

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



August 2010

Canola 2010/11

	2009/10 Final		2010/11 August Estimate	
	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	227,000	261,000	315,000	520,000
Vic	234,000	391,000	260,000	500,000
SA	184,000	259,000	200,000	300,000
WA	745,000	986,000	875,000	960,000
Total	1 390,000	1,897,000	1,650,000	2,280,000

Source: Industry Estimates. 13/8/2010

The overall forecast has not changed materially from last month, although the mix has changed between states. Continuing near perfect conditions in NSW and Victoria has boosted yield expectations, while lack of rain in WA has reduced expected yield in that State. With no change in area, the net effect has been a drop of 5000 tonnes.

In **NSW** some crops have been at flowering stage for some time following early planting, particularly in the north and west of the State, while on the slopes, plants are at the bolting stage. In the south in the State, rainfall has been patchy and some areas are still in need of rain. The overall favourable conditions (crop and price) has led to good levels of N top dressing, and most growers who had planned to top dress have now finished. In the north of the state, where rainfall has been consistent throughout the growing season, the threat of water logging of all winter crops is emerging. The higher overall moisture level has also led to a fair incidence of blackleg, while moisture and general foliage density has led to sclerotinia emerging as an issue. The ever-present, and growing, locust threat still overhangs the optimism of this year's winter crops, with the expected onslaught being prepared for with spraying aircraft being reserved, chemicals being stockpiled and widespread grower meetings and dissemination of printed material. The Australian Plague Locust Commission has brought forward hatchings by 8-10 days- details at: <http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/locusts>. Grazing has been popular this year, especially in the south. With conditions favourable in the Central Australia for the hatching of Heliothis, this is an unknown, but possible risk in the coming

months. The overall continued good conditions in NSW has lifted confidence to boost expected yield from last month to a state average on 1.65t/ha.

In **Victoria**, the crop is described as 'fantastic' with excellent conditions prevailing over the growing season to date. The La Niña pattern is now well established, with strong predictions for average rainfall for the remainder of the season. If the projected 500,000 tonnes is realised, this will be the largest harvest for Victoria in over a decade. Water logging could be an issue if rain continues, though growers who have used raised beds are benefiting. Despite the relatively high incidence of blackleg due to the moist conditions, the extremely favourable conditions overall will provide a suitable counter and result in strong yield, currently projected at 1.9t/ha. Locust migration from NSW is an unknown, but not minor, risk.

South Australia has experienced good rains across most of the growing regions, such that yield projections have held firm from last month. A significant emergence of Diamond Back Moth on the Eyre Peninsula has led to an emergency application being made with the APVMA (regulatory authority) for a suitable control insecticide.

Western Australia is the significant risk for the Australian crop this year. While there has been a slight reduction in projected yield from last month, this is predicated on average rain occurring in the coming weeks. Should this not occur, then a significant downward revision of canola estimates for WA can be anticipated. The last rain of any significance was July 9, and this did little to boost sub soil moisture. Evidence of wilting is now commonplace in the north and eastern regions, with little, if any, sub soil moisture reserves present. Along the south coast and wider Esperance zone, good to excellent conditions are continuing. An above average season for the wider area is possible with only average rain in the coming months.

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