

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



July 2004

AOF to Release a new Newsletter

AOF's monthly newsletter has been renamed the Crop Report. This will remain in the current format providing a monthly update on crop progress and estimates. However, we will be expanding the market comment from next month. In addition to the Crop Report, AOF will launching a revised format for the Oilseed News which will be released 3-4 times a year with in-depth articles on key issues and comprehensive updates on AOF activities. We hope that you enjoy our new formats of the Crop Report and Oilseed News.

Canola 2004/05

The estimate for area sown has been reduced slightly overall, with WA showing the largest drop, but only a small drop is estimated in production, with further upside potential for yields if there is a good spring.

State	2003/04	2004/05 Production	
	Production (Tonnes)	Area Planted (Hectares)	Production (Tonnes)
NSW	282,000	301,000	421,400
Victoria	420,000	240,000	384,000
SA	310,000	180,000	261,000
WA	610,000	390,000	456,300
Total	1,622,000	1,111,000	1,522,700

Source: Industry Estimates, 9/7/04

In the northern **NSW** crops are progressing quite well, although they will be looking for rain by the end of July to prevent decline in yield potential. Crops in the central region are relatively late, but look reasonable at present. In the south, sowing is now finished and crop emergence has been very good. Weeds remain a significant potential problem. There have been a few insects around, but these are not causing any major problems at this stage. Across the state, but particularly in the central and south, lack of sub soil moisture is the most critical issue and substantial rain will be needed in late winter/spring. Overall area is estimated to be down slightly on the preliminary estimates, while yields have been left the same.

Outlook in **Victoria** has improved considerably with average or above average rainfall in most areas during June. Crops are all sown and generally at the 2-4 leaf stage. Emergence has been good and there is no evidence of blackleg to date. There has been some incidence of red legged earth mite, but control has been effective. Like NSW there is little sub soil moisture and good spring rain is required to secure production. Yields have been increased to reflect the improved conditions and to bring them in line with the long term average.

There has been little change in **South Australia** although like Victoria yields have been increased to better reflect the long term average. Crops are generally looking good. There has been some incidence of red legged earth mite and lucerne flea, with wet windy conditions causing some problems for growers in relation to insect and weed control.

Overall the crops in **Western Australia** are generally looking good. The area has been reduced due to area that did not get planted in the southern zone, but yields have been increased to somewhat offset this. Conditions in the north are excellent, but become more patchy as move south.

Market Comment

New crop outlook is being pressured by the positive conditions globally. The European canola crop looks excellent and there is very good potential for the Canadian canola crop. However, volatility is expected in the market until the US crop is known, although conditions there are currently good. Local values have fallen in the last month due to the stronger Australian dollar and good crop outlook globally.

Upcoming Meetings

10 & 11 August 2004 Agriculture Australia, Wentworth Hotel, Sydney. Registration forms available at www.agricultureaustralia.com.au

18 and 19 August 2004 - CAA Canola Production Forums - Back to the Future for Canola (18th August – Narrandera Ex-Services Club and 19th August – Forbes Services Memorial Club). The aim of the forum is to look at the benefits and constraints of canola in farming systems and to provide practical management guidelines for canola production. Topics for discussion will include:

- Revisiting the role of break crops in farming systems.
- The profitability of farming systems using break crops especially canola.
- Management of the canola crop including identification of production constraints and the current knowledge on how to address these constraints.

For more details contact the Canola Association of Australia on 03 9573 9816 or <http://www.canolaustralia.com/operations/events>

6 & 7 October 2004 AOF Industry Forum & AGM Eden Park Hotel, Melbourne. For further information contact AOF 03 9533 2623 or download a registration form from www.australianoilseeds.com

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