Ha. Western Districts continue to look good, despite reduced area versus previous years due to wet conditions. There remains talk of spring planting for canola, but there is no evidence of this yet. Crops in the Wimmera and Central/East represent a typical year.

South Australia has experienced an average to slightly above average season, with good levels of in-crop rainfall through most regions, on the back of good levels of sub-soil moisture laid down early in the season. In contrast to the Mallee in Victoria, the S.A. Mallee has had good in-crop rain, and crops are looking good. However, with the second consecutive year of canola in many paddocks, with good moisture levels, levels of blackleg in the Mallee are higher than normal.

In **Western Australia**, the mid season rain has changed the fortunes for the State, with recent rains in the Geraldton perfectly timed for finish off the crops well. Swathing/ windrowing is expected to commence in this area in 1-2 weeks, while crops in both the Kwinana and Albany zones are looking good, with flowering well under way. However, the traditional high yielding Esperance zone, which is usually around a quarter of the State's harvest, has had a very dry season, with establishment poor, and exacerbated by low sub soil moisture levels at the season start. This area is in desperate need of rain in order to deliver a successful harvest.

Upcoming Events

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

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