



FELICITY PRITCHARD
Oilseed Industry Development Officer –
Victoria and southern New South Wales
Irrigated Cropping Forum
110 Natimuk Road, Horsham, Vic 3401
Ph: (03) 5382 4396 or 0427 600 228

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OILSEEDS NEWS

CANOLA OIL CONTENT HIGHEST SINCE 1997

The oil content of last year's Australian canola crop was the highest since 1996, and one per cent higher than the previous year, according to newly published data.

The "2005/06 Quality of Australian Canola" publication by NSW Department of Primary Industries and the Australian Oilseeds Federation, showed that the average oil content for the 2005 harvest was 42.2 per cent, ranging from a low of 36.5% at Ardlethan in New South Wales to a high of 46.1% at Borden in Western Australia.

Despite a late start to the season in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, the 2005 canola crop finished better than expected, with satisfactory oil contents given the late sowing in these states. The national yield of 1.5 tonnes per hectare was also slightly higher than the 2004 average.

Western Australia experienced its best canola season in recent years, with above-average yields and an average oil content of 45 per cent. Growers in New South Wales also did well with an average canola yield of 1.8 tonnes per hectare last year due the good finish.

"Quality of Australian Canola" is published annually and describes the major quality parameters of the Australian canola crop, on a state-by-state basis. All testing is done by New South Wales Department of Primary Industries at its Wagga Wagga research laboratories.
