

Australian Oilseeds Federation Crop Report



Canola 2019/20

November 2019

	2018/19 Final		October-19 Month Estimate*	
	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	190,000	200,000	160,000	176,000
Vic	300,000	400,000	380,000	608,000
SA	200,000	260,000	230,000	320,000
WA	1,200,000	1,450,000	950,000	792,000
Total	1,890,000	2,310,000	1,720,000	1,896,000

Source: Industry Estimates, GIWA; NSW DPI, DEDJTR (Vic)

The climatic conditions for most of the growing regions deteriorated during Spring, which resulted in a further reduction in harvested volume projections. With the latest estimate at just under 1.9mln tonnes, there is expected to be more downside than upside as failing crops continue to be cut for hay. The occurrence of a number of days of very hot weather during pod fill is expected to also reduce oil content, particularly in WA.

The East Coast Crop (NSW, Vic, SA), at 1.1mln tonnes is up 25% on last year, softening some of the demand pressure from East Coast crushers, though, as with last year, seed will need to be brought across from SA, and potentially, WA. The return of China to Australian canola this year is a new demand component, and will most likely provide a price support for both east and west canola that was not present last year.

As the rainfall decile map for the flowering and grain fill season indicates, all canola growing regions experienced below average rainfall. Victorian crops and some SA crops at least had some stored soil moisture to draw on, but southern NSW crops has no reserves and for crops not cut for hay, the crop and oil yield can be expected to be poor.

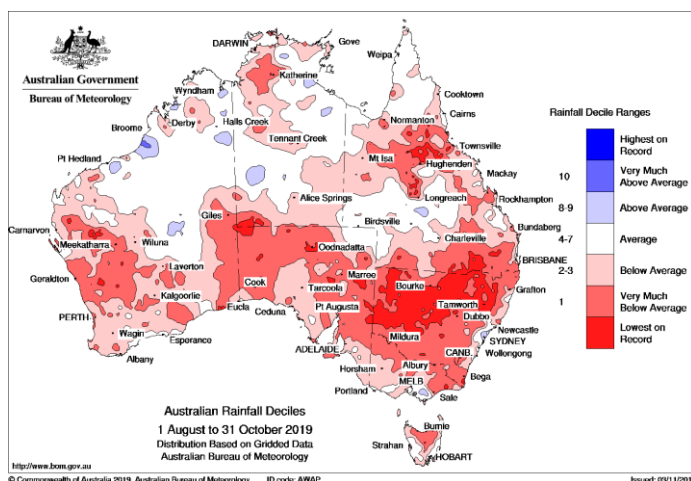
For those with an eye for numbers, or very good memories, at 1.9million tonnes, this projected harvest is still way ahead of the canola volumes harvested during the millennium drought (500,000 t in 2006/7) versus the 8 year prior average of 1.5mmt.

The decile rainfall map says it all for **NSW**. As the growing season progressed, so too the canola crop line progressed south, such that in the approach to harvest, viable crops down to the Murray were exhausting the last of their stored moisture. The dry air also supported a number of frosts in September/October which served to further reduce yield potential. For the initial AOF estimate, published in July, of 429,000 tonnes from a yield of 1.1t/Ha the likely outcome is now closer to 175,000 tonnes with yields ranging from 0.3 to 2.0 t/Ha, with smaller seed size and lower oil content.

The stressed crops provided a viable feed source for insects, and most crops taken through to grain have been sprayed for aphids and heliothis.

In contrast to NSW the **Victorian** canola crop has continued to do well, benefiting from good moisture stores through season, topped up with the regular, albeit below average, rainfall. This enabled crops to cope with the drier and hotter than normal October.

The Mallee district started the season well, but it contracted the NSW drought contagion from across the border and began to dry out as the season progressed, leading to a number of crops being cut for hay. The Wimmera and South West had a typical season- which would have to be regarded as 'excellent' in comparison to NSW !



Flowering-Pod Fill season rainfall deciles

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Ironoically, some crops in the South West have suffered from water logging !

South Australia overall has had a good season, and is expected to deliver an average yield (around 1.4t/Ha) and one of the higher total canola harvests seen for a number of years. This is despite a very hot October, (decile 10 in many cases) which will have knocked the top off some of the yield potential.

The Lower EP has benefited well from stored moisture, and could yield up to 3t/Ha in some regions, while in the northern EP, crop conditions are reported as being poor. The mld North is OK, but drying out rapidly, with some crops certainly cut for hay. The Lower South East has had a very good season, able to catch the brunt of the rain bearing fronts, and despite a dry October, will still yield well (circa 2t/Ha),

In **Western Australia**, the tonnage was always going to be down based on smaller planted area and the late break. Drier conditions have exacerbated the situation with yields well below average. However, canola invariably surprises on the upside in WA, so, as is often the case, forecast canola volume may rise!

In the Geraldton zone, harvesting is coming to an end, with yields close to a tonne in the better low rainfall areas, and higher closer to the coast. This is well above earlier estimates. Further south, harvesting is getting underway, following barley. In the Albany zone, a dry October during pod fill will reduce overall yield and oil content. Conversely, rain in October in Esperance provide the crops with a final topping up ahead of harvest, and should see average yields achieved.

*Crop Estimates as prepared for and presented at the AOF October Meeting

AOF Crop Report is provided free due to the support of the following 2019/20 Oilseed Development Fund (ODF) contributors

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