

## GIWA Crop Report December 6 2012

### WA Planting area estimate (hectares)

Port zone	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea	State total
<b>Kwinana</b>	2,268,000	397,000	309,000	117,000	82,000	15,000	
<b>Albany</b>	630,000	331,000	252,000	94,000	20,000	6,000	
<b>Esperance</b>	446,000	250,000	260,000	3,000	20,000	40,000	
<b>Geraldton</b>	932,000	40,000	143,000	5,000	180,000	1,000	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,276,000</b>	<b>1,018,000</b>	<b>964,000</b>	<b>219,000</b>	<b>302,000</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>6,841,000</b>
<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
<b>Kwinana</b>	2,844,000	613,000	349,000	199,000	75,000	10,000	4,090,000
<b>Albany</b>	1,063,000	690,000	283,000	228,000	17,000	5,000	2,286,000
<b>Esperance</b>	754,000	472,000	329,000	4,000	21,000	43,000	1,623,000
<b>Geraldton</b>	1,400,000	58,000	119,000	6,000	181,000	700	1,764,700
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,061,000</b>	<b>1,833,000</b>	<b>1,080,000</b>	<b>437,000</b>	<b>294,000</b>	<b>58,700</b>	<b>9,763,700</b>
<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

Harvest reports to date indicate that grain quality generally is very good. Wheat has high protein and low screenings, while about 50% of barley is achieving malt grades. Failure to achieve malt is mainly due to high protein rather than excessive screenings. Canola oil content has been 40 to 45% in almost all areas, with yields slightly higher than anticipated.

Despite these slightly higher yields, it is very apparent that the earlier GIWA Crop Reports have underestimated the area planted to Canola this year and consequently the production total. This is most apparent in the Kwinana and Esperance Port zones. Adjustments have been made to this month's planted area estimates to reflect receivals to date. The January report will clarify this further.

These results are remarkable especially given harvest was a stop start affair during November with storm fronts delivering rain to the northern, west coastal and central regions on a regular basis. The southern regions have had fewer events but received 20 to 30mm of rain in the strong cold front that affected the south of the State on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

The impact of these rains on grain quality is starting to become apparent with wheat in central and mid north regions having been wet 3 times during November, with the prospect for more moisture this week. Falling numbers in wheat and barley colour are likely to become significant grain quality problems for the remainder of harvest. In southern regions, the prospects for good to excellent grain quality remains high provided fine weather is experienced for the remainder of harvest.

Harvest is mostly complete in the Geraldton Port zone north of Three Springs and in the Esperance Port zone. While some southern districts will continue harvest up to and after Christmas, the vast majority of harvest will be complete within 10 days, providing the weather holds fine.

**Kwinana: Mid-West.** Harvest has been affected by the significant hail damage from the early November storms in the Dandaragan to Moora and Miling to Dalwallinu districts. Barley crops are the worst affected.

As a consequence of this, and the November rains, grain being harvested now is deteriorating in quality. Quality of Calingiri wheat seems most affected with reports of falling numbers (FN) being detected in several districts. Other varieties are maintaining quality at this stage, particularly Mace. Barley grain quality is good with around 70% of deliveries making Malt grade.

Canola grain quality is also good. Yields are about 0.1 to 0.2 t/ha higher than anticipated.

Wheat is yielding 2.2 to 2.6 t/ha and barley is yielding 3 to 4 t/ha in the Moora area, while wheat at Dalwallinu ranges from 1 to 2 t/ha.

Harvest will continue for at least 2 weeks in the Moora regions, with just a week remaining at Dalwallinu.

**Kwinana- Central regions.** Given the amount of canola being delivered into storage, and that canola yields in the central wheatbelt are coming in as expected, the earlier estimates of the area planted were obviously too low.

Stem frost has affected wheat and barley production and quality along the Great Eastern Highway. About 50% of barley in areas west of Kellerberrin, west of Corrigin and up to Wyalkatchem is making Malting grade.

