

## WA planting area estimates (hectares)

Port zone	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea	State total
Kwinana	2,411,000	355,000	364,000	103,000	67,000	11,000	
Albany	693,000	306,000	285,000	62,000	13,000	6,000	
Esperance	360,000	220,000	265,000	2,000	9,000	25,000	
Geraldton	956,000	27,000	172,000	5,000	156,000	1,000	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,420,000</b>	<b>908,000</b>	<b>1,086,000</b>	<b>172,000</b>	<b>245,000</b>	<b>43,000</b>	<b>6,871,000</b>
2012	4,276,000	1,018,000	964,000	219,000	302,000	62,000	6,841,000

## WA production estimates (tonnes)

Port zone	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea	State total
Kwinana	3,946,000	758,000	414,000	247,000	68,000	10,000	5,443,000
Albany	1,539,000	762,000	404,000	169,000	14,000	7,000	2,895,000
Esperance	1,026,000	696,000	396,000	4,000	18,000	60,000	2,200,000
Geraldton	1,483,000	39,000	150,000	6,000	219,000	1,700	1,898,700
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7,994,000</b>	<b>2,255,000</b>	<b>1,364,000</b>	<b>426,000</b>	<b>319,000</b>	<b>78,700</b>	<b>12,436,700</b>
2012	6,099,000	2,038,000	1,261,000	437,000	294,000	58,700	10,187,700

● 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

The August crop report production total for Western Australia has risen to 12.4 million tonnes, compared to last months forecast of 10.5 million tonnes. While not all regions have good potential, the West Midlands and all southern regions are in a strong position coming into spring.

Considering the dire position in early July, this makes the anticipated WA crop quite remarkable. The distribution and amount of rainfall from mid-July, indicates that many regions are now set for average to above average yields. The management that WA growers apply to grain production is world's best practice and is evidenced by the current growth and potential in all crop commodities.

August provided average to above average rainfall across most of the WA grain belt. The west and south coast recorded decile 8 rainfall, while most other regions were decile 4 to 6. In light of the extremely dry June, the rainfall totals for most regions remain low. The Geraldton port zone has mostly recorded a decile 1 rainfall season to date with a few districts at decile 3, and the story is similar in the other port zones. The south coast continues to be very wet.

With good soil moisture under crops in the southern half and along the west coast, there is potential upside to the current production forecast. Wheat, canola and barley crops are all showing strong yield potential. Lupins have podded very well and also have good potential.

The major risk for the WA crop is frost in the Kwinana and Albany port zones. The current weather pattern is reducing this risk and it is hoped that this prevails for the rest of September.

### **Kwinana zone**

Most districts in the Kwinana port zone experienced the best August rainfall for many years. The western half received 50 to 80mm of rain generally. Crops have responded well despite many districts recording only decile 1 rainfall for the growing season (see the 3 month decile map on the next page).

Along the west coast, Canola is still at 80% flower and will produce above average yields. Sclerotinia is present in canola and is causing concern. It may lead to yield losses of 20-30% in some canola crops around Badgingarra and the Moora district. Wheat diseases and pests have been controlled, and barley disease control appears to have been successful.

Yield prospects for wheat in the districts near Dalwallinu will be below average east of the highway and average in the better early sown paddocks west of the highway, with a yield range of 0.8 – 1.8 t/ha. Canola potential in these areas is 0.7- 1.2 t/ha. Lupins have good pod development, but harvest height may be a concern for some.

The Central wheatbelt districts received 80 to 100mm of rain for August. For the first time in many years, creeks are running and dams are full. Yields at Corrigin to Kulin and Kondinin will be at least average. East to Bruce Rock and Narembeen yield potential is very good.

The eastern Kwinana districts continue to have very low yield potential, ie Wubin east to Dalwallinu to Cadoux to Burracoppin to Bullfinch and Southern Cross. However, at least most paddocks will now warrant harvesting.

### **Albany Zone**

The entire Albany port zone received good rainfall in August. Canola and wheat potential is very good, with good soil moisture. Lupins also appear to have excellent yield potential.

Aphids are prevalent in most crops. There is some rust in barley and septoria in wheat. Frost is now the major risk to achieving above average port zone production.

### **Esperance Zone**

In the Esperance port zone, all districts away from the coast are in excellent condition with well above average yield potential. Waterlogging will reduce yields by up to 40% in coastal districts east from Munglinup.

Aphids have required control in all crops, while cereal disease management has been effective and minimised any impact on yields.

### **Geraldton Zone**

August rain was plentiful in the Geraldton port zone with 30 to 50mm north of the Mullewa road and upwards of 90mm on the coast. The coastal strip into Coorow is having its best season for some years. Northern and eastern districts in the zone remain poor, while southern and west coast districts are in very good condition.

