

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



October 2008

Canola 2008/09

The canola crop forecast has been reduced to around 1.5 million tonnes.

| | 2007/08 | 2008/09 Estimates | |
|-------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| | Production (tonnes) | Area Planted (hectares) | Production (tonnes) |
| NSW | 44,000 | 200,000 | 260,000 |
| VIC | 200,000 | 190,000 | 270,000 |
| SA | 155,000 | 165,000 | 170,000 |
| WA | 670,000 | 620,000 | 805,000 |
| Total | 1,069,000 | 1,175,000 | 1,505,000 |

Source: Industry Estimates, 10/10/08

Poor rainfall in the eastern states during September results in total crop downsize.

NSW –September was a very dry month across most of NSW, with both minimum rainfall and temperatures falling below monthly averages. However rainfall in early October of 15-30 mm in some areas of the state has been beneficial and helped sustain crops in those areas. The eastern Riverina experienced lighter falls of 10-15 mm. There have been widespread frosts across the centre and south of the state, but the level of damage is yet to be confirmed. Despite the continuing dry conditions overall, it is not expected that large areas of the state crop will be cut for hay and silage. Aphids have continued to be a problem and spraying has continued in all areas.

Victoria – The Western District experienced relatively very dry conditions in September but received sufficient rainfall to maintain crops. However, at least average rainfall will be required in the remainder of October to finish crop off and to meet forecast expectations. The outlook in this region is still positive and overall yields are predicted in 1.7-1.8 tonne/ha. Unfortunately the Mallee has not had a similar experience and the non-irrigated crops in particular have been severely affected, however those crops under irrigation have fared much better. Both the Wimmera and North East/Central regions are still maintaining potential despite virtually nil rainfall. It is likely most crops will have finalised flowering before the next predicted rainfall and combined with the regular frosts currently being experienced, it is difficult to estimate the forecast for these regions. As in NSW, hay contracts are difficult to secure.

South Australia – Monthly average rainfall in September across most areas of the State has been well below monthly averages and in some regions virtually nil. In particular the

Eyre Peninsula experienced severe weather conditions in September and crops here have been hard hit. Yields in all regions of the state have been reduced.

Western Australia – Average monthly rainfall across most of the growing regions in September has continued to support crop and set yields in performing crops and support continuing crop development and boost yields in the struggling crops. Overall, the canola growing areas of the state have experienced average monthly rainfall from April to September. There was a severe frost late in the month and this may affect yield. Harvesting has commenced in some parts of the Geraldton region and swathing is also underway in parts of the Kwinana.

Virtual Canola Crop Website:

http://www.australianoilseeds.com/agronomy_centre/the_virtual_canola_site

Better Canola Booklet:

The Better Oilseeds Project has recently launched this publication containing results from case studies, demonstration and field trials. To obtain a copy of this booklet, please contact Felicity Pritchard on (03) 5382 4396 or 0427 600 228.

Upcoming Events

3-6 November 2008, International Safflower Conference, Wagga Wagga, NSW. Register at www.australianoilseeds.com

5 November, 2008, AOF Forum, Wagga Wagga, NSW. Register at www.australianoilseeds.com

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