

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



November 2012

Canola 2012/13

	2011/12 Final		2012/13 November Estimate	
	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	390,000	720,000	617,000	833,000
Vic	370,000	770,000	420,000	546,000
SA	255,000	455,000	295,000	413,000
WA	800,000	1,240,000	905,000	905,000
Total	1,815,000	3,185,000	2,237,000	2,697,000

Source: Industry Estimates: 9/11/2012

The prospects remain firm for another very strong canola crop in 2012 as the harvest gets underway. At close to 2.7million tonnes, this will be the second largest canola crop on record, surpassed only by the very large crop of the previous season. This harvest size is being driven more by hectares than yield, with 2.37mIn hectares planted, exceeding the previous record by 23%, but yields back to a national average of 1.2t/Ha, well below the 5 year average of 1.5t/Ha. With below average rain through most of the growing regions throughout the season, the crops have relied heavily on stored soil moisture, much of which is now depleted. In WA, the lack of winter rain has significantly impaired the crop prospects.

In **NSW**, the rain of the past fortnight has only been of any benefit to the more southern crops, as elsewhere crops are either at windrow or harvest stage. Crops in the north are being harvested, with early indications being that there is a wide variation in yield, from 200kg/ha to 2t/ha, having been affected by both frost and moisture stress. Oil levels have been reported as low as 32-35% in some northern crops, although the bulk appears to be in the range 38-42%, and this can be expected to improve with the southern crops to deliver a typical state average (circa 42%). Pest and disease pressure has been low throughout most of the season, which has served to mitigate against other yield dragging factors.

Year will still deliver a record crop for the State, more than double the 5 year average.

Victoria has received between 5-50mm over the past week or so, which has delayed harvest related activities, although in some areas, the rain was welcomed. The cooler conditions are expected to serve the crop well in terms of oil content and quality. Harvesting is well underway in the Mallee, with the expected lower yields due to the drier conditions. If the projected 546,000 tonnes is delivered, this will be the second largest canola harvest on record for Victoria. (last year being the record).

South Australia received only light showers over the month, most of which fell in the growing regions. Cooler conditions were experienced for much of the past few weeks, although very hot conditions occurred in the Eyre Peninsula this week. Overall, the SA crop is expected to be typical, with yields at or slightly below the typical average.

Western Australia experienced a very dry October with slightly above average temperatures. Crops in the North were mostly mature, so dry conditions had little impact, but for Kwinana and Albany zones, there may have been some minor yield impact. Overall, however, crops are reported to have matured well.

Solid rain across much of the growing regions in early November did impact harvest operations, with some reports of damage to windrows. Geraldton zone is reported to be 60% harvested, with good oil levels (43-46%), Esperance 20% with 43-44% oil. There is general optimism the state average will be in the average range of +/-42%.

Upcoming Events

WA Crop Updates

Perth, February 25-2th, 2013

Canola Council Congress:

Vancouver: March 14-15, 2013

AOCS Annual Meeting:

Montréal, April 28-May 1, 2013

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