



IRRIGATED CROPPING FORUM

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OILSEEDS NEWS

THIRSTY CROPS GREET RAINFALL

Desperately-needed rainfall in many parts of the Victorian grainbelt has been welcomed today by canola growers who have seen crops stagnate and show signs of drought stress and over the past six weeks.



Nhill Landmark agronomist Alan Morrison said that the Nhill district had received only 3.5 to 5 millimetres (mm) of rain on Thursday morning (22 June), and canola crops looked “not too bad”.

“This rain has brightened things up. Some of the canola crops had turned blue, but they’re now looking healthy and the topsoil’s moist.”

He said that only 50 to 60 per cent of cropping paddocks in the Nhill area had been sown, and with another 5 mm of rain, more cereals and field peas would be sown.

Rainfall totals for Wednesday night and Thursday morning in the Wimmera ranged from 3.5 mm at Nhill, 5 mm at Horsham, 12 mm at Warracknabeal and a welcome 16 mm at Longerenong. Most of the Mallee’s rainfall fell in the south, with 9 mm at Hopetoun and Beulah, but only 5 mm at Ouyen, 1 mm at Walpeup and Kerang and even less at Swan Hill and Quambatook.

However, at the time of writing, good falls are yet to arrive in the Western District and Central Victoria.

For up-to-date details of rainfall across the regions, visit www.bom.gov.au and look under daily weather observations.
