

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



June 2016

Canola 2016/17

('000)	2015/16 Preliminary Final		2016/17 June Estimate	
	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	525	890	500	900
Vic	315	387	300	450
SA	211	293	210	305
WA	1143	1528	1153	1730
Total	2194	3098	2163	3385

The movement of a number of weather fronts in late May has quickly brought temperatures back to normal for this time of year, which will normalise plant growth during the winter months. Rainfall has also been good during May, providing solid recharge for subsoil moisture.

Pricing relativities, already favouring canola over cereals at planting time, have only improved during May, encouraging some growers to make a late planting switch to canola.

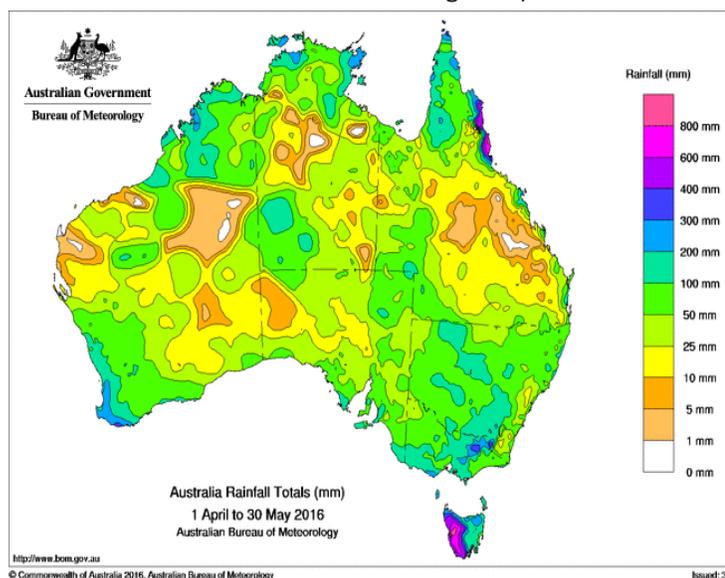
Source: Industry Estimates; GIWA; NSW DPI

The rapid deterioration of El Nino has vindicated the decisions of growers who decided to plant canola early (late March/early April) rather than the traditional late April timing. The residual subsoil moisture from summer and early autumn rain combined with above average temperatures during April has resulted in canola in many growing regions establishing well, with reports of some crops beginning to flower by the end of May (some 2-3 months ahead of traditional flowering time).

In NSW, absence of summer rain (El Nino effect) limited the attraction of canola, with only 20-60% of normal rain falling until April, which had limited impact on subsoil moisture, particularly in the north. By the time the late April rain arrived, many growers in the north had already committed to alternate crops, in particular, chickpeas where prices are \$800-\$1000/tonne. Further south, good rain during late April and May has provided a good start to canola crops, with typical area being sown. The loss of area in the north and central west to pulses has resulted in the smallest canola area in NSW since 2011.

Victoria has received much needed rain, particularly in the Wimmera and Mallee areas. While not sufficient to replenish a very dry subsoil, the rain has at least enabled effective germination of canola. Rainfall in the Western Districts has been good. Estimated area sown to canola, like NSW, is the lowest since 2011 at 300,000 ha. Fear of a late break discouraged dry sowing, while very strong prices have encouraged strong pulse planting.

South Australia had average to above average rainfall in March, followed by a drier April, resulting in drier topsoil with moderate to low subsoil moisture for canola planting. A fair proportion was seeded dry. Good rains in early May effectively started the season, and provided necessary moisture for dry seeded crops, although good follow-up rains are needed soon. Overall, canola area is



up in the higher rainfall areas, but lower in the drier areas. Overall, area is similar to last year.

Western Australia has had a very strong start to the season, with good falls of rain as early as March, and continuing through April and May. In some growing areas, soils were too wet for timely seeding, but this has not impacted overall area sown. The high levels of soil moisture are also unprecedented at this stage of the season, and has given canola a solid base for the coming months. There is potential for upside in area in WA as more field reports come to hand.

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Upcoming Events

Australian Grains Industry Conference:

July 25-27, Melbourne.

<http://www.ausgrainsconf.com/australia>

Oilseed Trade Mission to Japan:

Sept/Oct (tbc)

AOF Annual General Meeting:

October 27, Melbourne

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