

GIWA Crop Report

October 4 2012

WA Planting area estimate (hectares)

Port zone	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea	State total
Kwinana	2,268,000	397,000	263,000	117,000	82,000	15,000	
Albany	630,000	331,000	252,000	94,000	20,000	6,000	
Esperance	446,000	250,000	245,000	3,000	20,000	40,000	
Geraldton	932,000	40,000	143,000	5,000	180,000	1,000	
Totals	4,276,000	1,018,000	903,000	219,000	302,000	62,000	6,780,000
<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	2,929,000	654,000	244,000	205,000	73,000	12,000	4,117,000
Albany	1,113,000	708,000	305,000	230,000	19,000	5,000	2,380,000
Esperance	754,000	472,000	232,000	4,000	21,000	43,000	1,526,000
Geraldton	1,468,000	64,000	102,000	6,000	181,000	700	1,821,700
Totals	6,264,000	1,898,000	883,000	445,000	294,000	60,700	9,844,700
<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 September ranged from well above average in the southern Geraldton and west Kwinana zones to below average in the Albany and Esperance port zones. Temperatures were generally mild, though several hot days were experienced in all zones.

Two frost events have impacted on overall production. The first occurred on the 17th September and affected crops in the eastern Lakes region, while a second on the 27th September affected crops in the Bulyee to Corrigin and Meckering to Merredin districts. Light, though scattered, rain prior to the frost on the 27th September will increase the impact on production in parts of the affected districts. The potential losses are restricted to frost susceptible parts of the landscape. Crops are being assessed for damage and more will be known in the next week. This production estimate does not take any potential losses into account.

Harvesting is likely to commence in the Geraldton zone next week. The commencement of harvest in the other port zones is likely to be similar to other seasons.

The production estimate for the 2012 crop has been adjusted downwards by over 350,000 tonnes from last month. Yields have been adjusted down for the Albany and Kwinana port zones. The yield forecast increased for the Geraldton port zone, while the Esperance port zone estimate is mostly similar to last months. This reflects the spread of rainfall in the zones.

It is still likely that most growers can achieve their budget targets with this forecast when combined with current grain prices.

Kwinana: The eastern part of the Kwinana zone remains in generally poor condition. Only light rainfall has fallen in September. A substantial area will not be harvested.

In the western part of the Kwinana zone, crop conditions have improved with average or better September rainfall. Crops in the New Norcia, Bolgart and Calingari areas are in average or better condition after 40 to 50mm of rainfall.

The Toodyay to Brookton regions have lost some potential, while conditions at Corrigin have improved slightly.

In many districts, crop potential ranges widely from average to very poor depending on summer rain and the sowing time. Early sown crops after summer rain have the best potential.

Barley crops are filling grain, while podding on canola has been good. Wheat which has commenced grain fill has not been affected by the several hot days in September as much as crops still at flowering stage. Late sown crops require further rain.

Reports of frost damage from the 27th September are being assessed. The affected area extends from Meckering to Merredin and from Bulyee to Corrigin. Paddocks which received light rain prior to the frost will be most heavily affected.

Albany: The north east part of the Albany port zone is dry and needs rain. Just 7 to 10mm of rain was recently received with some districts only receiving 3mm. High temperatures have caused some lost potential as well.

Frost on the 17th September at Newdegate was seemingly more damaging than the recent one at Bulyee and Corrigin. Damage has been seen at Mt Madden and Varley, but only in frost prone areas. The losses will be restricted to around 5% of the area. All crop species have suffered some loss. Assessments of losses are continuing.

Budworm needs some control in field pea and lupin, but is not widespread.

Grain quality is difficult to forecast at this stage. Wheat is likely to produce adequate quality. The Yield Prophet model is suggesting 1.4 t/ha on the better classes of soil and 1.2t/ha on lighter soil types. Further rain is needed to achieve this.

Barley has developed grain at this stage and is likely to produce good quality.

Esperance: Several warm to hot days have advanced crop development and reduced yield potential. Rainfall in the last 2 months has been light, August (16mm) and September (7mm).

The Munglinup to Scaddan to Wittenoom Hills districts are in good condition with above average potential. Further west to Hopetoun, crops continue to have very good yield potential.

From Grass Patch north to Salmon Gums crop condition is poor or worse and yield potential is very low.

The Mt Madden and Ravensthorpe districts have lost potential but will produce at least average yields.

Overall, the yield forecasts are basically unchanged.

Geraldton: The districts bordering the Midlands road have received above average spring rainfall and have improved yield prospects. Mingenew, Three Springs and Carnamah have had the best September in a long time. Wheat in these districts has 1.8 to 2.2 t/ha potential.

Further east to Latham and north to Perenjori and Morawa is drier but still better than in August. Wheat has about 1 t/ha potential in the Latham/Perenjori districts.

Canola has compensated for low plant numbers with improved branching but this will present some harvesting difficulties.

Harvest has commenced in the most northern and north east districts. Some paddocks in the Yuna and Binu districts will not be harvested, with some sprayed out in August for weed control.

