

GIWA Crop Report August 3 2012

WA Planting area estimate (hectares)

Port zone	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea	State total
Kwinana	2,483,000	422,000	331,000	117,000	94,000	9,000	3,456,000
Albany	687,000	341,000	265,000	94,000	20,000	8,000	1,415,000
Esperance	386,000	250,000	220,000	3,000	16,000	34,000	909,000
Geraldton	962,000	34,000	95,000	5,000	150,000	1,000	1,247,000
Totals	4,518,000	1,047,000	911,000	219,000	280,000	52,000	7,027,000
<i>2011</i>	<i>4,501,000</i>	<i>1,098,000</i>	<i>749,000</i>	<i>197,000</i>	<i>333,000</i>	<i>60,000</i>	<i>6,938,000</i>

WA Grain production estimate (tonnes)

Port zone	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea	State total
Kwinana	3,784,000	818,000	308,000	205,000	114,000	11,000	5,240,000
Albany	1,456,000	810,000	338,000	235,000	21,000	9,000	2,869,000
Esperance	523,000	445,000	215,000	4,000	18,000	37,000	1,242,000
Geraldton	1,582,000	59,000	87,000	7,000	178,000	700	1,913,700
Totals	7,345,000	2,132,000	948,000	451,000	331,000	57,700	11,264,700
<i>2011</i>	<i>11,082,000</i>	<i>2,805,000</i>	<i>1,182,000</i>	<i>467,000</i>	<i>705,000</i>	<i>70,600</i>	<i>16,311,600</i>

●Note: Estimate is for total farm production, and includes grain retained on-farm for seed and stock feed, and direct private sales to end users and packers.

The rainfall totals for the month of July for most of the WA grainbelt were the lowest on record. Only the south coast and Esperance regions received above average July rainfall. The dry weather was also accompanied by widespread and frequent frosts.

The dry and cold weather restricted plant growth and development, which was already up to 4 weeks late. Most regions started in July with variable levels of soil moisture, almost paddock by paddock, from either summer rain or the substantial heavy June rains, and this enabled crops to survive the dry extended period through July.

The planted area estimates for the 2012 crop have not changed from last month. However, the total production estimate has been reduced by 500,000 tonnes. With crops behind in development, and the unfavourable forecast for rainfall events for August, the estimate for the total crop production for the State is likely to be adjusted further downwards next month.

This is despite the rain recorded during the last three days of July which, while substantial in some districts, was not enough to reverse the decline in the yield potential experienced during the month.

GIWA therefore estimates all major WA crops are likely to have below average yields in 2012.

Kwinana: The Kwinana zone has experienced a mixed season so far with below average rainfall in May and July and a reasonably wet June. There were also widespread frosts in July. Rainfall for July, almost entirely at the end of the month, ranged from 50mm at Badgingarra to 34 mm at Bolgart, 22 mm at Moora, and 15 to 20mm at Dalwallinu and Merredin.

In the west Kwinana regions, crops in sand paddocks, along with better soil types with limited subsoil moisture, were starting to wilt by late July. Canola crops are in average condition in the Gillingarra and New Norcia areas but in poor condition elsewhere. Most

canola paddocks are only at 6/7 leaf and need more rain. There are, generally, adequate soil nitrogen levels in most paddocks for the current crop yield potential.

In the central and eastern parts of the Kwinana zone, the dry July and repetitive frosts stopped crop growth across the zone. However, crops have survived due to the resultant reduced transpiration and adequate subsoil moisture levels at the start of July.

Crops in areas which received summer rain and/or substantial May rain experienced much better growth than anywhere else. These 'islands of green', based on their starting levels of subsoil moisture, still have average potential compared with the rest of the crops in the Kwinana Zone which may only achieve 50% of the average yield for the Zone.

Lupin crops are generally poor for the entire Kwinana port zone.

Despite the lower than average crop production forecasts, given improved price forecasts, budgets are still looking positive for most growers in the Kwinana Zone.

Albany: Crops in the southern half of the Albany Zone are generally in good condition. There is no excess soil moisture, but there is enough to maintain crop growth. July has been cold and growing conditions have not produced the expected increase in plant biomass. By contrast, the South coast (Bremer, Gardiner, east South Stirlings) is extremely wet and is suffering waterlogging. Ponding will cause some production losses.

In the north and north east of the Albany zone, crops have average yield potential in most districts. Crops in the areas covering the Lake King to Mt Madden districts are looking very good. The conditions in the Kulin and Kondinin districts are much drier with less than average expected crop yields.

Lupins are stressed more than any other crop. Cereal plants are starting to elongate. Subsoil moisture is at depths of below 1 m, and some crops are struggling to access this moisture.

The recent rains in the last week of July were lighter than in northern regions. However, adequate levels of soil moisture means that crops will continue to survive for a while yet.

Esperance: Esperance rainfall for July in the Esperance Zone was at average to above average levels. Crops in coastal areas from Hopetoun to Munglinup have some waterlogging problems. Crops are well advanced in the Cascades to Wittenoom Hills districts. Recent growth of crops in the eastern Esperance and northern mallee has been good but not enough to fully compensate for the delay to break of the season.

Yield potential for much of the zone is at least average with some upside likely.

Geraldton: Overall yields will be below average in the Geraldton port zone. The dry July has caused wheat plants in the Yuna and Binu districts to drop tillers to compensate for the record dry conditions. Crop conditions on very light soils are extremely dry and plants are wilting. Crops on better soil types, with reasonable levels of subsoil moisture have maintained growth.

Early sown wheat is in ear with almost average potential, although some paddocks have bolted with the early warmth and moisture stress in May. Late sown wheat is at the late tillering stage.

Early sown canola is flowering and has average yield potential, but later sown canola is very small and has low yield potential.

