

Australian Oilseeds Federation Crop Report



July 2023

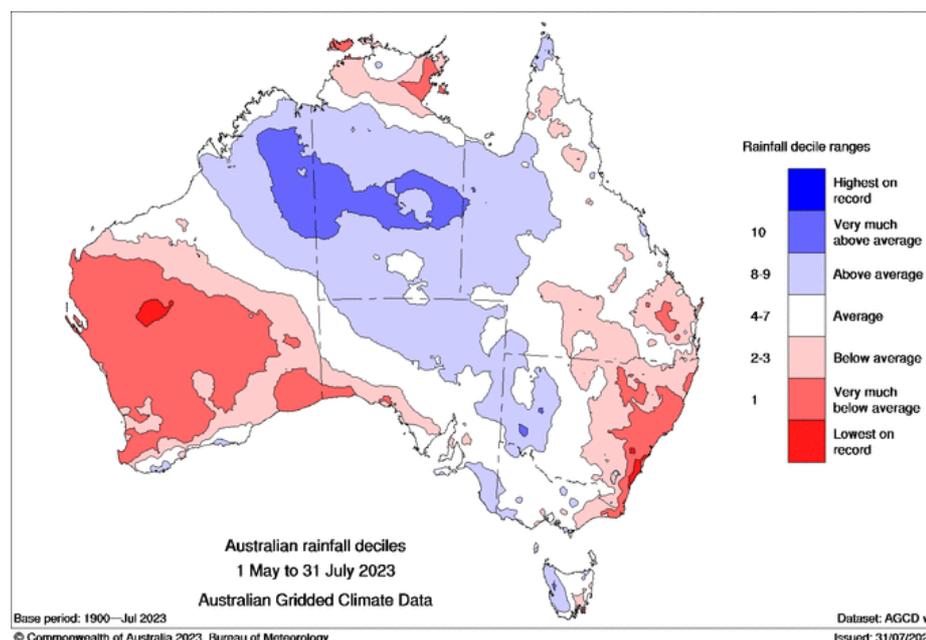
Canola 2023/24

	2022/23 Final		2023 July Estimate	
	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Harvest Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	887,000	1,652,000	840,000	1,265,000
VIC	630,000	1,369,000	550,000	1,195,000
SA	307,000	655,000	275,000	550,000
WA	2,017,000	4,258,000	1,845,000	2,580,000
Total	3,841,000	7,934,000	3,510,000	5,590,000

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

The early season BOM prospects for a drier season combined with a softening in prices has seen growers take a more cautious approach to the area sown to canola this year, with total area down just under 10%. Despite the drop in area, the current estimate for area sown is 20% above the 5 year and 35% above the 10 year average, suggesting a greater adoption of canola into farming systems as well as tighter rotations.

By end of July, the BOM had yet to formally announce a return to El Niño although it was forecasting much warmer and much drier conditions for the remainder of the canola-growing season. This crop forecast is based on known conditions at the time of writing with only minimum yield impact from unknown drier/warmer conditions applied. Throughout most east coast growing regions sufficient sub-soil moisture in areas where crops are well established should mitigate against moisture stress, although warmer temperatures may impact flowering, pod and oil formation. Crops in WA are more likely to have a yield impact from drier conditions.



© Copyright: Australian Oilseeds Federation. Information has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, however, AOF is not responsible for the accuracy or completeness of any information contained herein and is not responsible for, nor liable for, the results incurred from their use.

Australian Oilseeds Federation • PO Box H236 • Royal Exchange NSW 1225 • Tel: (02) 8007 7553 • www.australianoilseeds.com

Seasonal rain in **NSW** has been better than initial predictions for central and southern NSW however Northern NSW is divided by 2 extremes, roughly by the Newell Highway. In the north-east of the state, many crops with 2-3 split germinations have variable growth stages, with some just starting to flower. Most crops have been fertilised for 1.8—2.5 t/ha yield targets. Weed management is on-track. In the north-west, the lack of sufficient rainfall has not only restricted canola planting but also most winter crops.

Further south in Central NSW, early-mid April sown canola has begun flowering with excellent crop growth to date. The good start to the season combined with good sub-soil moisture has given growers confidence to apply plenty of N both at pre-sowing and early post sowing. Later sown crops (up to mid-May) are showing very slow growth rates, especially where N application was limited. Many crops are still uneven after marginal sowing moistures and patchy small rainfall events, despite soil moisture profiles generally better than 50—60% full.

