

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



November 2008

Canola 2008/09

The eastern states have experienced another disappointing end to the season. Below average rainfall, high temperatures and frosts have all contributed to a downsizing of the crop forecast in NSW, Victoria and South Australia. However, the crop in Western Australia has largely benefitted from above average rainfall, although there has been some frost damage reported.

Overall the canola crop forecast has been further reduced to around 1.4 million tonnes.

	2007/08	2008/09 Estimates	
	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	44,000	195,000	214,500
VIC	200,000	185,000	200,000
SA	155,000	165,000	150,000
WA	670,000	620,000	837,000
Total	1,069,000	1,165,000	1,401,500

Source: Industry Estimates, 14/11/08

October saw the continuation of dry weather across **NSW**, with almost no rainfall and very high temperatures towards the end of the month and continuing in early November. Despite these conditions, the crop in the northern region should still achieve reasonable yields of 1.4 to 1.8 t/ha. In the western regions, crops have been windrowed and harvested, but harvest activities are only just commencing on the Liverpool Plains. The Central West crop has been affected by adverse weather conditions with both heat and some frost damage being reported. However, yields are still expected to be reasonable, though below those of the north. The South West has not fared as well and a large area of the crop was severely damaged by the hot, dry conditions and frosts. There is a wide variation in both the condition and stages of the crop in this region and both yields and oil contents are expected to be disappointing.

The crop in **Victoria** is variable throughout most regions of the State, but generally yields are expected to be down on expectations. In all growing areas, crops have been exposed to moisture stress, high temperatures and widespread frosts. The Western District suffered heavy frosts from Ararat to Willaura and Streatham. Combined with the very hot and dry weather conditions, many areas

of crop have failed and will not be harvested. Estimated reductions in yield range from 30% to 90%.

As for Victoria, **South Australia** had a severe finish to the season with a very dry, hot month. Combined with wide spread frosts, the average yield for the State has been reduced to 0.9 tonne/hectare. However, there are a number of areas spread throughout the state where yields will more likely be 1.4-1.8 tonne/hectare. Windrowing has commenced and harvest should be underway by end November.

Above average rainfall has continued to support crops in all areas of **Western Australia** and the State yield has been revised up from last month. In the Albany region, harvest has commenced and canola quality is reported to be average or better, despite some yield loss due to frost damage. Harvest in the northern region is well underway and again both yields and oil content are reported to be above average. At the time of writing harvest is approximately 10% complete, despite some significant delays in all areas due to rainfall and moisture. With good weather forecast, the harvest should be well underway in the next week.

Virtual Canola Crop Website:

http://www.australianoilseeds.com/agronomy_centre/the_virtual_canola_site

Better Canola Booklet.

To obtain a copy of this Better Oilseeds Project publication containing results from case studies, demonstration and field trials, please contact Felicity Pritchard on 03 5382 4396.

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Meadow Lea Foods	Unilever Australasia	Peerless Foods
Cargill Australia	Riverland Oilseeds	MSM Milling
Atlantic Pacific Foods	Alba Edible Oils	Cootamundra Oilseeds
Bartter Enterprises	Ridley Agriproducts	Millmaster
Grain Pool WA	ABB Grain	GrainCorp
Louis Dreyfus	AWB Limited	

Sunflower 2008/09

Early planting of sunflower in northern NSW, the Liverpool Plains and Darling Downs has commenced. Area planted is estimated to be similar to or slightly above last year's early crop with most of the early plant in the Moree and Liverpool Plains areas. The crop is predominantly mono-unsaturated type.

	2007/08	2008/09 Estimates	
	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
QLD	31,950	20,000	23,500
NSW	41,050	18,500	28,500
Total	73,000	38,500	52,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 14/11/08

The **northern NSW** crops are at mid to late budding stage and recent rains have been beneficial to crop development. There have been limited reports of Rutherglen bug and powdery mildew at this stage, but Heliothis and some white blister have been of minor concern in both the Moree and Liverpool Plains areas.

The **Darling Downs** crops are almost at flowering stage. Some areas in the Western Downs have been planted to cotton and continuing water availability will determine how much late plant sunflower occurs in that area. In **Central Queensland**, a small area of mono sunflower has been planted and is just past flowering stage. There is a significant interest in a late summer plant, but will depend on both soil moisture and ongoing concern about disease (tobacco streak virus).

Market conditions have been reasonably good for sunflower and there is good potential for a larger late plant, however better than average rainfall will be required across all growing areas.

Soybean 2008/09

Soybean planting has commenced and, at present, predictions are for a larger crop than last year especially in the coastal areas of both Queensland and NSW. Both soybean and cane values have been fluctuating and this will affect planting of soybean in these areas. Elsewhere, water availability will be the key to planting level. This is particularly the issue in the irrigation areas.

	2007/08	2008/09 Estimates	
	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
QLD	20,930	10,000	24,000
NSW	13,800	15,500	36,900
VIC	0	2,000	5,000
Total	34,730	27,500	66,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 14/11/08

Cottonseed 2008/09

The 2009 crop has now been planted and estimates have the crop at between 140-170,000 hectares. The growing season will determine yield, but current expectations are for 1.3 million bales or approximately 350-400,000 tonnes of cottonseed.

Upcoming Events

16th ARAB Conference, 14-16th September 2009, Ballarat, Victoria. Visit www.australianoilseeds.com

World Congress on Oils & Fats and 28th ISF Congress 27-30 September, Sydney Australia. This will be a unique opportunity to access leading researchers from around the world. Visit www.isfsydney2009.com or contact the conference organizers on 02 9518 7722 or info@isfsydney2009.com