

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



June 2013

Canola 2013/14

	2013/14 June Estimate	
	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	550,000	880,000
Vic	390,000	624,000
SA	250,000	350,000
WA	1,100,000	1,430,000
Total	2,290,000	3,284,000

Source: Industry Estimates:

Because late break in May, across eastern Australia did not provide sufficient confidence to produce a May Crop Report, this is the first AOF Crop Report for the winter season.

The rain throughout most of the growing areas since the middle of May has seen a positive, albeit belated, start to the season. Most areas received 25mm-50mm, with some widespread growing areas receiving in excess of 50mm. In WA, rainfall was widespread from mid-April to late May providing ideal sowing conditions

Many growers had delayed planting until the prospect of rain was more definite, or had dry sown, awaiting the break. Consequently, the later start may impact flowering/podding times, which could hold back yields. However, as always, the in-crop rain and end season temperatures will be the biggest determinant on yield. The forecast is for a wetter than average season, with much of the East Coast and SA growing regions expecting a 70%+ chance of exceeding median rainfall.

In **NSW**, the area has come back significantly from last year, but at around half a million hectares is still well above historical levels. The success with canola experienced by most growers over recent years has

buoyed confidence to ensure canola remains in the rotation. Very solid rain since mid-May, with some areas receiving in excess of 140mm, is expected to increase weed pressure, with some paddocks too wet to allow for weed management actions. Establishment is reported to be good, with growers looking for some dry weather to begin nitrogen application.

Victoria experienced very good rainfall in the past few weeks, significantly improving the prospects for the winter crop after a dry summer and autumn,. The Mallee received some good falls, generally, although in some areas the rain is unlikely to have filled the profile in a meaningful way. Elsewhere, the profile has been re-charged and with average in-crop rainfall, should see a good canola crop this season for the state.

South Australia had a good start to the season, with a timely break and good falls since, with most areas receiving at least 25mm, with the Upper North and South East receiving in excess of 50mm. The drier summer/autumn conditions has hindered stubble breakdown, so, as with NSW and Victoria, growers are keen to apply nitrogen as soon as they can.

Western Australia had a very good start to the season, with most seeding going into moist soil after one or two knockdown sprays, average to above average rainfall from planting date onwards in most regions, and with expectations of there being average to above average yields at this early stage. The canola area is a record for WA as overall grower confidence in the crop (through past experience), combined with the good start, has driven up the area. Unlike the eastern states, the rainfall forecast for the WA season is indicating only a 50-60% chance of exceeding the median rainfall. The rainfall to date in June has been very low in all districts, so future rain prospects will be closely watched.

Sunflowers:

2012/13 June Estimate		
	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	19,600	33,600
Vic	1,100	1,800
Qld	9,250	11,000
Total	29,950	46,400

The sunflower crop for the 12/13 season was comparable with 09/10 and 10/11, but almost half that of last year. The drier summer and price relativities vs sorghum once again held back sunflower planting considerations.

Though still small, the return of sunflowers to the irrigated areas of southern NSW/northern Victoria is encouraged, and the presence of 2 crushers in the region prepared to bid for sunflowers in the next season could further drive the area.

Over 95% of the crop was monounsaturated sunflower, meaning that the domestic requirements for poly sunflower will be met with imported supplies.

Soybeans:

2012/13 June Estimate		
	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	14,300	54,650
Vic	2,000	5,000
Qld	12,350	27,600
Total	28,650	87,250

Despite significant crop losses due to rain and flooding in much of the coastal growing areas from Cairns to Grafton, very large plantings in the southern inland irrigated areas help deliver a good soybean harvest for this season. This volume was comparable with last year,

and well above recent years, where annual volume has struggled to exceed 60,000 t in all but 3 of the past 8 years. This year's harvest is the second largest in a decade.

The quality of the non-water affected grain was good, with the majority going to the food/culinary market.

Upcoming Events:

[Australian Grains Industry Conference:](#)

July 29-31- Melbourne.

[AOCS Australasia Conference:](#)

Nov 6-8- Newcastle

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