

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



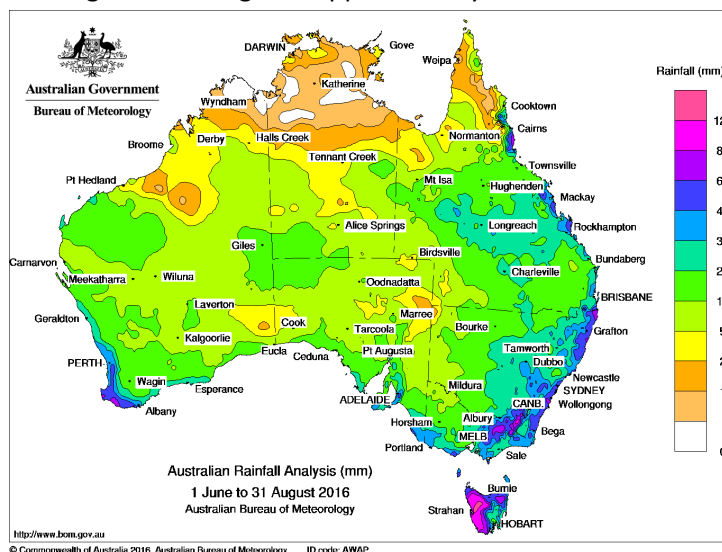
September 2016

Canola 2016/17

('000)	2015/16		2016/17	
	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	525	890	490	810
Vic	315	387	300	525
SA	211	293	220	330
WA	1143	1528	1150	1770
Total	2194	3098	2160	3435

Source: Industry Estimates; GIWA; NSW DPI

Rainfall through most of the canola growing regions during plant establishment and early growth stages has been mostly adequate. Few areas have reported below average soil moisture levels by mid-winter. This has placed the canola crop in good stead, particularly in WA, SA and Victoria. The very heavy rains during this period in NSW, however, has impeded N application timing, and there are still some areas where the soil remains very wet, making access for crop management difficult, although N and fungicide application by air has occurred.



The generally wet conditions since seeding has seen an increase in fungal disease- blackleg and sclerotinia- in most growing areas. This has been generally well managed with timely application of fungicide sprays, although supplies of many fungicides are beginning to run low, as disease pressure is high in most winter crops. Overall, however, the solid rainfall over the past 3 months has set the crops in good stead Spring, with yield estimates in all states at or above the 5 year average.

In NSW, it has been, and continues to be, very wet across the central and southern districts, south of about Gilgandra. The waterlogging and some inundation has led to a modest reduction in area expected to be harvested since the last forecast. The earlier sown crops are tolerating wet condition better than the later sown crops which have been heavily infected with blackleg and have struggled in wet weather. In southern NSW higher yield potential of the well-drained areas will more than likely make up for losses in waterlogged areas elsewhere in the state. Most of the state is now in flower, though disease is causing some flower loss.

Victoria is experiencing one of the best years in a while, with conditions reported to be “near perfect” for canola. The canola area in the Wimmera and Mallee is up on last year, but in contrast, has a good moisture profile which has seen the crops develop well. Unlike NSW, waterlogging is not such an issue in Victoria (with the possible exception of the north east). At this stage an average yield of 1.75t/Ha appears achievable, well up on the prior year and ahead of the 5-year average.

In South Australia, most of the state currently has full soil moisture profiles (Lower EP currently on decile 9), with the exception of the Mallee district, which is operating at about decile 5. Canola area has been more concentrated in the medium to high rainfall zone, which will most likely see state yield above average. However, disease pressure is high (esp blackleg) and this may

impact yield, esp in the traditional high rainfall zones. Other than disease most of the SA crop is growing well. Sufficient breaks in the rain has allowed for timely N application.

Western Australia, the situation is reported as being near perfect, with the likelihood of yield records being broken in some districts. Minimum of 200 mm of rain during winter has set the crops up well for Spring, reducing the risk of a dry Spring, as experienced last year. The wet conditions have led to widespread use of aerial application of N and fungicides, which has ensured crops are able to benefit to the maximum from the unseasonally high moisture levels. Spraying for sclerotinia has been common place in most areas, as wet conditions have triggered high levels in many areas. Most crops in the state are now at flowering stage, with the risk of frosts in the coming weeks now the greatest concern.

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Upcoming Events

Brassica 2016- ARAB and Crucifer Genetics Conference

Melbourne, 3-6 October. <http://brassica2016.com/>

AOF Annual General Meeting:

October 27, Melbourne

AOF Oilseed Trade Mission to Japan:

November 7-9

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