

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



August 2007

Canola 2007/08

Canola estimates are unchanged from last month. While crops are generally looking reasonable to excellent, a favourable spring will be important to secure yields and provide any upside.

	2006/07	2007/08 Estimates	
	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
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	475,000
Total	512,000	1,060,000	1,655,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 9/08/07

In the north and central regions of **New South Wales** crops are tracking on average, but will need good rain shortly to maintain this. Crop development is variable and crops have been sown on low sub soil moisture. In the south, crops are average to excellent. Growth has been slow due to the cold conditions. Early sown crops are faring the best, with crops ranging from 6-8 leaf stage through to early flowering. Across the state, crops lack subsoil moisture and will need good spring rain and favourable temperatures to secure current yield estimates or better. Insects and weeds have not been a problem. There has been some top dressing occurring. Overall, estimates have been left unchanged, but conditions through August/September will be critical.

Crops in the Mallee region of **Victoria** are 2-3 weeks earlier than usual and are starting to flower. In the Wimmera, early sown crops look good, with crops ranging in development. Some are at full groundcover. Crops in the Western District look good and most crops range between 4-6 leaf stage to a couple of weeks off running up. Crops in the north central region are excellent with very good yield prospects if spring rainfall is decile 5 or above. Most crops are at early bud formation, but range from 4-6 leaf stage to 5% flowering. Nutrition is generally good, although top dressing has occurred or is required in most regions. Overall Victoria has had ideal start, however, crops will need moisture going forward and a good spring will see the potential for above average yields.

Similar comments to NSW and Victoria apply to **South Australia** i.e. the crops currently look good, but following a dry July, further rain is needed to realise the crop's potential. With favourable spring conditions, there is some upside for production in SA. Crops in the Mid North and South East are looking good. Crops in the lower rainfall areas need rain to give them a boost. Crop development is variable. Overall estimates have been left unchanged.

Rainfall for July has been near average in **Western Australia** except for Esperance and the North West, where it has been a less than average. Temperatures have been slightly above average, however along with regular rainfall, there have been reasonable growing conditions across most of the state. Crop development stages are varied, with some crops flowering in southern parts of the Albany zone, and Eastern wheatbelt, while others are still yet to run up in other areas. There are few major crop disease or pest issues at this point in time although Aphids in spring are a potential concern in the Esperance district. The WA crop has been revised down slightly to 475,000 tonnes, with area remaining unchanged from last month.

Virtual canola site -

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

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

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