

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



September 2010

Canola 2010/11

	2009/10 Final		2010/11 September Estimate	
	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	227,000	261,000	315,000	520,000
Vic	234,000	391,000	260,000	500,000
SA	184,000	259,000	200,000	300,000
WA	745,000	986,000	875,000	930,000
Total	1 390,000	1,897,000	1,650,000	2,250,000

Source: Industry Estimates. 10/9/2010

Recent rain in Western Australia over the past month has served to prevent a significant downward revision of the crop estimates for Australia, while there is cautious optimism in the Eastern states that there could be an upside to current projections due to the very favourable conditions being experienced. Estimates have remained the same in NSW, Vic and Qld, while WA was reduced by 30,000t. Even with this reduction, Australia is still on track for one of the largest canola harvests in the past decade.

In **NSW** there is now sufficient soil moisture in most regions to carry the crop through to harvest. The crops are generally at or approaching full flower, with no signs of either lodging from recent windy weather, or frost damage from a snap of cold weather. The wet season has started to produce some water logging of crops in some areas, but this is not expected to impact yields, provided drier conditions ensue and the warmer weather comes as expected. Some growers are applying nitrogen at this stage to compensate for any losses due to the high soil moisture levels. The higher moisture levels throughout the season to date has encouraged the emergence of sclerotinia and the presence of blackleg leaf lesions. The impact of both these pathogens is difficult to predict at this stage, and a clearer picture of the impact on yield, if any, will be clearer next month. The yield of 1.7t/Ha remains the same as last month.

In **Victoria**, the crop is also progressing very well, and as with NSW, there is sufficient moisture now to carry the crop through to harvest. The many periods of rain experienced throughout the season have depleted nitrogen in some crops,

while the conditions have also favoured blackleg development. However, any yield loss from these aspects will be more than compensated by higher overall yields. Sclerotinia is not expected to be in issue in Victoria this season, due to the generally colder conditions. As with NSW, drier and warmer weather is now needed to see the crop finish with an optimal yield. At this stage, yield is held constant with last month at 1.9t/Ha.

While some areas in **South Australia**, particularly in the South East and Eyre Peninsula, are very wet, the adjoining more marginal areas are enjoying good moisture levels, with crops overall looking very good for the State. The threat of Diamond Back Moth on the Eyre Peninsula has been lessened due to the incidence of rain and with insecticide application. Potential mice problems have also been lessened due to the wetter conditions.

Western Australia the rain over the past month has saved much of the winter cropping regions from a significant reduction in yield, although some zones will still experience well below average yields. The southern canola growing zones of Albany and particularly, Esperance, are looking to achieve average yields this year, although the state yield will be below average due to the poor outcome in the western and northern zones. This month the yield was reduced from to around 1t/ha, from a 5 year average of 1.5t/Ha.

Global Snapshot

- As the Northern Hemisphere begins to consider winter cropping options, the higher wheat price will provide more competition for area for canola/rape, while the La Niña effect which is favouring Australian east coast crops is causing dry conditions in South America, which if continues, could disrupt soy and sun crop prospects.
- Reports of Russia holding back on sunflower exports, combined with low stocks and below average prospects in Argentina, has created a lift in sun oil prices.

Source: Various on-line market reports, including Oilworld ISTA Mielke GmbH

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