

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



June 2007

Canola 2007/08

While estimates for area planted and production are relatively unchanged from last month, there remains considerable uncertainty in area planted and yield forecasts across the country. On the east coast the very difficult year in 2006/07, following a series of below average years, has given rise to discrepancies in estimates for area and yield as a return to better seasonal conditions occurs. In the west, conditions are variable across the state and canola production is concentrated in the south. As such, it will not be unexpected to see some shifts in numbers as the season progresses.

	2006/07	2007/08 Estimates	
	Production (t)	Area Planted (ha)	Production (t)
NSW	30,000	212,000	297,000
VIC	42,000	238,000	520,000
SA	75,000	160,000	240,000
WA	365,000	400,000	480,000
Total	512,000	1,010,000	1,537,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 8/06/07

Between the opening late April break and rain in mid May, all areas of **NSW** have received a good start. This was followed by a broad rain event of 12-18 mm in late May and further rain (15 – 70 mm) in central and northern areas around 6-8th June. The south of the state has missed out on these most recent falls. In the north, crops are looking good and there is good sub soil moisture. In the central west, crops are variable, but overall looking very good. Crops range from the 2-leaf stage to almost full ground cover. In the south, crops have shown rapid emergence and good early growth. Crops range from 4-6-leaf stage to almost full ground cover. Warm mild conditions have supported the crop. There have been reports of insects across the state and weeds are expected to be an emerging problem. Insects have not caused significant damage at this stage, with the exception of some isolated crops and growers have been controlling them. The favourable price outlook and better growing conditions have given growers a more positive attitude towards insect and weed control and top dressing. Overall area has been revised up slightly and there could be further upside on this.

Estimates for **Victoria** have been left unchanged with exception of a slight improvement for the Mallee. The crops are looking very good and the State has experienced an almost ideal start. Insects have been active, but growers are on top of this and they are not expected to cause any significant loss. The Wimmera is showing a strong increase in canola plantings on the significantly reduced areas of the past few years. Crops in this region vary from just planted to the 4-leaf stage. The area in the Mallee is up significantly from last year and planting is continuing. Crops vary from just being to sown to the 5-6 leaf stage. The crop in the North East is looking very good and is at 4-6 leaf stage or better. The western district is pretty much planted, although there have been some delays with the wet conditions.

Conditions are good across **South Australia** although vary from slightly below average rainfall on the Eyre Peninsula to above average in the south east. The crop is virtually all sown with the exception of some pockets in the South East where it has been too wet. There have been reports of insect activity, but like the other states, these are not expected to cause significant problem. Estimates have been kept the same, but there will be upside if conditions continue to be favourable.

The start in **Western Australia** has not been as good as last year and conditions are variable across the state. Follow up rainfall in southern half of the state has been sufficient to keep crops going, although it has been patchy in central districts. The North of the state is still dry and waiting for rain. This is likely to be too late for extra canola to be planted. The southern port zones remain good, but are now looking for rain. The Kwinana zone is variable. Like the east coast, there has been a high incidence of pests requiring growers to spray. Estimates for the area planted have been revised down to 400,000 hectares. There remains some uncertainty around the area and yield estimates.

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Soybeans 2006/07

This forms our final numbers for the 2006/07 soybean crop, with production finishing at just under 32,000 tonnes. While only across small areas, there were some promising results for growers, with Riverina growers achieving yields of a 4.0t/ha crop average.

	2005/06	2006/07 Estimates	
	Production (t)	Area Planted (ha)	Production (t)
QLD	14,710	5,050	11,125
NSW	40,688	8,515	20,760
VIC	900	0	0
Total	56,298	13,565	31,885

Source: Industry Estimates, 8/06/07

Sunflowers 2006/07

The sunflower crop remains very disappointing and estimates are for a total of 18,000 tonnes. Harvesting of late plant sunflowers on the Liverpool Plains is being hampered by frequent rain events. In some areas, heavy falls of 60-80mm will delay harvest for some time. Otherwise harvest would have been completed by now. Yield reports under some centre pivot irrigation are exceptionally good at 3.1t/ha. Any irrigated crops are expected to yield well with climatic conditions during seed fill and oil lay down conducive to plump grain and high oil.

	2005/06	2006/07 Estimates	
	Production (t)	Area Planted (ha)	Production (t)
QLD	2,400	4,100	2,960
NSW	92,500	12,850	15,040
Total	94,900	16,950	18,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 8/06/07

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

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Australian Oilseeds Federation PO Box R1826 Royal Exchange NSW 1225 Tel: 02 9427 6999 Fax: 02 9427 6888 Email: aof@australianoilseeds.com