

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



July 2007

Canola 2007/08

Favourable conditions on the east coast have lifted canola estimates. It is now estimated that there is just over one million hectares planted to produce 1.67 million tonnes.

	2006/07	2007/08 Estimates	
	Production (t)	Area Planted (ha)	Production (t)
NSW	30,000	240,000	360,000
VIC	42,000	270,000	580,000
SA	75,000	160,000	240,000
WA	365,000	390,000	487,000
Total	512,000	1,060,000	1,667,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 13/07/07

While rainfall and sub soil moisture is variable across **New South Wales**, there has been some increase in area planted in the central and southern areas. Across the state, good rain in late winter/spring will be needed to realise the crop's potential. Crops in the North and Central regions are generally at full ground cover, with some more advanced. In the South, crops are in the 4-6 leaf stage through to full ground cover. There is some weed pressure, however, insects appear to be under control. Overall, area has been increased to 240,000 hectares and yields revised upwards slightly.

The season in **Victoria** opened with near ideal conditions and while June was cold and dry, good widespread rainfall in early July has seen excellent conditions return. Crops look good across the state and are at full ground cover. There have been some bullish predictions for broadacre crop production across Victoria, with yields for cereal crops generally estimated to be above average. There have also been estimates of significant increases in canola area, due in large part, to a switch from livestock to cropping. Our estimates have been lifted to 270,000 hectares and the average yield for the State reduced slightly reflecting a shift in relative plantings across the various regions.

Conditions in **South Australia** have mirrored those in Victoria with a good start, poorer June, but good rainfall in early July. The South East may be a little wet, but generally conditions are excellent across the state. Estimates have been left unchanged.

In **Western Australia**, the Geraldton region is struggling as it was last season, with little canola production forecast due to a limited break to the season and continued dry weather. More recently, dust and wind storms have damaged emerged lupin and canola crops. The Central region zone is variable and forecasts for planted area have been reduced due to drier earlier conditions resulting in it being too late for canola in some areas by the time rain arrived. Generally crop conditions and yield forecasts are good. In the South, area has increased on last year, with canola yields forecast to improve after recent widespread rainfall of up to 40mm in some areas. There has been some patchy emergence and also some insect activity, but generally all looks good. Spring conditions in the areas east and south of Perth will now have the most impact on the WA final yield.

Visit the virtual canola site is now live at http://www.australianoilseeds.com/agronomy_centre/the_virtual_canola_site

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

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