

Australian Oilseeds Federation Crop Report



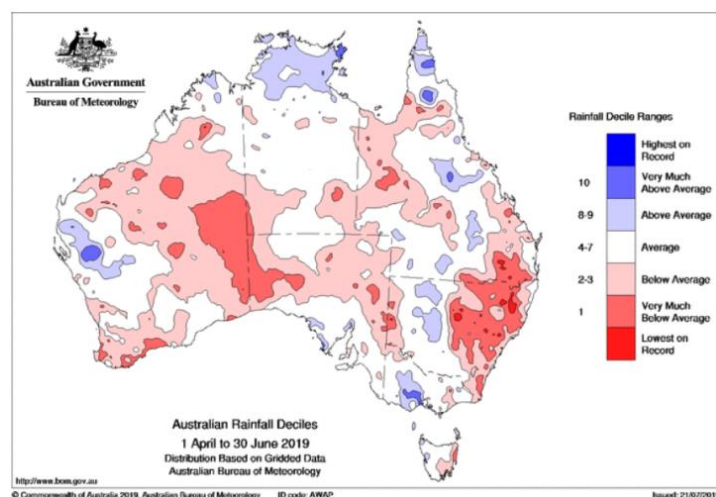
July 2019

Canola 2019/20

	2018/19 Final		July-19 Month Estimate	
	Harvested Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
NSW	190,000	200,000	390,000	429,000
Vic	300,000	400,000	400,000	640,000
SA	200,000	260,000	240,000	336,000
WA	1,200,000	1,450,000	950,000	1,000,000
Total	1,890,000	2,310,000	1,980,000	2,405,000

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

The winter crop growing season has been dominated by seasonal climatic factors with persistent strong high pressure systems pushing rain-bearing cold fronts further south. As a result fronts have brought good rain to South Australia central and southern Victoria, and Tasmania, but generally lighter rain in southern NSW. Opening rains did not arrive till early June in Western Australia, which is about 7–10 days later than in 2018. The crop in WA is relatively late in terms of crop development and is therefore heavily reliant on very good rain through August and September to achieve current yield predictions



Growing Season April–June rainfall deciles

At this stage of the season, Victoria and South Australia have the highest yield potential whilst WA and the southern half of NSW will need above average spring rainfall and mild temperatures to achieve an already reduced yield potential. The climate outlook for August–October is for drier than average conditions with above average temperatures. However, rain at the right time can make all the difference.

While the **NSW** canola sown crop area is up on last year's harvested area, it is over 40% below the 5 year average, and the estimated area for harvest is beginning to fall due to ongoing drought conditions across central and northern NSW. There is little to no canola in the north.

The seasonal break arrived in stages, starting late March in southern NSW and was followed by a generally very dry April in eastern areas, except for the western Riverina that received follow-up sowing rain in mid April. Autumn rainfall was lighter and patchy north of about Parkes. Crops in southern areas that had adequate seedbed moisture have established well. Near average rainfall in May and June, combined with clear skies and warmer than average temperatures is driving growth.

July has been a dry month and the crop will need average to above average rainfall and a soft spring to realise potential yields. Early developing crops are at early flowering but there is a large range. Rain of 25–50 mm is needed in the next 2–4 weeks to maintain current potential.

Subsoil moisture is becoming limited in the northern Riverina and further north. Crops south of the Murrumbidgee River are in the best condition with generally more stored soil water. Crops in central areas, north of about Parkes are being grazed out or will be spray fallowed shortly on grain-only farms. Growers are currently considering their options for grazing and haymaking/silage should the spring fail. Mixed farmers will need to replenish fodder reserves

and there remains a ready market for hay with ongoing drought conditions in the north.

Disease is relatively low due primarily to the dry season. There remains significant downside risk for the NSW crop depending on the amount of rain in August/early September.

In contrast to NSW the **Victorian** canola crop is currently set up for average to above average yields but will still need a good spring to achieve this. Along with SA the break arrived in early May followed by frequent rain that delayed sowing, especially in the Wimmera and the South West regions. Average to above average rain fell through May, but has been lighter in June and July in the North East.

Soil moisture profiles are 40–90% full and vary with region. Most crops are at full cabbage stage with good biomass and bolting to first flower in the NE.

The incidence of blackleg has increased in recent weeks with the frequent rain and is similar to SA. Depending on spring rainfall growers will be considering the hay option as they did in 2018; however that is not a consideration at this stage.

South Australia is currently enjoying good seasonal conditions in the main canola growing areas. There was little crop sown in the Mallee due to the lack of an early sowing opportunity. Most of the state crop was dry sown just prior to or following the autumn break in early May.

Rainfall for May–July has followed a similar pattern to Vic with July experiencing drier conditions but with frequent lighter falls. Crops are at the budding/bolting stage and have good biomass.

The frequent showery weather in July (10–20 rain days) has caused a substantial increase in blackleg infections with growers considering fungicide application.

Soil moisture is variable but mostly 30–70% full in the main growing regions. Spring rainfall will be critical for the crop and there is no talk yet of alternative options to grain

In **Western Australia**, the canola area is down about 20% or 250,000 ha on 2018 season and the 5 year average.

The main seasonal break arrived on 7 June for most regions meaning the crop is very late, and later developing than the 2018 crop.

A large area was dry sown prior to the break. Crops sown in May on light falls of rain have patchy and staggered emergence whilst later sown crops have established much better. A June emergence has meant crop growth and development has been slow.

Crop growth stage ranges from 4–8 leaves in northern areas to early flowering around Albany and Esperance, with the latter, along with Geraldton zone, unlikely to reach typical yields due to the poor start. Following good rainfall in June, July has been comparatively dry and there is not a lot of subsoil moisture buffer heading into August. Above average spring rainfall coupled with mild temperatures will be needed to maintain or lift current yield potential, at just over 1t/Ha. (well below the 5 year average).

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