Southern NSW is experiencing excellent conditions, which is being reflected in near-ideal plant growth to date. Around 75% of the crop was sown on time, with average to above average temperatures having been experienced since sowing. The warmer conditions have supported growth in aphid numbers which have acted as a virus vector resulting in loss of some crops (Cowra/Canowindra districts). In the west of the southern region, canola crops are reported to be in full bloom.

Generally, weed, disease and pest pressure is low throughout the state.

The area sown to canola is only down marginally, although a lower than average yield has been applied given the drier outlook for the remainder of the season.

In **Victoria**, timely rain in June was well needed following a dry spell in May, albeit that rainfall was well above average. The north-west and central north areas experienced twice the normal monthly rainfall (Decile 10) resulting in poor trafficability and waterlogging on heavier soil types. Soil moisture in much of the west of the state, including the Mallee, was at Decile 10 during the month. The June rainfall was accompanied by above average to well-above average temperatures.

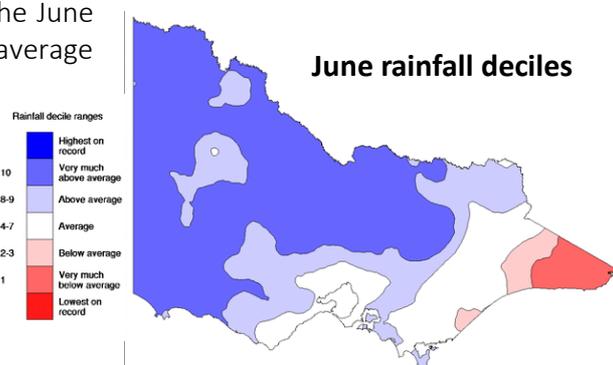
The wet conditions have resulted in high-unprecedented slug pressure in some areas

July rainfall fell back to drier than average, while temperatures remained above average however this has not impacted crops.

The drier start to the season saw growers pull back on their canola area with AOF estimating a 13% reduction in area on prior year however this is up 20% on the 5 year average as canola becomes firmly entrenched in the farming systems and rotations become tighter.

The majority of the crop was sown early in **South Australia** after timely Easter rainfall. June rainfall was well above average (after a drier May), which together with above average temperatures in June produced rapid growth and set up a good yield potential. Follow-up rainfall in early July further increased confidence and retains good soil moisture reserves. The conditions, however, have favoured an increase in the presence of slugs.

In the south-east, the area sown this year is reported to be up on last year but wet conditions and massive slug levels have reduced viable crop area. Growers have had to apply up to 4 bait applications in some areas. Area in the Mallee is up slightly from last year, with crops looking generally good (despite a week of frosts in late July). Some crops are at about 20% flowering. Across in the Mid north, crops are looking good except for slug damage with area expected to be similar to last year. On the Yorke Peninsula, canola area is up on last year, although lentils remain the main break crop sown. Little slug pressure evident. On the Eyre Peninsula, canola area is up on last year, particularly on the coastal edges. The crops are looking very good, despite below average rainfall during July.



Overall, throughout the state, yield potential is looking very good with 70%+ moisture profiles in most districts as the crop comes into flowering. Tight canola rotations combined with a cautious approach to the longer term seasonal prospects has seen the area sown to canola in the state come back about 10% from last year.

In **WA**, there has been a variable start. Widespread June rain lifted overall crop prospects, but regions vary. Very cold June temperatures slowed crop growth, particularly in southern regions. In the Geraldton zone it is very dry with well below average rainfall. Early sown canola is patchy & struggling. Small rain events have resulted in crops briefly recovering before moisture stress slowed growth again. In the Kwinana and North Midlands districts, delayed sowing and drying soil moisture has resulted in patchy canola crops. Crops have responded to closer to average rainfall in June and some odd showers in early July. Lower than average temperatures have delayed flowering (≈ 4 weeks). Further south in the Kwinana zone, there has been a very good start to the season. Early sowing and rapid uniform crop emergence has given growers confidence to go strong with N aiming for above average yield potential. Flowering commenced in mid-July. Further south, June rain completely changed outlook in the Albany zone. Areas with patchy canola responded quickly. Yield prospects have moved towards the average in general. Coastal areas extremely wet. Further east in the Esperance zone, delayed crop growth is widespread with very mixed crop status. There are reports of waterlogged crops on the coast after 200+ mm rain in June and more in early July.

Drier conditions at sowing compounded by drier prospects for the season and very tight rotations has seen the sown area retract by about 10% off last years record planted area. This is still 20-30% above the longer term 5 and 10 year averages for WA.

=====000000000000000=====