

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



April 2010

Soybean 2009/10

Harvest has commenced in some areas of Queensland and northern NSW on early planted crops and early maturing varieties. Yields so far have been average, however, quality has been reasonable. Harvest is not expected to get underway in earnest for another week or ten days.

	2008/09	2009/10 Estimates	
	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Qld	48,000	13,475	15,675
NSW	52,300	17,215	38,855
VIC	1,200	300	750
Total	101,500	30,990	55,280

Source: Industry Estimates 12/04/2010

The continuing good growing season in **Queensland** in association with weakening sugar prices in the far north region may see some upside potential for yields. Similar conditions exist for central Queensland, with potential for a slight increase in yields in the Emerald region. Yields in the Wide Bay and Burnett regions are estimated to be slightly below that achieved in 2009 as a result of persistent rain events hampering weed control and the pre inoculation issues experienced earlier in the growing season. The effect of wet weather on quality is yet to be determined. Harvest in southern Queensland has also commenced on crops planted to early maturing varieties or planted early. Yields and quality have been reasonable given seasonal conditions.

For the first time in a number of years, the **New South Wales** soy harvest looks like commencing under dry conditions. On the north coast there has been some limited harvesting of early sown crops. Crops on the northern tablelands are continuing to perform well, with expectations for good yields and quality. The crops in northern irrigation areas are late and the impact on yield is unknown at this stage. Insect pressure is still low and is not affecting crop performance.

Crops in the **Riverina and Victoria** have continued to perform well. Harvest is expected to commence by end of the month. So far there is no indication whether performance or quality has been affected by the growing season and so average results are still expected for crops in this part of the state.

Sunflowers 2009/10

	2008/09	2009/10 Estimates	
	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	48,600	18,900	30,770
Qld	31,700	7,700	9,600
Total	80,300	26,600	40,370

Source: Industry Estimates 12/4/10

Harvest of early plant sunflowers on the **Liverpool Plains** is finished. Yields were highly variable, often dependent on the fallow moisture. The best crops yielded around 3.2t/ha. The late plant sunflowers have had the benefit of rains over the last fortnight. Generally rain received has varied from 50-150mm. Powdery mildew has required spraying in some crops during March. This was combined with an insecticide for heliothis. Generally rutherghlen bug pressure has been low. Crops range from seed fill back to the end of flowering and yield potential is very good. There is some concern that an early frost could reduce that potential for the later crops.

Harvest of early plant sunflowers in the **Moree** region has finished. Yields were generally disappointing due to the hot conditions and lack of in crop rainfall. Late plant sunflower are generally from petal drop through to grain fill. Powdery mildew has been progressing due to the humid and cool conditions. Some crops have been sprayed in combination with an insecticide. Rainfall in the last fortnight has been low, around 10mm in many areas. Yield potential generally looks more promising for the late plant sunflowers, but now is the critical period for seed fill.

What's Ahead...

Australian Summer Grains – “Opportunity through Unity”

Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast. June 21-24, 2010. For further information www.australiansummergrains.com.au

“Australian Grains Industry Conference – Australian Grains Industry: Prospering in the face of global economic, environmental and social change”

Crown Promenade, Melbourne July 26-28, 2010. For further information www.ausgrainsconf.com.au

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