

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



January 2008

Canola 2007/08

While there has been little overall change in canola estimates, there has been some significant shifts within regions. The eastern states, particularly SA and Victoria, did not perform as well as expected, whilst WA has shown considerable improvement.

	2006/07 Production (tonnes)	2007/08 Estimates		
		Area Planted (hectares)	Area Harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	30,000	240,000	58,000	44,000
VIC	42,000	270,000	150,000	200,000
SA	75,000	160,000	160,000	155,000
WA	365,000	390,000	390,000	665,000
Total	512,000	1,060,000	758,000	1,064,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 11/1/08

Estimates for **NSW** are up slightly on last month. **Victoria** continues to be the most difficult state to accurately estimate tonnage. While there have been reports of excellent yields in the Western District, overall production appears to have finished below expectations. There is still some crop to be harvested and a final reconciliation on numbers will be provided next month. This may show some upside. **South Australia** proved to be disappointing, with yields in medium rainfall areas below expectations. While crops looked reasonable, crops did not yield as estimated. Despite an average start to the season, **Western Australia** continued to improve and production has again been revised upwards.

Sunflowers 2007/08

The sunflower crop has benefitted from the good rain through Dec/Jan and the late plant is forecast to be up significantly. It is now estimated that production will be around 50,000 tonnes. Planting is still underway and estimates will be finalised next month. The majority (approximately 80%) of the crop is monounsaturated, with the balance of area being polyunsaturated and confectionary varieties.

There has been a significant late plant in southern **Queensland** on the back of the good rain and strong prices. There has been a small area planted in Central Queensland.

	2006/07 Production (tonnes)	2007/08 Estimates	
		Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
QLD	2,960	12,600	21,900
NSW	15,040	20,700	26,630
Total	18,000	33,300	48,530

Source: Industry Estimates, 11/1/08

In the **Moree** region, the **early** plant crops are in the late stages of grain fill and, with hot windy conditions over the last 14 days, are fast approaching physiological maturity. Isolated storms have continued to benefit some crops and temperatures are only now reaching 36 degrees so the growing season has been relatively mild compared to the last two seasons. It is estimated that yields could average around 1.2t/ha at this stage. Growers are planting **late** crops mostly on fallow country that has good moisture. However, there are some cases where the moisture is quite variable due to storm rain and planting is somewhat risky. The attractive hectare price offered for monos and continued storm rains filling some profiles has spurred the resurgence in late plant sunnies. Most started planting just after Christmas and is still continuing.

In the **Liverpool Plains**, the long planting window on the **early** plant has meant crop stage is now varied from just finished flowering to approaching physiological maturity. The early plant has benefited from significant rain during December and some storm rain since Christmas. Generally the amounts received have been highly variable across the plains. Heliothis have been present, as is usually expected. Generally mild conditions have assisted with crop progress and as such the average yield is likely to be around 1.6t/ha with obvious variations on this depending largely on in crop rainfall. The **late** planting window commenced with some crops being sown in December and planting still continuing. The warm temperatures through early January have sped up crop emergence, with crops reaching 2-4 true leaves in 10-14 days. Sowing moisture has generally been excellent. A reasonable proportion of the crop has been double cropped back into winter cereal stubble where generally profiles are between ½ to ¾ full. Hot, windy weather has occurred in the last ten days drying out the surface moisture, but with little effect currently.

Soybeans 2007/08

In a contrast to previous years, floods rather than drought have seen soybean estimates fall by around 20%. However, this comprises a fall of around 50% on the north coast of NSW where floods have resulted in lost crops and an increase in area of around 40% in Queensland.

	2006/07 Production (tonnes)	2007/08 Estimates	
		Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
QLD	11,125	7,300	19,750
NSW	20,760	5,285	12,075
VIC	0	0	0
Total	31,885	12,585	31,825

Source: Industry Estimates, 11/1/08

Area planted has increased significantly on the **Queensland** coast and the Darling Downs following good rain. This has seen area planted in Queensland increase by almost 40%. Crops are generally looking good. Weeds are a concern in coastal areas.

The north coast of **NSW** region has been hard hit by floods and heavy rain and while uncertainty remains, it has been estimated that more than two thirds of the crop has been lost. There may be some opportunity to replant once the rain ceases. The inland region has received good rain and this has resulted in good subsoil moisture levels. Much of the crop in this area was planted a bit late and area has been reduced a little. There has been strong competition from attractively priced crop options such as sunflower, sorghum and mung beans. In the Riverina, all the crops are well established and starting to grow well now. Many crops have only now received or are receiving their first in-crop irrigation. Excellent rains in November/December provided a great start and the adequate moisture for sowing and establishment.

Upcoming Events

22 January 2008, Summer Crop Field Day, "Grattai East" Biniguy. This will include the opportunity to look at trials covering time of sowing, row spacing, plant population and herbicides and to hear from Professor Phil Stahlman, Kansas State University. For further information, contact Steph Belfield at stephanie.belfield@dpi.nsw.gov.au

28-30 July 2008 Australian Grains Industry Conference, Melbourne www.agricultureaustralia.com.au

3-6 November 2008, International Safflower Conference, Wagga Wagga NSW. Register your interest at www.australianoilseeds.com or contact Sue Knights sknights@netconnect.com.au

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