

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



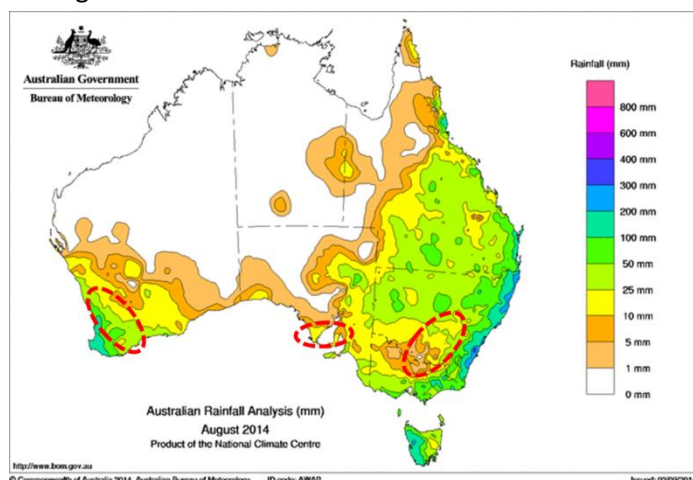
Sept, 2014

Canola 2014/15

('000)	2013/14 Final		2014/15 Estimate	
	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	600	900	550	750
Vic	400	700	400	700
SA	300	500	280	450
WA	1180	1800	1250	1750
Total	2480	3900	2480	3650

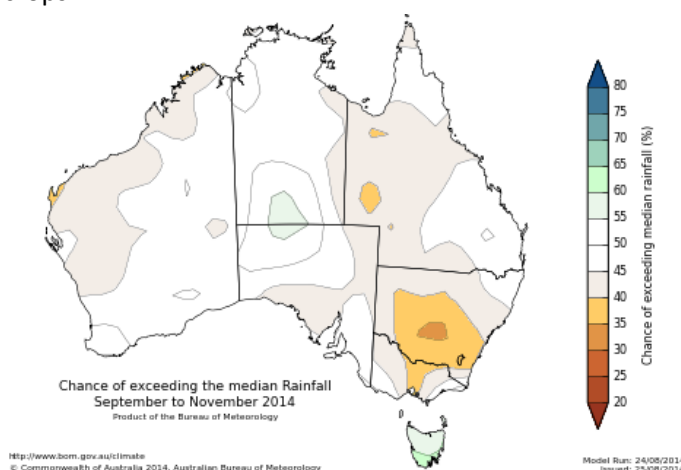
Source: Industry Estimates; GIWA; PIRSA

The poor winter rainfall over much of the growing regions has left the crops in need of moisture coming into the critical spring flowering time. The rainfall shortfall was particularly acute in the core growing regions of southern NSW, central Victoria and the Wimmera districts in the east, and South Australia. Despite better rainfall in WA, August totals were below average.



rather than probable or likely. The next 2 months are critical for the ultimate yield, and depends on at least average rainfall over this time. For much of the growing regions, the likelihood of exceeding median rainfall is below 45%.

In some areas, severe frosts have led to loss of cereal crops, and have impaired the flowering potential for canola on already moisture stressed crops.



Notwithstanding the dry conditions, however, the larger than average areas committed to canola this season will still see a strong tonnage expected to be delivered, albeit from lower yielding crops

The lower yields, combined with a significant drop in canola prices since planting will temper grower's plans for area to be sown to canola in 2015. The 2015 crop could be close to 3 million tonnes (20% reduction), the lowest level since 2010.

In **NSW**, the north of the state has experienced a very dry autumn and winter, with many growers electing to have paddocks in fallow for the season. Little canola was planted in the north, and that which has been, has been kept viable only by the occasional light showers. In the south of the state, conditions have also been very dry, with rainfall in the lead up to spring being 10% of the August average in Riverina and 20-50% less in the South

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting a dry spring, with the chance of an El Niño at greater than 50%, however the likelihood is described as being 'possible'

West Slopes- two traditionally high yielding districts. The yield for NSW has been further reduced due to widespread frost damage, especially in early sown crops and those at late flowering - mid podding. The western areas have been affected most (west of Newell Highway) as the crop was earlier and frosts more severe. Moisture stress is now occurring in western crops and 50 mm of rain in next 10-14 days would be very welcome and get many crops over the line.

Much of **Victoria** also experienced a very dry August, particularly in the Wimmera and northern districts, but generally the state is faring well, with sub-soil moisture at 'normal' levels for this time of year. Frosts also took their toll during August, particularly in the north. The impact on canola, given its early stage of maturity, is not as severe as with cereals. Most forecast models are predicting 'average' rainfall conditions in the lead up to harvest. Consequently, the yield estimate remains unchanged for the state at 1.75t/ha.

South Australia has had an above average area planted to canola this season, and generally favourable conditions. Below average rainfall in August is unlikely to be an issue, given the good falls and soil moisture build up in the previous months. Early infection from Beet Western Yellow Virus has wiped out some crops (perhaps 5% of total), while the impact on yield from surviving crops is unknown (particularly as BWYV is present to some degree in many crops each year- so the impact this year versus other years is difficult to determine).

Western Australia experienced its sixth driest August on record, which has led to a reduction in yield estimates for all winter crops. The forecast for spring is for average rainfall over the three months, but possibly weighted towards the back end (i.e. wetter than average November). In Kwinana zone, the recent dry and hot conditions caused flower and pod loss during August, with most flowering now finished. Further south, crops in Albany zone are looking good, while the Esperance zone is in desperate need of more rain, with canola beginning to drop flowers due to heat and moisture stress. Windrowing of canola has commenced in the Geraldton zone, with average, or lightly below average, yields expected.

Upcoming Events



18th Australian research Assembly on Brassicas

September 29-October 2nd

Barossa Valley, SA.

Details at: www.australianoilseeds.com/ARAB



Agribusiness Crop Updates

Perth- WA

February 24-25, 2015

Details: <http://www.giwa.org.au/2015-crop-updates>



Canola Council of Canada Conference

Banff, Canada

March 3-5, 2015

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