

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



August 2012

Canola 2012/13

	2011/12 Final		2012/13 August Estimate	
	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	390,000	720,000	608,500	892,000
Vic	370,000	770,000	434,000	589,000
SA	255,000	455,000	294,500	423,500
WA	800,000	1,240,000	906,000	1,035,500
Total	1,815,000	3,185,000	2,243,000	2,939,500

Source: Industry Estimates: 10/8/2012

The lack of significant rain in many of the growing areas over the past month, combined with below average forecast spring rain, has served to reduce expected yields resulting in a drop in projected harvest tonnage of 3.6% or 108,000t. If rainfall in spring exceeds the forecast, yields will lift, however the AOF is taking a more prudent view at this stage.

NSW has experienced the largest area planted to canola on record, being more than 50% above the prior record of 2001/2. Crops in northern half of the state are generally good, with early planted crops benefitting from adequate topsoil moisture at the time of planting, and rainfall to date. In some districts, early planted crops are beginning to flower, while later planted crops have experienced patchy development. Further south, late planted crops, especially if planted dry, have developed slowly, due to low rainfall and cold weather, with crops at only 4-6 leaf stage common at this time. Concerns over the prospects of below average spring rain combined with the current high price of urea has led farmers to hold back on nitrogen application, which is likely to further depress yield potential. Pest and disease incidence is low overall throughout the state.

While crops in the north east of Victoria had a reasonable start, much of the rest of the state's canola was planted

dry, and lay dormant until rain in June. This has led to very patchy development in the Western District and Wimmera regions, while crops in the Mallee are looking poor. Crops are drawing down on stored soil moisture and stores will be low by the end of August if there is not rain by then. The Victorian crop prospects will be highly dependent upon spring rain. If prospects deteriorate further, and spring rain is not forthcoming, expectations are that some proportion of the crop will be cut for hay, particularly as feed prices are high. Yields have been reduced to 1.4t/ha, from recent yearly averages of 2t/ha.

The **South Australia** crop continues to fare well, with average seasonal conditions being experienced across most of the growing regions. The exception is the Mallee district where the dry conditions have impacted the crop performance.

Western Australia has experienced average/below average rainfall this season, which has held back the prospects for the state's crop. In the north, development is patchy with crops not yet at canopy closure. In the Great Southern district, there has been some rain which has maintained the crop's development, with most crops at full flower. Crops in the southern and Esperance regions are looking good, and are expected to yield at average or slightly above average levels.

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