



GIWA Crop Report August

August 12 2010

Report 3

2010/11 Season

WA Planting estimate- hectares

Port zone	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea	
Kwinana	2,004,000	373,000	258,000	85,000	156,000	10,000	
Albany	771,000	415,000	332,000	60,000	28,000	13,000	
Esperance	432,000	280,000	186,000	4,000	19,000	40,000	
Geraldton	740,000	40,000	82,000	4,000	175,000	600	
Totals	3,947,000	1,108,000	858,000	153,000	378,000	63,600	6,507,600

WA Production estimate- tonnes

Port zone	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea	
Kwinana	2,398,000	507,000	248,000	164,000	127,000	8,000	
Albany	1,336,000	826,000	400,000	120,000	26,000	13,000	
Esperance	909,000	625,000	263,000	6,000	29,000	57,000	
Geraldton	868,000	41,000	64,000	3,000	200,000	500	
Totals	5,511,000	1,999,000	975,000	293,000	382,000	78,500	9,238,500
% July 7	81.6%	91.8%	93.1%	94.8%	74.5%	102.6%	84.9%

Primary Source- DAFWA- collated by Cindy Parsons, Narrogin. Further input from industry sources

Production commentary

In spite of rainfall on the 12th and 13th August, the need for further rain is critical. With no subsoil moisture in the vast majority of paddocks, a wet spring is needed. Rising temperatures will exacerbate the low soil water reserves. Wilting on advanced crops in many northern and eastern regions was commonplace prior to the recent rain.

The production estimate assumes average rainfall for the coming two months, but calculated on the current dry soil conditions. Should the current pattern of irregular rain with lengthy fine spells continue, it is likely that production estimates will be revised downward further in September.

Dry conditions have continued across Western Australia in July and into early August. While the rainfall from the 9th July provided good falls of 20 to 40mm in most zones, the lack of follow up rain means the WA crop is now in urgent need of substantial rain. Rainfall deciles for all zones, aside from the south coast, show decile 2 at best for western regions with decile 1 and lower for all other regions. In recent weeks higher than normal temperatures have accelerated crop development, further reducing soil water availability.

Soil moisture assessment shows that most areas have little, if any, available moisture to sustain plant growth. The front currently crossing the WA grainbelt needs to deliver substantial falls of at least 25mm to provide hope that crop potential can be maintained. For eastern areas of the northern and eastern wheatbelt, crop potential is already below average and likely to fall further.

Yield potential in the Geraldton zone has declined markedly in the last week. A general below average result for all crops is the most likely result. Good classes of soils have retained potential better than the poorer sands where potential has fallen away badly.

Generally the eastern half of the Kwinana zone is dry with the immediate Merredin area somewhat better. The remainder of the zone is in below average or average condition.

The Albany zone, apart from the coastal area, is in average to below average condition. Crop growth has stalled awaiting rain. Eastern and northern areas of the Albany zone have low yield potential.

Good to excellent conditions are continuing along the south coast and wider Esperance zone. Growers from Hopetoun to Munglinup have reseeded previously waterlogged paddocks with some hope of a viable return. An above average season for the wider area is possible with only average rain in the coming months. Conditions in the area from Mt Madden to Ravensthorpe and Cascades are the best in many years.

Crop Condition report

The crop condition report is an estimate of the crop conditions at August 11 across the four port zones as advised by experienced agronomists based in each zone. It is a snapshot of the current condition of crops and does not take account of weather forecasts. The WA total is weighted against the proportion of grain produced in each zone.

WA Crop Conditions – weighted by the production average for each zone

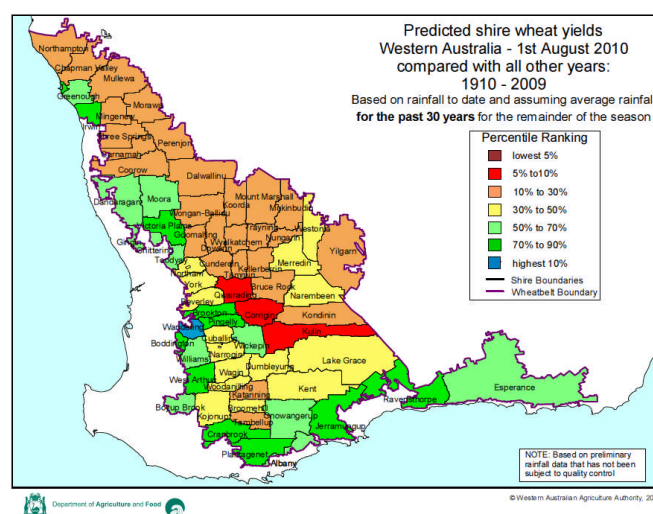
Port zone	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Kwinana	41	33	19	7	0
Albany	6	23	48	18	5
Esperance	1	0	10	55	34
Geraldton	38	40	17	5	0
Total	22	25	25	20	8

Additional information can be sourced from:

[BoM rainfall deciles for WA July 2010](#)

[BoM rainfall deciles for WA May to July 2010](#)

[DAFWA predicted wheat yields by shire- August 2010](#)



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