

# Australian Oilseeds Federation Crop Report



Canola 2020/21

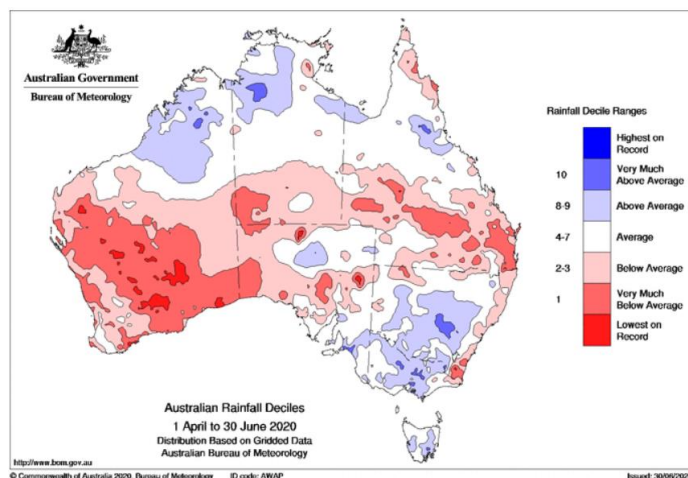
October 2020

|              | 2019/20 Final             |                     | October-19 Month Estimate* |                     |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
|              | Harvested Area (hectares) | Production (tonnes) | Harvested Area (hectares)  | Production (tonnes) |
| NSW          | 160,000                   | 176,000             | 500,000                    | 900,000             |
| Vic          | 385,000                   | 699,000             | 450,000                    | 855,000             |
| SA           | 220,000                   | 324,000             | 225,000                    | 370,000             |
| WA           | 923,000                   | 1,117,000           | 1,100,000                  | 1,215,000           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1,688,000</b>          | <b>2,316,000</b>    | <b>2,275,000</b>           | <b>3,340,000</b>    |

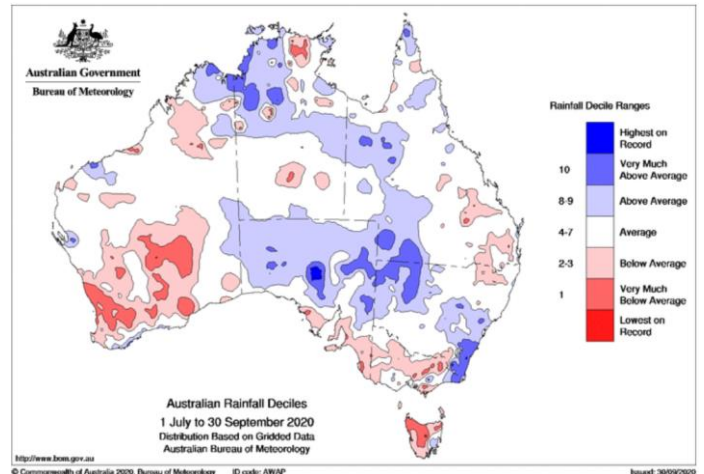
Source: Industry Estimates, GIWA; NSW DPI, DEDJTR (Vic)

The return towards La Niña conditions has had the expected results, with generally wetter than average conditions on the east coast and drier than average conditions on the west coast. This has significantly improved crop prospects for NSW, with canola sown from border to border, north to south. With NSW and Vic forecast to produce 50% above the 5 year average (26% above the 10 year average) domestic crushers will have ample supplies, with up to 800,000 tonnes potentially available for export. The drier conditions in WA, will deliver a crop down 20-25% on the medium-long term average.

Overall production has also been bolstered by an increase in area sown to canola as many growers switched out of barley once the Chinese tariff situation became apparent,



Early season rainfall deciles



Mid rainfall deciles

The early and mid-season decile rainfall maps demonstrate the impact of La Niña conditions, highlighting the difference between east and west coast rainfall.

October heavy rain and storms in NSW, however, may take the gloss of the production estimates in that State.

The late summer and early season rainfall in NSW encouraged earlier planting this year, providing good establishment early in the season. The trend towards grazing canola also continued and was further encouraged by the early favourable conditions.

The projected state average yield of 1.8t/ha is the best for NSW since the 2012/13 season, bolstered by yields of 2-3t/ha in the Macquarie Valley, South West Slopes, Southern Riverina down to the Murray. The favourable conditions have encouraged growers to be generous with N application which will certainly boost yield, but may pull back oil content in favour of protein.

Crop development is generally ahead of where one would expect by this time due to both the tendency to early sow and the above average winter temperatures. Windrowing has started in the north, west of the Newell Highway.

Crops have been managed well for pests and diseases, as the expected higher yield has justified relatively widespread use of sprays.

The impact of the October storms and heavy rain throughout much of the state, is yet to be established, but some crops already windrowed are too wet to harvest and seeds may sprout before drying out. Elsewhere, in a number of cases, harvest will be delayed as paddocks are too wet for machinery.

The **Victorian** canola crop has continued to do well, with good soil moisture able to comfortably carry the crops through the drier mid season. As with NSW, many growers took advantage of soil moisture levels pre-season and elected to plant early.

The rain in early October has come at the right time to replenish soil moisture and aid pod fill. The Wimmera and Southern Districts have been spared the heavy rain and storms that hit NSW, while the Mallee has had good rain, so there could still be some upside in the Victorian yield estimates of 1.9t/Ha.

Agronomy management, disease incidence, fungicide programs and pest pressure all very similar to NSW.

**South Australia** had a dry August in some districts which has tended to put a cap on yield potential, but elsewhere, the rain in early Oct, like Victoria, has come at the right time to help with pod fill.

Windrowing is starting now in the lower rainfall areas. Pest pressure has been generally low throughout the season, including low incidence of diamondback moth.

**Western Australia** had a very late seasonal break and a generally poorer season with rainfall at or below decile 5 in most areas and as low as decile 2-3 in many areas. Some decent rain in early August has driven some better crops in south and south west regions, with some crops along the Albany Hwy line projecting to be 2t/Ha (versus state average of just over 1t/Ha). As a generalisation, however, crops are finishing on limited or no moisture, which will impact oil content.

Domestic WA demand for seed for both crushing and as wholeseed for poultry is now close to 100,000t, leaving around 1.1 million tonnes for export this year.

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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