

GIWA Crop Report November 7 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	2,821,000	613,000	247,000	198,000	75,000	11,000	3,965,000
Albany	1,063,000	690,000	294,000	228,000	17,000	5,000	2,297,000
Esperance	754,000	472,000	232,000	4,000	21,000	43,000	1,526,000
Geraldton	1,400,000	58,000	102,000	6,000	181,000	700	1,747,700
Totals	6,038,000	1,833,000	875,000	436,000	294,000	59,700	9,535,700
<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.

Summary

Total grain production forecast in Western Australia has been reduced by 309,000t from last month's forecast. All grains have lost potential yield, other than lupins and field pea. Rainfall, at decile 1 across most of the grain belt, was well below average for October. At the same time, average temperatures, both minimum (+1°C) and maximum (+2 to 3°C), were also above average.

For the Geraldton Port zone, this was of little consequence as crops were too mature to benefit substantially. For the Kwinana, Albany and Esperance port zones, more October rainfall would have been very beneficial, particularly for improving grain quality.

Industry sources report that most crops seemed to have matured well, despite the dry conditions. Early harvest results indicate the canola oil quality is around average at 43 to 46%; wheat is high in protein with low screenings; barley has good colour with screenings at the limit for malt grade in western districts, but high screenings in eastern crops is likely to see barley crops in these districts downgraded to feed grade.

However, heavy rains in the first week of November has stopped harvest activity. While it is not known at this stage what the impact on grain quality will be, it is likely that falling numbers for wheat may be affected, particularly in the Mid-West districts.

The early November rains were the result of a body of warm water in the Indian Ocean to the west of the coast. It is possible that further rain events will occur in November, further disrupting harvest and causing quality problems.

Kwinana: Only small quantities of barley and canola had been harvested prior to the early November rain. Grain quality was average with canola oil at 44 to 46% and barley screenings moderate, but acceptable for Malting grade. Barley grain colour was good.

Rainfall totaled 15 to 30mm across the Mid-West region in the first week of November, with rainfalls of 50-70 mm in parts of the Badgingarra and Dandaragan districts. Significant areas of hail damage were experienced in the Badgingarra and Dandaragan districts, with hail damage also in canola crops from West Moora through to Walebing. Approximately 1,000ha of standing canola across the area was destroyed, while swathed canola suffered 10-20% damage. No significant damage to cereals is apparent but it is too early to know if falling numbers in wheat will be a significant problem.

Losses in wheat from the September frost is widespread in the Central wheatbelt with an average of 5 to 10% yield loss. However, no crops have been cut for hay and all will be harvested. As with the Mid-West, very little of the harvest had been completed, with headers ready to roll just as the rain arrived. Barley screenings look to be very high in eastern districts and will be borderline for delivery as Malting Grade in western districts.

Albany: Harvest is about 5 to 10% complete in the Lakes district, with some oats, barley and canola harvested. Lupin and Field pea yields have been very poor after the frost damage in September.

In early November, 20 to 50mm of rain fell in the north east of the zone, with heavier falls in the east than in the west. This is not likely to have an impact if dry weather continues, but with the eastern districts more at risk of weather damage.

Generally, the September frost events have damaged susceptible paddocks where Mace wheat was planted too early. Neighbouring Yitpi wheat paddocks appear unaffected. Overall wheat production for the Zone remains on forecast.

Barley yields appear to be higher than forecast. However, quality has been affected by the frost with screenings at very high levels. All barley harvested in the east has been feed quality.

In the Katanning district, the first deliveries of barley and canola had been made prior to the 15 to 20mm of rain across the region. Wheat is still green and is unaffected. Barley may suffer some staining effects. At this stage, harvest will recommence in about 2 weeks.

Hay production is mostly baled and in the shed, and therefore has not been affected by the adverse weather.

Esperance: To date some Canola and field pea crops have been harvested. Yields are as forecast with Canola at 0.9 to 1 t/ha in the Mallee to 1.7 t/ha at Munglinup. The Oil content is average at 43 to 44%. Barley yields may go higher than forecast.

The recent rain delivered an average of 30mm of rain across the Esperance Port zone. November rain is generally very reliable and the Esperance farming systems are designed to cope with the risk of harvest rain using wheat varieties which are most tolerant of sprouting such as Sapphire, Eagle Rock and Mace.

Geraldton: Harvest in the North half of the zone is about 60% complete and further south, from Carnamah to Three Springs, it is around 30% complete. Harvest in the Yuna district is almost complete. Crops in coastal districts have not been harvested much at all to date as most crops are not mature.

Yields have generally been poor and below expectation, but grain quality has been good. Wheat in eastern districts is around 1 t/ha and up to 1.4 t/ha in western areas. Canola yields in western areas have been close to 1.2 t/ha.

