

# Australian Oilseeds Federation Crop Report



Canola 2021/22

May 2021

	2020/21 Interim Final		May 2021 Estimate	
	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Sown Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	500,000	1,150,000	600,000	900,000
Vic	450,000	1,030,000	500,000	750,000
SA	225,000	386,000	270,000	380,000
WA	1,105,000	1,710,000	1,500,000	2,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,280,000</b>	<b>4,276,000</b>	<b>2,870,000</b>	<b>4,030,000</b>

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

The start to the 2021 planting season has been bolstered by very strong canola prices which has lifted estimated area planted by 25% to just under 2.9mln Ha. If this area is realised, this will represent the largest area sown to canola on record.



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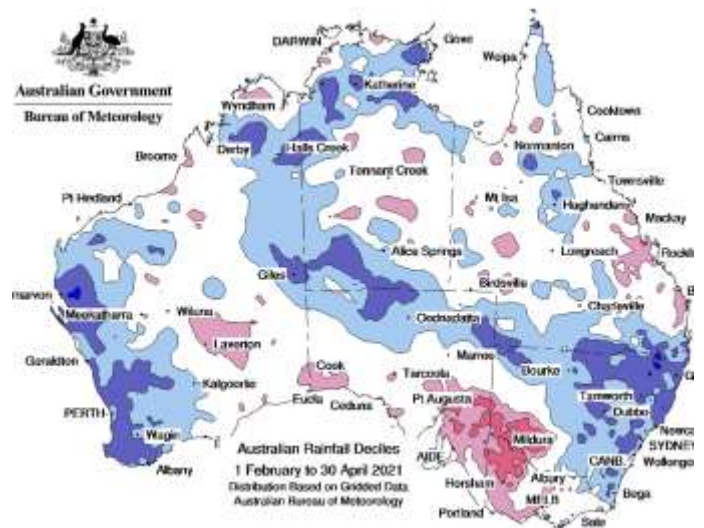
Source: Barchart.com

Even if decade-average yield is applied, total harvest could exceed last year's record of 4.28 mmt. (applying 2020 yields would deliver 5.3mmt !)

However, despite very favourable planting and pre-planting conditions in NSW and WA, dry seeding in SA and the Wimmera, and the disruption to seeding due to mice in NSW has tempered enthusiasm for a record crop.

Rainfall in the lead up to and during seeding in NSW and WA was excellent, adding already good soil moisture in NSW while SA and Vic canola growing

areas were experiencing very dry conditions, which only improved slightly during May.



Early season rainfall deciles

Source: BOM

The strong demand did create issues of seed shortages, particularly for WA, which may have limited ultimate area sown

Much of **NSW** during late March/early April had above average or well above average soil moisture levels.

This triggered strong and early planting, with dual purpose crops gaining in popularity and well established with many grazed by mid April. However, drier conditions during the second half of April led to some seedbeds drying out resulting on patchy establishment. Rain in early May helped struggling

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roots to access stored moisture. In some cases where germination was delayed or staggered, mice have destroyed seed and crops either re-sown to canola if seed was available, or re-sown to other crops. However, throughout most of the state, the mice baiting has been very effective.

In direct contrast, **Victoria** has experienced a very delayed break, and has yet to receive decent rain, particularly in the Wimmera and Mallee. A warm and dry autumn has led to very low soil moisture levels in these regions, with most seeding dry. Most sowing to the end of April was in the North Central and North East regions, where sub soil moisture was reasonable. Mice baiting has been effective in retaining seed, even if germination was slow/delayed. (Once the seedling reaches the 2 leaf stage, it appears mice are less interested in canola).

**South Australia** has experienced similar conditions to Victoria, however planting intentions were high pre-season, with a 20 % area increase on prior year. This area could come back if the early May rain was insufficient to trigger effective and consistent germination and establishment. The very high prices for lentils has also created some late changes to planting intentions, particularly in the Mid North and Yorke Peninsula. Very high winds accompanied with above average temperatures this week could also impact canola crops with any damaged or lost crops potentially resown to lentils, if there is rain in the next week or so.

**Western Australia** experienced an unseasonably wet late Summer/Autumn with tropical rain events from the north delivering 100-200 mm in the canola growing areas creating decile 10 conditions. With average rainfall forecast for the coming three months, the crops are well positioned to enter spring in a strong state. The favourable conditions combined with strong prices have seen areas planted exceeding records in many regions. In Geraldton Zone, GIWA report canola area is up 20-50% and up 20% in some areas of the Albany Zone. The good moisture conditions and good crop establishment has driven early N applications in many case. Seed shortages have limited potential areas sown, especially in related to hybrid varieties. At 1.5 million Ha, 2021 is the largest canola plant on record for WA, eclipsing the previous record (2017/18) by 11%.

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