Crop Condition report October 2 2012
weighted by the production average for each zone

Port zone	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Kwinana	40	40	19	1	0
Albany	0	15	54	31	0
Esperance	0	23	50	23	5
Geraldton	60	31	9	0	0
State Totals	27	28	31	13	1

Kwinana regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
East	60	40	0	0	0
North	20	40	35	5	0
Central	40	45	15	0	0
Southern	40	35	25	0	0
Total	40	40	19	1	0

Albany regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	0	10	50	40	0
West	0	20	50	30	0
Eastern	0	10	55	35	0
Coastal	0	20	60	20	0
Total	0	15	54	31	0

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

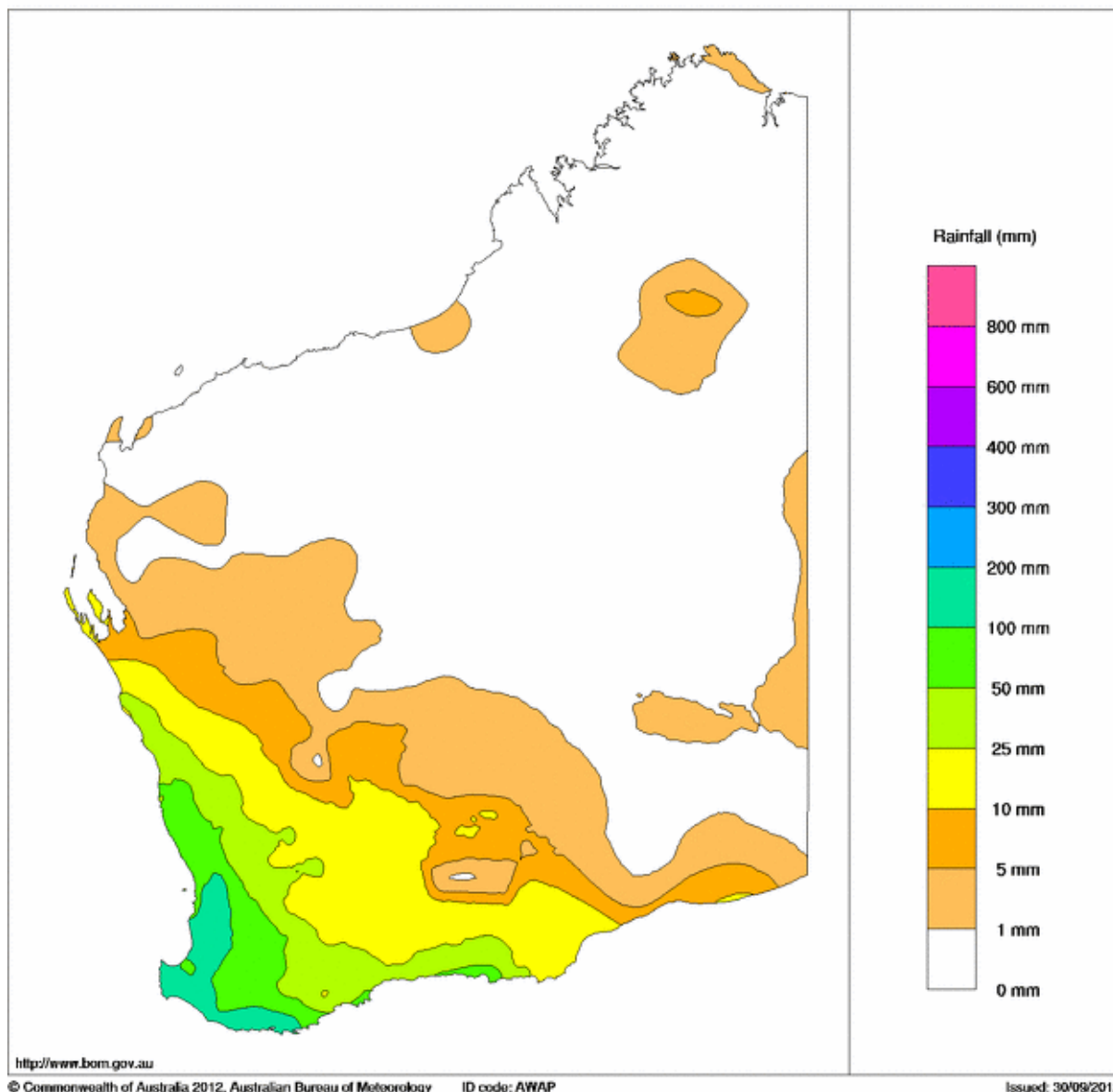
Geraldton regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	80	20	0	0	0
Eastern	80	20	0	0	0
Southern	35	40	25	0	0
South eastern	45	45	10	0	0
Total	60	31	9	0	0

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.

GIWA would like to acknowledge the support of DAFWA and contribution from industry consultants in the production of this report

Western Australian Rainfall Totals (mm) September 2012

Product of the National Climate Centre



Additional information can be sourced from:

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

GIWA would like to acknowledge the support of DAFWA and contribution from industry consultants in the production of this report