

Australian Oilseeds Federation

Crop Report



October 2007

Canola 2007/08

The canola crop has fared better than expected although little crop will be harvested in NSW. Overall estimates have been reduced by around 20% on last month.

	2006/07 Production (tonnes)	2007/08 Estimates		
		Area Planted (hectares)	Area Harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	30,000	240,000	57,000	40,000
VIC	42,000	270,000	225,000	348,000
SA	75,000	160,000	160,000	190,000
WA	365,000	390,000	390,000	475,000
Total	512,000	1,060,000	832,000	1,053,000

Source: Industry Estimates, 5/10/07

There has been little good news in **New South Wales**, with the last reasonable rainfall occurring in the third week of August and then only in the North East. The Northern region has fared best, but there was little canola planted in this region. In the Central West it is estimated that a further 45% of the crop has been lost (cut for hay/silage or failed) and in the south, it is estimated that 70% of the crop has been lost. Given the start to the season and the excellent potential the crops had combined with the good prices for hay/silage, many growers have opted to cut their crops. Crops that are carried through to grain will have low yields and there is uncertainty over the oil content. In the south, cool nights have helped hold the crops, but any increases in temperature will see crops deteriorate quickly. It is estimated that 57,000 hectares will be harvested for 40,000 tonnes but there could be further downside.

The situation is still looking relatively positive for **Victoria**. While crops in the Mallee have been lost and there has been a considerable downgrade for the North Central/North East with further downside possible, other regions are holding. In the Wimmera, there has been some canola cut for hay, but the southern and western Wimmera received between 15 and 20mm of rain last week and crops are in reasonable condition. The Western District is looking good, following another good rainfall last week. This will carry the crops through to harvest. Thus, it is estimated that 270,000 hectares will be harvested for 348,000 tonnes. This is higher than some trade estimates, but as noted in earlier crop updates, reflects the dominance of the Western District in area planted estimates.

Crops are variable across **South Australia**, reflecting the variable rainfall patterns during September. Parts of the West Coast have experienced one of the worst months for rainfall while the South East has received good rain. The lower Eyre Peninsula is struggling with little subsoil moisture, as is the Mallee. The mid North received between 13-19 mm of rain last week and this will see the crops hang on. The South East received 25-35mm and crops are looking good. There have been few crops cut for hay. There has been some incidence of Diamond Back Moth impacting crops. Overall, yields have been revised down slightly.

Estimates have been left unchanged for **Western Australia**. Harvest has started in Geraldton and while crops are poor, there was little canola planted. The western part of the Kwinana zone is looking quite good, although crops are variable. Crops are in late flowering stage to being 1-2 weeks off harvest. The eastern side of the zone has not fared as well and yields will not be as good. The Albany zone has experienced very good conditions, with just below average rainfall in September and good subsoil moisture. Crops have finished flowering. Harvest has also started in Esperance. There are some poor crops, but generally the region is looking good. There is not expected to be much chance of downside on the estimates and, in fact, some trade numbers have the crop at levels above this.

Virtual canola site -

http://www.australianoilseeds.com/agronomy_centre/the_virtual_canola_crop

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