

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



July 2008

Canola 2008/09

The widespread rain across the eastern states in the first half of July has seen canola estimates virtually unchanged from last month.

	2007/08	2008/09 Estimates	
	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	44,000	220,000	330,000
VIC	200,000	220,000	352,000
SA	155,000	175,000	245,000
WA	670,000	610,000	732,000
Total	1,069,000	1,225,000	1,659,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 11/07/08

Crops across **NSW** remain patchy, but the recent rain has helped secure crop potential. The North remains dry and subsoil moisture across the state is variable. There is a big range in crops with the early sown crops budding to flowering, while the late crops are only 2-3 weeks out of the ground. There has been little incidence of pests or disease and the recent cooler weather will assist by slowing crop growth.

Following a dry June, the recent good rain has boosted prospects for the **Victorian** crop, with the Western District again set to be the main producing region. As with previous years, the crop has received just enough rain and will rely on in season rainfall and a good spring to realise the potential. Like NSW crops are variable given sowing time and subsoil moisture is variable. There has been some incidence of insects in the Wimmera, but are being controlled adequately. In the western district crops are generally looking good, at the 3-4 leaf stage.

Following the dry June across **South Australia**, the recent rain has boosted crops and generally crops are doing well. There have been some strong winds. Minimum temperatures have been higher than average and this has helped crops. Like Victoria, the crop has good potential but will need a good spring to realise this.

Following an excellent start, crop prospects in **Western Australia** have been impacted by the dry conditions through May/June. While conditions have improved in the north, this is being offset by lower expected yields in the central and southern regions, in particular, Esperance. Good rain in July is needed to consolidate the crop that has been planted.

Sunflowers 2007/08

This will form our final estimate for the 2007/08 sunflower crop, with numbers virtually unchanged from earlier estimates. The crop comprised around 57% mono type, 40% poly and the remainder birdseed/confectionary.

	2006/07	2007/08 Estimates	
	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
QLD	2,960	20,100	31,950
NSW	15,040	26,800	41,050
Total	18,000	46,900	73,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 11/07/08

Yields were helped in Queensland with the late planting of mono unsaturated sunflowers in Southern Qld being predominately on irrigation.

Yields for the late plant around Moree were disappointing mainly due to a lack of rainfall during the growing season. Dryland crops yielded on average 1.1t/ha, while irrigated crops yielded on average 2.0t/ha. Oil contents were variable, but reports are generally around 38%.

On the Liverpool Plains, the late plant sunflower harvest was drawn out over several months due to rain and cool conditions during June. Yields were not quite as high as some growers had expected, but were still good considering the lack of rain for three months of the growing season. Average yields are estimated to be in the range of 1.6-2.0t/ha. Preliminary conclusions on oil content results are that most crops have resulted in disappointing oil contents, on average around 38%.

Upcoming Events

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

3-6 November 2008, International Safflower Conference, Wagga Wagga NSW. Register at www.australianoilseeds.com

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