The recent rains will affect grain quality, but for grain harvested to date this has been good with high protein and low screenings for wheat and average oil content for canola. Heavy rain with hail, caused damage to crops close the coast in the southern areas of the Zone, and in the Mingenew and Three Springs districts, with some localised heavy losses.

Crop Condition report November 7 2012
weighted by the production average for each zone

Port zone	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Kwinana	35	44	20	1	0
Albany	0	20	56	24	0
Esperance	0	20	50	23	8
Geraldton	60	33	8	0	0
State Totals	25	31	32	11	1

Kwinana regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
East	60	40	0	0	0
North	20	35	40	5	0
Central	30	50	20	0	0
Southern	30	50	20	0	0
Total	35	44	20	1	0

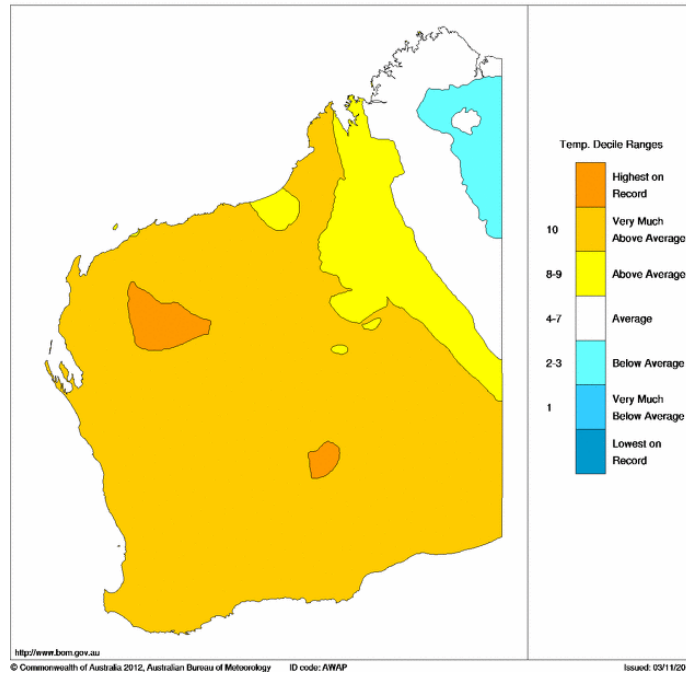
Albany regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	0	25	55	20	0
West	0	20	50	30	0
Eastern	0	15	60	25	0
Coastal	0	20	60	20	0
Total	0	20	56	24	0

Esperance regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Mallee	0	50	40	10	0
East coastal	0	20	60	20	0
North western	0	10	80	10	0
West coastal	0	0	20	50	30
Total	0	20	50	23	8

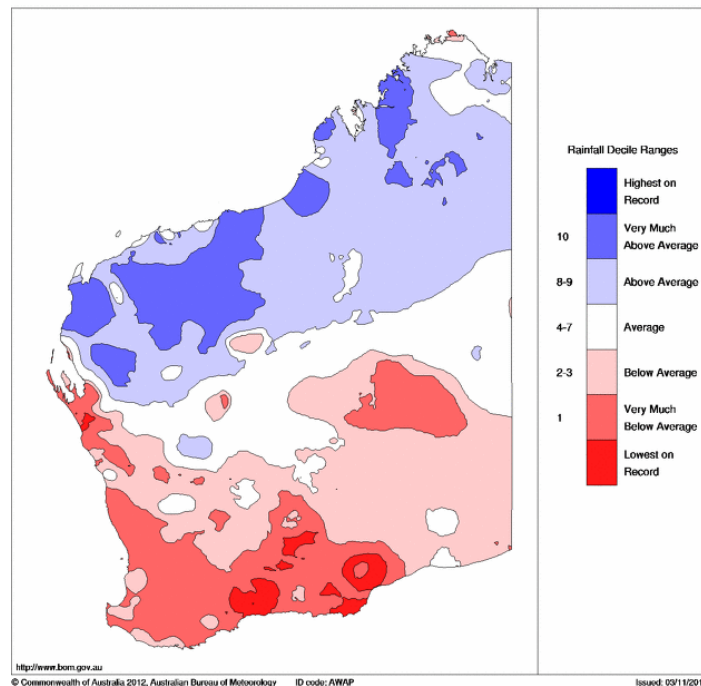
Geraldton regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	80	20	0	0	0
Eastern	80	20	0	0	0
Southern	35	45	20	0	0
South eastern	45	45	10	0	0
Total	60	33	8	0	0

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 Deciles October 2012
Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



Additional information can be sourced from:

- **[BoM rainfall deciles for WA October 2012](#)**
- **[BoM rainfall deciles for WA August to October 2012](#)**
- **[DAFWA Statistical Seasonal forecast](#)**
- **[BoM- WA Seasonal Rainfall Outlook: probabilities for November 2012 to January 2013](#)**
- **[BoM month to date rainfall for WA](#)**