

Australian Oilseeds Federation Crop Report



January 2011

Canola 2010/11

	2009/10 Final		2010/11 January Estimate		
	Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area Planted* (hectares)	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	227,000	261,000	315,000	310,000	610,000
Vic	234,000	391,000	260,000	240,000	440,000
SA	184,000	259,000	200,000	200,000	360,000
WA	745,000	986,000	875,000	845,000	705,000
Total	1 390,000	1,897,000	1,650,000	1,595,000	2,115,000

*Area planted as at July 2010 estimates.

Source: Industry Estimates: 20/1/2011

The warmer and drier conditions late December enabled further harvesting to continue in the east, reducing the amount of potential harvest that may have been at risk due to weather damage. Overall, the amount of crop that could now be considered at risk due to weather damage has fallen back to 130,000-150,000 t from up to 300,000 last month.

In **NSW**, there only remains a small portion of the crop still to be harvested. Of the grain that has been harvested over the past month, there has been a reasonable portion downgraded to CAN3 (a new segregation for weather damaged canola) some of which is able to be processed when included in a crush at <10%. The storage life of this segregation is short due to FFA build-up so it will not be entering the export market. Up to 10% of the total NSW canola harvest could be unable to be processed due to weather damage. Yields have continued to improve as the harvest has been realised, with current estimates for the State at 2t/Ha overall.

Victoria has experienced significant flooding in the Wimmera district over the past week and at this stage it is not known what proportion, if any, of the remaining crops (either yet to be windrowed, or already windrowed) may have been impacted. However, as with NSW, much of the harvest for Victoria is now complete. Up to 50,000 tonnes is regarded as being 'at risk' in Victoria due to weather damage.

In **South Australia**, any rain that has fallen has only served to improve final yields, with an overall state average yield lifting

to 1.8t/Ha. Consequently, overall tonnage for SA has been lifted by 15,000t.

In **Western Australia**, the harvest is all but over, with almost all canola now in the bulk handling system. The final tonnage for the state is expected to be around 705,000 t, with good oil yields in the Esperance zone (42-46%); around 40% in the Geraldton zone, and elsewhere between 36-40%.

Soybeans:

	2009/10 Production (tonnes)	2010/11 Estimates	
		Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	46,800	15,975	43,250
Qld	16,400	1,920	2,500
Vic	750	600	1,800
Total	63,995	18,495	47,550

The extremely wet conditions in the majority of soybean growing regions has caused serious delays in planting as growers have been unable to harvest winter crops and sugarcane and/or conduct land preparation. The serious flooding in many parts of Queensland and northern NSW has further downgraded crop estimates with a large area of potential crop area too severely affected for any planting to occur. There is still, however, a very narrow planting window in most of the growing areas

In **NSW**, wet weather and flooding has had a devastating effect on the Northern Rivers crop area. Recent flooding has destroyed over 2000 Ha, particularly in the Clarence Valley. There is possibly 1500-2000 Ha that has survived and the potential for a total area of up to 6500 Ha if weather permits. Between 500 and 1300 Ha may have been sown on the Northern Slopes, but it is likely that up to half of this area has been planted as hay and/or silage crops. Up to 3350 Ha has

been reported to have been sown in the Gwydir and Namoi Valleys under irrigation. And small areas on 100 and 200 Ha have been reported for the Lachlan and Macquarie Valleys, respectively

In the Riverina and MIA, there has been resurgence in soybeans with up to 4,500 ha estimated to have been planted. There have been no reports of disease or pest issues at this time and it is currently expected that yields could top 3.5t/Ha.

In **Queensland**, the major flooding that has been experienced in most parts of the state has seriously affected planting opportunities. In most areas the severe flooding has ceased any cropping opportunities and in some cases sown crops have been lost. Small patches (<500Ha) in some areas makes up the state's total estimates, with the state total of 2,500 t being the lowest on record.

Sunflowers 2010/11:

	2009/10 Production (tonnes)	2010/11 Estimates	
		Area Planted (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	30,800	18,200	31,160
Qld	9,600	11,000	12,500
Total	40,370	29,200	43,660

Source: Industry Estimates 20/1/11

Floods in Queensland may have brought a potential upside to sunflowers, with increased opportunity for late plantings where farmers can get onto the ground.

In **NSW** the early planted sunflowers have done well on the back of good moisture at planting, and continued rain through the growing season. At this stage, the crops are close to or at harvest, with strong yields, around 1.8t.Ha. Good sub-soil moisture could encourage an increase in late planted sunflowers.

In **Queensland**, despite cotton losses due to flooding, and the replanting window now closed, the opportunity for late planted sunflowers is competing with sorghum, where prices are firm. However, where farmers can get onto their land, there is expected to be a lift in sunflower plantings, especially in CQ.

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

Goodman Fielder	Peerless Foods	CBH Grain
Cargill Australia	Alba Edible Oils	Cootamundra Oilseeds
Riverland Oilseeds	MSM Milling	Unilever