

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



Nov 2015

Canola 2015/16

('000)	2014/15 Final		2015/16 Estimate	
	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	575	835	525	920
Vic	483	647	300	350
SA	302	314	220	240
WA	1247	1635	1140	1450
Total	2607	3431	2185	2960

Source: Industry Estimates; GIWA; NSW DPI

With first shipments of 'new crop' canola out of WA already on the water, harvest in the east of the country has been delayed by the onset of widespread rain. The rain arrived too late to replenish thirsty winter crops, and some canola in the east was not able to achieve optimal oil content due to a dry finish. Late varieties, however, will be able to take advantage of this much needed rain.

In general, while the season was average, this is inline, or slightly better than initially anticipated given the projections early in the year for a drier spring due to the El Niño event.

The overall production estimates have been only slightly reduced since the August report, with the full extent of the dry conditions in Victoria and parts of SA being largely offset by better than expected yields in NSW.

In **NSW**, the north of the state has fared well, with good sub-soil moisture being able to carry the crops through to a satisfactory finish, with good yields. The heatwave conditions of October did little to impact the crops in this area as flowering was all but complete. Oil levels are reported to be average to below average across the state, being offset in terms of grower returns by higher yields. Elsewhere, sufficient subsoil moisture has enabled the crops to withstand the heatwaves of October, ironic

after some crops having been hit by frosts just a few weeks earlier.

It is estimated that by now, approximately 50% of the crop had been windrowed in the state, with rain interrupted harvest well underway. There were no significant pest or disease outbreaks through the season.

Victoria is to some degree the unknown variable in the in volume equation. The Wimmera and parts of the Western Districts had well below average growing season rainfall. Many growers chose not to plant canola in Victoria, on expectation of a drier season, with 100,00 Ha less planted than the year before. A further 80,000 Ha was taken off the AOF

estimate since August as many crops failed or were cut for hay/grazed.

The heat wave conditions had less impact in Victoria, as those crops with little/no subsoil moisture were already in poor shape, while those with some stored moisture, particularly in the south west, were able to withstand the higher temperatures.

South Australia had a much lower area sown to canola this year. The state suffered in many areas from a very dry spring, the effects of which were exacerbated by two separate heat stress events in October. The Eyre Peninsula and South East cropping regions fared better than most and will be able to deliver average yields.

Western Australia has harvest well underway, with reports of good oil levels and typical yields in the Geraldton zone. Crops in the Great Southern cropping region suffered from a dry spring which particularly affected late planted crops. The more mature, earlier planted varieties were better able to withstand the drier conditions. A large proportion of the crop already harvested in WA was direct headed, which is a trend gaining momentum in WA. After some recent rain, forecast clear weather in the coming 7-10 days will enable harvest to resume in areas where it was interrupted by rain.

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