Wheat is at ear emergence to early flowering and will respond well to the rain. North of Geraldton, grain development is advanced and the rain will improve quality and weight, with some improvement in yield.

Canola is being impacted by aphids, especially the longer season varieties which are still in full bloom and will benefit from control. Short season canola varieties have finished flowering.

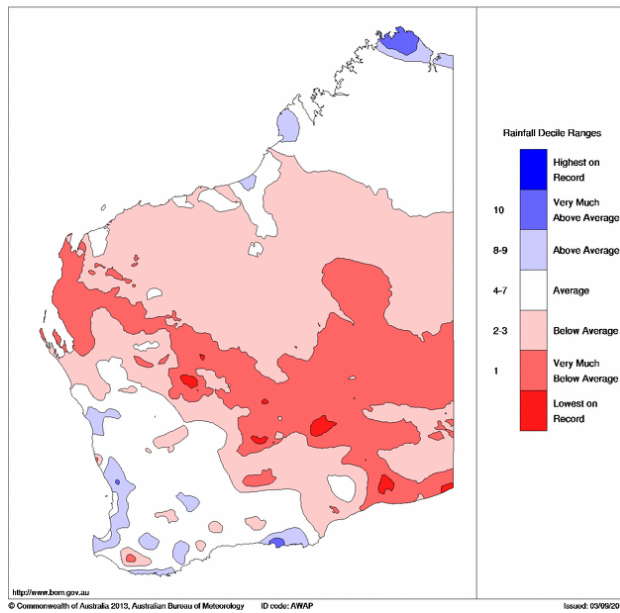
The whole region is still close to just decile 1 rainfall for the growing season (see the 3 month decile map). For some rainfall is similar to 2006, which was a disastrous season. This highlights the better timing of events in 2013 related to crop needs.

### **Weather ahead - courtesy Dr David Stephens, AEGIC**

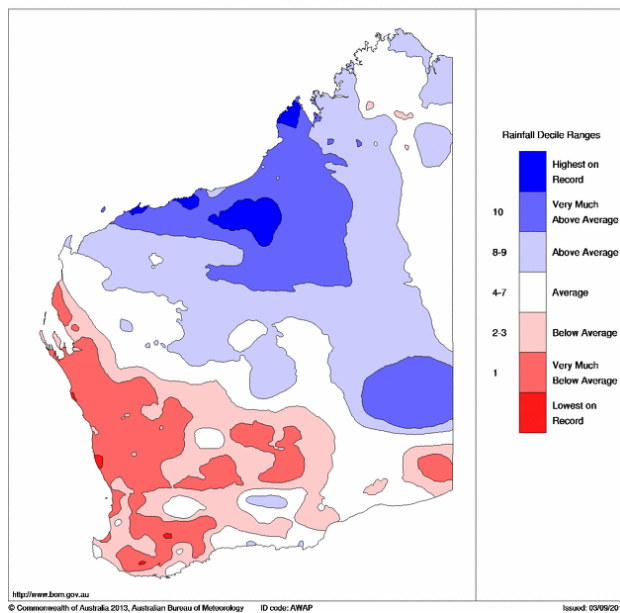
The current pattern of a westerly stream mixing the air is reducing the risk of frost occurrence and looks to be stable for the short term. This was the primary cause of the warm August temperatures and should ease the frost risk for the next fortnight.

The continuation of the westerly air flow and associated cold fronts should continue in September and is favourable for spring rainfall.

Western Australian Rainfall Deciles August 2013  
Distribution Based on Gridded Data  
Product of the National Climate Centre



Western Australian Rainfall Deciles 1 June to 31 August 2013  
Distribution Based on Gridded Data  
Product of the National Climate Centre



Additional information can be sourced from:

- **DAFWA Statistical Seasonal forecast**
- **BoM- WA Seasonal Rainfall Outlook: probabilities to November 30 2013**
- **BoM month to date rainfall for WA**
- **16 day rainfall outlook (WX maps)**

## Crop Condition report

September 9 2013

weighted by the production average for each zone

Port zone	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Kwinana	10	18	38	25	10
Albany	0	14	30	39	18
Esperance	0	6	8	30	56
Geraldton	18	35	38	9	1
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>

Kwinana regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
East	30	30	30	10	0
North	10	15	50	20	5
Central	0	20	40	30	10
Southern	0	5	30	40	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>10</b>

Albany regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	0	20	30	35	15
West	0	10	30	40	20
Eastern	0	20	30	35	15
Coastal	0	5	30	45	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>18</b>

Esperance regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Mallee	0	0	0	10	90
East coastal	0	10	20	40	30
North western	0	0	0	10	90
West coastal	0	15	10	60	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>56</b>

Geraldton regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	20	50	30	0	0
Eastern	15	35	40	10	0
Southern	15	20	40	20	5
South eastern	20	35	40	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>

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