

The GIWA Crop Report details an estimate for total farm production, and includes grain retained on-farm for seed and stock feed, and direct private sales to end users and packers. This should not be confused with industry predictions for grain deliveries into the CBH system.

WA planting area estimates (hectares)

Port zone	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea	State total
Kwinana	2,388,000	347,000	399,000	114,000	67,000	11,000	3,325,000
Albany	646,000	271,000	356,000	66,000	13,000	6,000	1,358,000
Esperance	385,000	225,000	250,000	2,000	9,000	20,000	891,000
Geraldton	956,000	27,000	172,000	5,000	156,000	1,000	1,316,000
Totals	4,375,000	870,000	1,177,000	187,000	245,000	38,000	6,890,000

WA production estimates (tonnes)

Port zone	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea	State total
Kwinana	4,917,000	1,010,600	569,050	292,000	119,000	13,000	6,920,650
Albany	1,786,000	951,850	570,600	232,000	19,000	7,000	3,566,450
Esperance	1,292,000	855,000	407,000	4,000	18,000	35,000	2,611,000
Geraldton	1,594,000	47,000	186,500	6,000	245,000	1,700	2,080,200
Totals	9,589,000	2,864,450	1,733,150	534,000	401,000	56,700	15,178,300
<i>Change from Nov 2013</i>	<i>298,000</i>	<i>325,450</i>	<i>99,150</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>24,000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>747,600</i>

Summary

The December crop report production total for Western Australia has risen to 15.2 million tonnes, compared to last month's forecast of 14.4 million tonnes. Yield reports have been higher than anticipated for all crops in almost all districts. Confidence in the farming community is high after a record breaking season. It is heartening to hear of positive talk about grain production in the vast majority of the State.

The pace of harvest has been very quick, aided by ideal harvest condition with fine and clear weather for almost the entire harvest period. Some isolated storms, with crop damage, were reported from the Coorow to Watheroo districts.

CBH has reported record daily deliveries for individual sites and has twice received over 500,000 tonnes across the State on one day. The capacity of growers to deliver grain has increased rapidly in the last few years. The capacity for CBH to receive fast rates of delivery has also increased and this year has been tested to the full.

As forecast in previous reports, protein levels in cereals are lower than average due to the high yields in most regions. Screenings in wheat and barley have also caused some blending to occur, with optimisation post-delivery being used as a significant tool to achieve better grades. The quantity of barley achieving Malting grade is lower than average due to a combination of low protein and screenings. Canola quality is above average in all regions, with all reports of oil content at 46%, and at times up to 50%.

Lupin yields have been well above average. Lupin prices have been maintained at about \$300/tonne for harvest and this has made lupins very profitable for the first time in many years.

Oat yields are reported to be high in the south Kwinana and Albany port zones. Total oat production is difficult to predict, with a significant proportion of production held on-farm or traded privately.

Kwinana zone

In the eastern half, yields are slightly higher in all districts, averaging at least 1 t/ha. For growers who earlier in the year were facing a drought and no harvest at all, this is a good result. In the central wheatbelt, screenings and low protein in high yielding wheat is being remedied with on-farm blending and/or optimisation after delivery, achieving at least ASW and often APW2 grades. Canola has yielded well on individual farms and is averaging about 1 to 1.1 t/ha across the region.

For the western half of the Kwinana port zone, crop yields have been exceptional in all districts from the coast to the Great Northern highway. To the east, yields fall away due to reduced rainfall.

The Pithara to Dalwallinu districts have produced about average yields, particularly in the western areas, but with reduced quality with high screenings at around 5 to 7% is affecting all wheat varieties including Mace, Calingiri and Wyalkatchem.

Crop yields improve further south to Miling and continue improving through to Bolgart to Calingiri to Piawaning. All crops harvested are reported to have high yields and good quality.

Canola is being harvested with oil contents between 46 and 50%. There is some low protein in barley due to high yields and these crops are missing Malt grade. Barley yields are exceptional with reports of paddock averages of over 6 t/ha. The variety Hindmarsh has tended to lodge in all districts as a consequence of the high yields. This is causing concern to growers about variety choice for 2014.

Wheat yields have also been well above average with reports of 4 to 4.5 t/ha in the Moora district. Grain quality is good at 80 to 84 kg/hl, and low screenings. There has been some blackpoint, and staining in the western districts of Badgingarra and Dandaragan with yields at about 3 t/ha.

Lupins have yielded very well.

Sclerotinia in canola has caused yield losses of 10 to 20% loss with individual crop losses reported as high as 50%. No canola loads have been rejected for sclerot contamination. Sclerots have been detected in lupin deliveries but have not been significant.

Harvest will be complete prior to the end of December.

Albany Zone

In the eastern and north eastern parts of the Albany port zone, harvest continues at a good pace with wheat now the focus of activity. To the west from Kojonup to Boyup Brook, canola and barley is still being harvested, with wheat harvesting to commence soon.

With record yields, delivering grain may be the biggest hurdle for growers with storages filling across the southern districts.

There are some reports of frosted grain in the Wagin districts. Grain blending on farm and optimisation is helping growers to achieve ASW and APW2 grades.

Along the south coast, good canola crops have produced disappointing yields given the promise shown before harvest. This observation has also been made in the Esperance Port zone.

From Borden to Mt Barker and Frankland; canola has produced 1.8 t/ha, with some crops yielding between 2.8 and 3 t/ha. Oil content is at 46% and above. Barley has yielded 3.5 to 4 t/ha.

Protein levels are low in cereals as expected due to the higher yields. The variety Bass has tended to be affected by lodging and staining.

About 10% of growers are already finished in the Lakes Region. Overall it has been a very good harvest, with yields all above average. Wheat is averaging 2.3 t/ha, Barley from 2.9 to 3.0 t/ha and canola 1.3 to 1.4 t/ha.

