

# Australian Oilseeds Federation

## Crop Report



Aug, 2015

### Canola 2015/16

('000)	2014/15 Final		2015/16 Estimate	
	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	575	835	510	816
Vic	483	647	380	456
SA	302	314	221	287
WA	1247	1635	1143	1446
<b>Total</b>	<b>2607</b>	<b>3431</b>	<b>2254</b>	<b>3005</b>

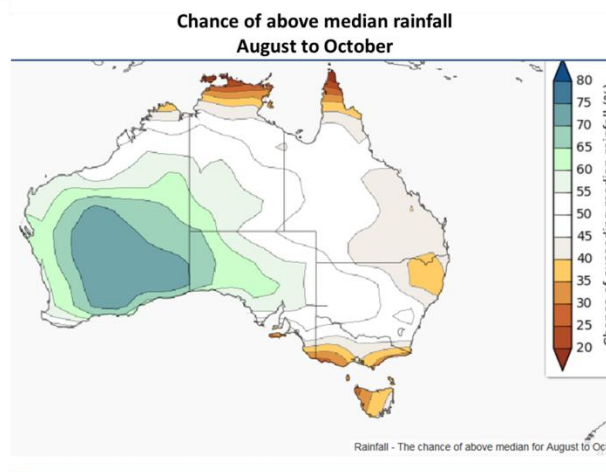
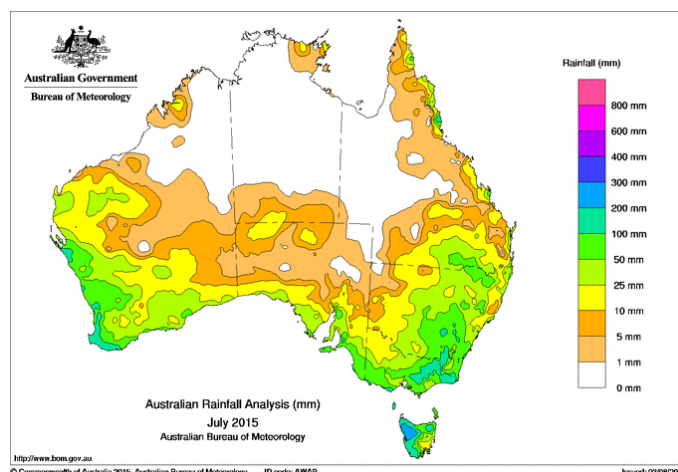
Source: Industry Estimates; GIWA; PIRSA; NSW DPI

While there is no doubt that the predicted El Niño is now well established, and indeed has strengthened during the first 2 weeks of August, the anticipated below average winter rainfall has not eventuated across most of the eastern Australian winter cropping regions. Rainfall throughout winter has been generally average, resulting in typical crop performance during the slow growing winter period. The rain has also served to develop a good soil moisture profile going into spring. However, with noticeable bursts of warm weather being experienced in the lead up to spring, the canola crop will accelerate growth and subsequent water demand.

Despite good sub soil moisture, which has sustained crops during winter, solid rain is required in the coming weeks to ensure average yields can be achieved. Similarly, in WA, widespread rain during July and to date in August is expected to deliver average to above average yields, subject to average rain during the remainder of the season and no significant frost events.

For both eastern and western Australian canola growing regions, the Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting average to above average rainfall for the remainder of the season, with the exception of Western Districts of Victoria.

Overall, the area sown to canola this season is down significantly on prior years, (ranging from 8 % down in WA to 27% down in SA), driven by concern over El Niño at the time of making planting decisions, compounded with price relativities of oilseeds versus cereals and in particular, pulses. Pulse area is estimated to be up by over 120% this season versus last year.



In **NSW**, after a good early start to planting in April, the state has received average to above average rainfall through June and July where many centres recorded 60-100 mm in July across the main canola growing regions of central and southern NSW. Crop development is split between those sown early (now early-mid flowering) and those sown a little later (v. late April- early May) that are only now beginning to bud (depending on the variety sown). Conditions have been cold through June/July (colder than last year) and this would be similar across eastern Australia. Soil profiles are 75-100% full from Parkes to Albury. Due to the early flowering and continuous wet conditions a large area of crop is being treated for sclerotinia.

**Victoria** is in worst shape of any state, with only 5-10 mm falling over 10 rain days in August. West of Bendigo the crop is in poor condition as is most of the Wimmera and SE Mallee. Horsham for example only recorded 18 mm for July and 35 in June. The Western Districts and northern Mallee has fared much better, although below average rainfall is expected in the Western Districts for the coming months.

**South Australia** saw a significant reduction in area this season. The growing season had been tracking average through to end of July, except for the SE which was below average. However, there was little in the way of subsoil moisture reserves. Recent rainfall of 15-45 mm across most of the grain growing regions was very welcome. There are no reported issues with green peach aphid or beet western yellow virus this season as very, very dry conditions did not suit over-summering populations of aphids.

**Western Australia** experienced 50-100 mm over 75% of crop area in late July-early August which has served to turned prospects around, with soil moisture levels across the entire WA grain belt reported to be generally very good.

The northern growing regions (Geraldton Zone) have had a very good season, with windrowing/swathing about to commence with the early flowering crops. Conditions in the Kwinana zone are above average, having shown a significant improvement following a very dry start. Yields are now rated as slightly above average.

Albany zone has had average rainfall to date, producing generally good crop conditions. The Esperance zone has been in excellent condition throughout winter and looks set to produce a very large harvest. There are reports of heavier than usual heavy disease pressure (blackleg and sclerotinia) with no significant pest pressure.

## Soybeans 14/15

	2014/15 Final	
	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW/Vic	20500	48500
Qld	11700	20100
Total	32200	68600

Source: Industry Estimates; Soy Australia

The soybean industry experienced an average season, with production in line with the 5 year average. The dry conditions in Queensland held back planting, while the cost of water held back planting in the irrigated areas of southern NSW. The Northern Rivers of NSW had one of its best seasons in many years, with no significant impact from floods/cyclones, and delivered almost 50% of the national crop (30,000t).

## Sunflowers 14/15

('000)	2014/15 Estimate	
	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	10400	10300
Qld	24300	29300
Other	900	1000
Total	35600	40200

Source: Industry Estimates; Australian Sunflower Association

The lack of summer rain, compounded with strong sorghum prices reduced both early and late planted crops to deliver an area and tonnage roughly in line with the 5 year average, but well below crop potential.

## Cotton 14/15

('000)	2014/15 Final	
	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes of seed)
NSW	115	300
Qld	75	200
Total	190	500

Source: Industry Estimates;

The lack of water significantly held back planting for the 2014/15 summer crop. Water availability will once again be the greatest determinant of crop size in 2015/16, despite the prospect of strong prices. The 2015/16 crop is expected to be on par with the prior season, well below some of the record crops (>1000t seed) realised in the first few years of this decade.

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## Upcoming Events



**AOCAS** Australasian Section  
Biennial Meeting  
9-11 September 2015  
The Pier | Geelong, Victoria | Australia

**Looking Back, Thinking Forward**

**AAOCS (Australian Chapter of the American Oilseeds Chemists Society) Biennial meeting;**  
Geelong- Sept 9-11<sup>th</sup>. Full details [here](#).



**Agribusiness Crop Updates**  
Perth- WA  
29 February- 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2016

***AOF Crop Report is provided free due to the support of the following Oilseed Development Fund (ODF) contributors***

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