Wheat in the Koorda district is showing some Falling Number problems but wheat harvested in the Merredin and Mukinbudin is currently of good quality.

**Albany:** The southern half of the Albany Port zone received 20 to 30mm of rain across the region last week and harvest is just restarting.

The Kojonup district is about 25% complete, Kendenup 20% and Boyup Brook 10%. Yields have been a little higher than expected after improved conditions in late October. Harvest is expected to continue up to and beyond Christmas. Kojonup growers are expecting around 3.2 t/ha for cereals and 1.5 t/ha for canola.

Wheat has not been harvested yet, with emphasis currently on barley. Canola has mostly been completed.

Barley grain quality is very good with the majority of grain making Malt grade. The exception has been the variety Buloke which has shown some defects with colour even before the harvest rain.

Rain during harvest has affected almost the entire Lakes region (north east part of the Albany Port zone). The Hyden district is probably the worst affected for harvest rain along with low yielding crops. Most of the region has at least 2 weeks to complete harvest.

Mace wheat is now borderline for Falling Numbers, with the odd Yitpi paddock also having quality problems.

Barley grain quality is poor. Only 10 to 15% is making Malt and only where it is being graded hard for screenings. The September frosts are the cause of poor grain quality in most cases.

Wheat yields should average 1.3 t/ha with barley to 1.5 t/ha being reported. Grain size and protein of wheat has been very good. Lupins and field peas are yielding just 0.5 t/ha.

**Esperance:** Esperance has recorded daily delivery records showing the ability of growers in this zone to move grain quickly. With just a few weather related delays, harvest has only a week or so left.

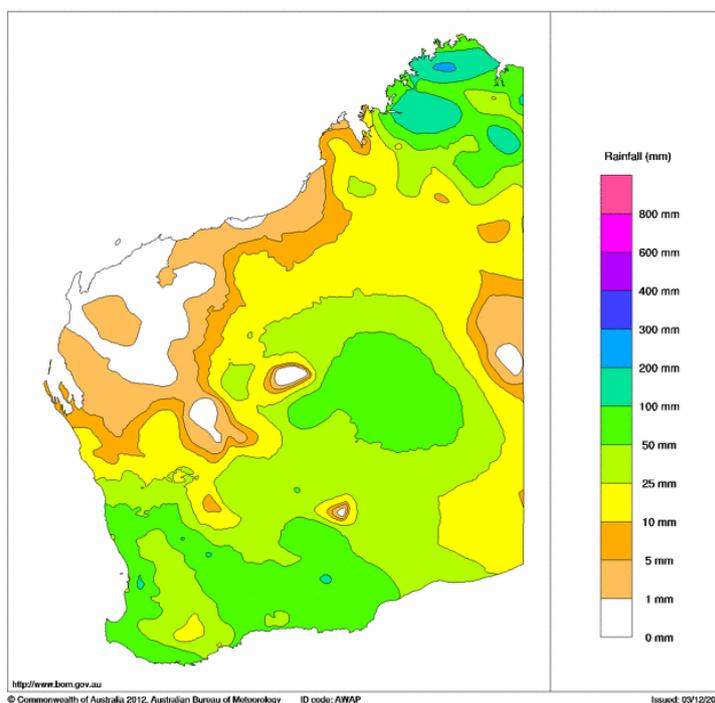
Many growers are using harvest bags to store grain temporarily on farm and to keep the header moving while looking to delayed delivery, with incentives, to finish harvest more quickly.

Barley yields are lower than expected, while wheat yields are slightly higher than expected. To date, there have been no issues for Falling Numbers, or sprouting in wheat or colour in barley.

**Geraldton:** The Northern districts have completed harvest while southern growers are still harvesting wheat with good yields being reported in Coorow and Carnamah districts. There are no significant issues with grain quality in this zone.

Growers are now spraying summer weeds and using trucks and labour to apply lime and get an early start on autumn jobs.

Western Australian Rainfall Totals (mm) November 2012  
Product of the National Climate Centre



Additional information can be sourced from:

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

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