

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



February 2008

Canola 2007/08

There is little change to the canola estimates from last month. Our final estimates for 2007/08 are for production of 1.069 million tonnes. Canola estimates will recommence in April/May 2008.

	2006/07 Production (tonnes)	2007/08 Estimates		Production (tonnes)
		Area Planted (hectares)	Area Harvested (hectares)	
NSW	30,000	240,000	58,000	44,000
VIC	42,000	270,000	150,000	200,000
SA	75,000	160,000	160,000	155,000
WA	365,000	390,000	390,000	670,000
Total	512,000	1,060,000	758,000	1,069,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 15/2/08

Sunflowers 2007/08

Good rain during the past few weeks and strong market conditions has seen sunflower prospects improve considerably. Production estimates have been revised up by around 40% to now be just under 70,000 tonnes. The late plant has seen an increased area of polyunsaturated sunflowers planted. Mono sunflowers are estimated at 60% of the crop, compared to around 80% in the previous couple of seasons.

	2006/07 Production (tonnes)	2007/08 Estimates	
		Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
QLD	2,960	21,100	30,850
NSW	15,040	26,800	37,090
Total	18,000	47,900	67,940

Source: Industry Estimates, 15/02/08

The **Queensland** estimates include potential for increased plantings of poly sunflowers in Central Queensland, however, with the planting window just opening this is yet to be realised. The good rain has boosted plantings in southern Queensland.

In **NSW**, harvest of early plant sunflowers in the Moree district has been progressing slowly, with delays due to rainfall in the last 14-21 days. Temperatures have also continued to be quite mild delaying dry-down. Yields appear to be disappointing with many crops likely to yield between 0.8 – 1.2t/ha at this stage. Unfortunately the rain arrived too late to benefit the early crops in most cases.

Crops which have been harvested have had good admixture levels in the range of 1-2%. The crop has generally been ready for harvest for 2-3 weeks now, so fine weather for the next couple of weeks is essential to getting the crop off.

The late plant has benefited from the good rains in recent weeks although the falls have continued to be variable. Growers continued planting up until early February so the late plant growth stages are also variable, ranging from just emerged to 10-12 leaf stage. Rutherglen bug pressure has been fairly low to date. Warmer temperatures would help with crop development particularly as harvest will be quite late. Yield potentials are estimated to be around 1.5t/ha.

The early plant on the Liverpool Plains is rapidly approaching harvest, however rain has continued to fall across the plains with some paddocks remaining very wet. The early plant was set back by a lack of rain in the spring and high Rutherglen bug pressure, reducing yield potential. However it is hoped that harvest will yield between 1.2-1.5t/ha.

The late planting window commenced with some crops being sown in December and planting continuing until the end of January. The great majority of the late plant is monounsaturated with only a small area sown to polyunsaturated and confectionary/ birdseed hybrids. A reasonable portion of the crop has been double cropped following winter cereals in response to the favourable prices and good rain. The crop has continued to grow rapidly and some evidence of powdery mildew and minor white blister has been coming into the lower canopy of the crop. The presence of whitefly has also been noted in some crops and rutherglen bug pressure remains low. Yield potential for the late plant remains high, with an average of 1.5t/ha estimated at this early stage of crop development.

Soybeans 2007/08

Despite the continuation of very wet conditions on the NSW north coast, soybean prospects have improved with good rain in other regions. The crop is now estimated to be over 40,000 tonnes.

	2006/07	2007/08 Estimates	
	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
QLD	11,125	8,900	24,050
NSW	20,760	7625	17,850
VIC	0	0	0
Total	31,885	16,525	41,900

Source: Industry Estimates, 15/02/08

Crops are generally looking very good across **Queensland** following the improved conditions. There have been some reports of poor inoculation in the coastal region and this has adversely impacted the crop in patches.

Area has been revised upwards on the **NSW** North Coast due to some crops recovering from the flood conditions and some replanting. However, there remains uncertainty on the final area, with further rain following replanting. Yields are only expected to be average at best. The northern inland irrigation area has been revised upward following good rain and cool conditions. The northern inland dryland regions are variable. Around Inverell there is a full profile of moisture and crops are looking good, but the cold temperatures around Glen Innes may limit yields. Crops are comparatively late and there is some concern around early frosts. There are only small areas planted in the Lachlan and Macquarie and these were sown late. Estimates are unchanged for the Riverina.

Upcoming Events

25 February 2008, AOF Better Oilseeds Sunflower Demonstration Site Field Day. For more details contact Loretta Serafin, NSW DPI on 0427 311 819.

28-30 July 2008 Australian Grains Industry Conference, Melbourne www.agricultureaustralia.com.au

3-6 November 2008, International Safflower Conference, Wagga Wagga NSW. Register your interest at www.australianoilseeds.com or contact Sue Knights sknights@netconnect.com.au

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