Lupins have suffered more than most crops and there are very few good crops.

The entire region needs a good finish to even maintain the current predicted yields.

Despite these tough conditions and expected low crop yields, budgets for well managed properties may still achieve expectations due to the current price trends for the 2012 crop.

Crop Condition report; August 1 2012
weighted by the production average for each zone

Port zone	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Kwinana	36	38	25	1	0
Albany	0	15	46	31	8
Esperance	0	23	50	23	5
Geraldton	48	39	14	0	0
State Totals	23	29	32	13	3

Kwinana regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
East	50	40	10	0	0
North	25	40	30	5	0
Central	40	30	30	0	0
Southern	30	40	30	0	0
Total	36	38	25	1	0

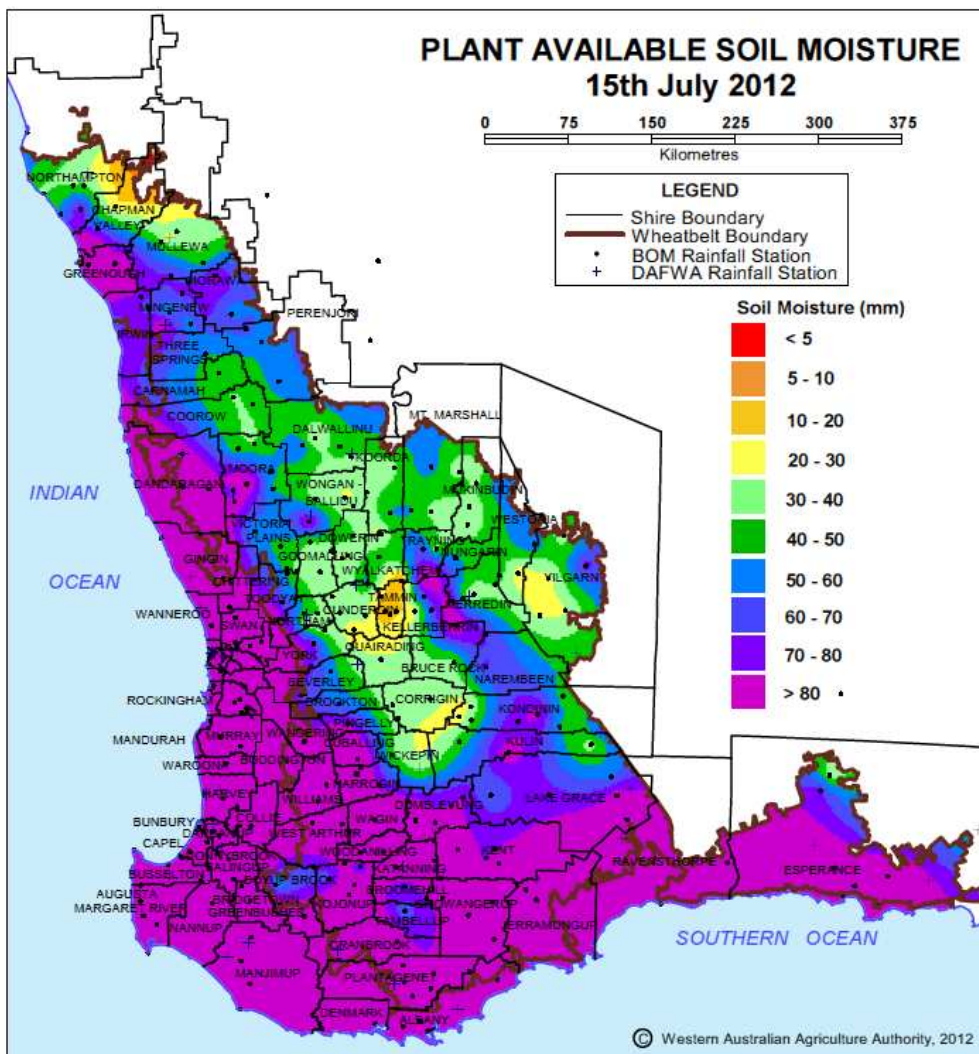
Albany regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	0	10	40	40	10
West	0	20	50	20	10
Eastern	0	10	35	45	10
Coastal	0	20	60	20	0
Total	0	15	46	31	8

Esperance regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Mallee	0	50	40	10	0
East coastal	0	40	60	0	0
North western	0	0	80	20	0
West coastal	0	0	20	60	20
Total	0	23	50	23	5

Geraldton regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	60	35	5	0	0
Eastern	60	30	10	0	0
Southern	30	50	20	0	0
South eastern	40	40	20	0	0
Total	48	39	14	0	0

Disclaimer: The information herein has been obtained from sources considered reliable but its accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed. Any advice has been prepared without taking into account specific objectives, financial situation or needs. No liability or responsibility is accepted for any errors or for any negligence, omissions in the contents, default or lack of care for any loss or damage whatsoever that may arise from actions based on any material contained in this publication. Readers who act on this information do so at their own risk. Consult your adviser before making crop, marketing or investment decisions.

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Department of Agriculture and Food



This soil moisture map is drawn from the fallow evaporation model for the 15th July 2012. It does not account for crops extracting water at the surface. The last fortnight has been dry so the soil moisture values plotted here would have decreased further.

Additional information can be sourced from:

- **[BoM rainfall deciles for WA July 2012](#)**
- **[BoM rainfall deciles for WA May to July 2012](#)**
- **[DAFWA Statistical Seasonal forecast](#)**
- **[BoM- WA Seasonal Rainfall Outlook: probabilities for August to October 2012](#)**
- **[DAFWA Seasonal Update July 2012](#)**
- **[BoM month to date rainfall for WA](#)**