Wheat in the Lake Grace district seems to be only achieving ASW grade due to low protein while other districts are making APW grade. There is some screenings in wheat caused by a combination of frost, stem rust and shallow soil depth.

Harvest will be finished by mid to late December in the northern districts and in January in western districts.

Esperance Zone

Harvest is almost finished in the Esperance Port zone. The harvest weather has enabled a smooth, if hectic, harvest operation. Growers have used on-farm temporary storage to keep harvesters moving and ease the time needed to move grain to CBH.

CBH will be receiving grain for many weeks ahead with thousands of tonnes of grain in silos and bags, waiting for movement to port as logistics allow.

For 2014, there will be more attention to fertiliser strategies and there is likely to be a swing towards paddock renovation activity using legumes to bolster crop production. While yields have been exceptional in 2013, there are many crops, canola crops in particular, which have not achieved the full potential that the season offered.

Geraldton Zone

Harvest is mostly complete in the northern half of the Geraldton Port zone and upwards of 70% complete in southern districts. Yields to the north and east of the Geraldton-Mullewa road have been poor, while in the south and west crop yields have been very good to exceptional.

Red soils in the north have been too dry to produce good yields while good yellow sand has delivered 2 t/ha of canola. Poor sand soils have produced just 0.5 to 0.6 t/ha of canola. Grain quality in wheat is mixed. Screenings are high in wheat grown in shallow soils, and the protein is mostly too high for noodle grade. Across the whole port zone though, screenings and protein are about average.

Lupins in some districts have outperformed wheat in terms of gross margins, something that hasn't occurred for some years. Lupins crops have reportedly yielded an exceptional 2.5 t/ha at Mullewa, and better than canola and wheat.

For canola along the coast, from Horrocks to Dongara, yield is down to 1 t/ha where it could have been 2 t/ha due to Sclerotinia, aphids and Diamond Backed Moth problems.

The variety Hindmarsh is the main barley variety. There are reports south to Eneabba of some exceptional yields, while barley has performed well from Coorow to Badgingarra.

For the eastern low rainfall districts, crops grown after fallow has produced profitable yields in a very dry season, while fortunate and isolated June rain has boosted others. Wheat in the Pindar district has yielded 1.4 t/ha on fallow land compared to 0.7 t/ha for wheat crops sown after wheat crops in 2012. At Morawa wheat has yielded 2.8 t/ha in an area that received June storms that stretched from Wongoondy to Morawa. For Pindar, the in-season rainfall was less than recorded in 2006, a season in which there was no wheat harvest at all.

Weather ahead - courtesy Dr David Stephens, AEGIC

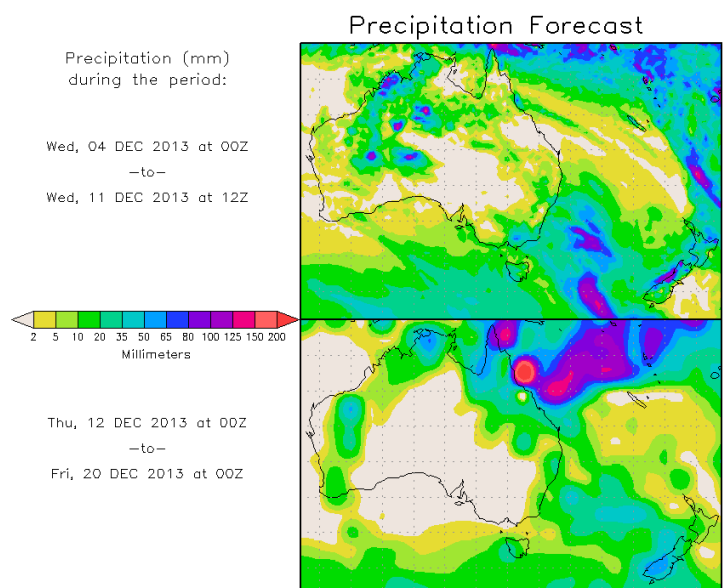
Conditions for the completion of the 2013 harvest look favourable. The 10 day forecast for Western Australia indicates stable and fine weather, similar to that experienced throughout November.

Sea surface temperatures off the south west corner of Western Australia have cooled, while water to the west has warmed slightly in the last month.

This situation is conducive to stable summer weather for Western Australia. It allows the movement of cool south westerly winds to reach the south west land division as high pressure systems move across the southern Ocean.

Additional information can be sourced from:

- [**DAFWA Statistical Seasonal forecast**](#)
- [**BoM- WA Seasonal Rainfall Outlook: probabilities to February 28 2014**](#)
- [**BoM month to date rainfall for WA**](#)
- [**16 day rainfall outlook \(WX maps\)**](#)



Crop Condition report

December 5 2013

weighted by the production average for each zone

Port zone	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Kwinana	1	6	23	38	33
Albany	0	6	23	46	25
Esperance	0	6	5	35	54
Geraldton	11	20	38	23	9
State Totals	3	9	23	36	28

Kwinana regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
East	5	10	20	35	30
North	0	10	30	30	30
Central	0	5	15	45	35
Southern	0	0	25	40	35
Total	1	6	23	38	33

Albany regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	0	5	15	50	30
West	0	10	30	40	20
Eastern	0	5	15	50	30
Coastal	0	5	30	45	20
Total	0	6	23	46	25

Esperance regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Mallee	0	0	0	10	90
East coastal	0	10	10	50	30
North western	0	0	0	10	90
West coastal	0	15	10	70	5
Total	0	6	5	35	54

Geraldton regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	20	20	30	20	10
Eastern	20	35	35	10	0
Southern	0	10	35	35	20
South eastern	5	15	50	25	5
Total	11	20	38	23	9

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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