



## GIWA pre-planting prediction Crop Report April 14 2011

### 2011 WA pre-Planting estimate- hectares

| Port zone        | Wheat            | Barley           | Canola         | Oats           | Lupins         | Field pea     | State total      |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| <b>Kwinana</b>   | 2,280,000        | 360,000          | 260,000        | 110,000        | 150,000        | 10,000        |                  |
| <b>Albany</b>    | 830,000          | 430,000          | 380,000        | 70,000         | 30,000         | 10,000        |                  |
| <b>Esperance</b> | 450,000          | 270,000          | 200,000        | 10,000         | 20,000         | 40,000        |                  |
| <b>Geraldton</b> | 850,000          | 40,000           | 90,000         | 10,000         | 200,000        | 500           |                  |
| <b>Totals</b>    | <b>4,410,000</b> | <b>1,100,000</b> | <b>930,000</b> | <b>200,000</b> | <b>400,000</b> | <b>60,500</b> | <b>7,100,500</b> |
| <i>2010</i>      | <i>3,866,000</i> | <i>1,108,000</i> | <i>860,000</i> | <i>153,000</i> | <i>378,000</i> | <i>73,600</i> | <i>6,438,600</i> |

### WA 5 year grain production averages Source ABARE & ABS

|                                   | Wheat     | Barley    | Canola  | Oats    | Lupins  | Field pea |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| <b>Production (t)<sup>1</sup></b> | 7,293,000 | 2,497,000 | 795,000 | 506,000 | 649,000 | 71,000    |
| <b>Yield (t/ha)<sup>2</sup></b>   | 1.6       | 1.8       | 1.2     | 1.9     | 1.2     | 0.9       |

<sup>1</sup> ABARE 5 year production average 2005/06 to 2009/10

<sup>2</sup> ABS 5 year crop yield average 2004/05 to 2008/09

The planting prediction for WA in season 2011 is for an increase in cereal plantings; while lupin and pulse plantings are currently predicted to fall, following the dry season of 2010; however Canola plantings could well rise if the seasonal break is favourable and Oat plantings may be similar to 2010.

It is estimated that 5% of the wheat area was not planted in 2010, creating an effective fallow for the 2011 crop. On top of that area coming back into production, the predicted trend for the individual commodities is forecast to be:

- Wheat area to rise by around 9%
- Barley area to fall by 3%
- Canola to rise by 4%
- Oats to fall by 3%
- Lupins and Field peas to fall by 6%

The principal drivers for the 2011 season include

- the current high wheat price and outlook,
- uncertainty about the malt barley premium,
- drought recovery causing conservative cropping strategies to reduce risk

While all crops are at risk with a possible dry start to the season, canola is particularly at risk in low rainfall areas. Lupins will be dry sown if need be and the predicted area is unlikely to change in response to the timing of the seasonal break.

**Kwinana Zone:**

Little change to the mix of commodities is expected in medium rainfall areas with a rise in wheat tipped for the low rainfall districts. More wheat will be sown in the eastern part of the zone at the expense of barley and canola. The number of hectares to be sown to canola is highly dependent on good opening rains with May 10<sup>th</sup> being the critical date. For areas with livestock, the area of sown pastures is likely to increase due to the current relatively higher profitability of sheep enterprises.

Soil moisture is generally low with small areas of significant moisture at Nungarin, Mukinbudin, Buntine to Dallwallinu, and west to Miling.

**Albany:**

Canola is expected to remain an important component of rotations in the Great Southern and south coastal districts, with barley to maintain its current share of planted hectares. In the Lakes district growers are likely to plant more wheat than in past seasons due to a significant decline in sheep numbers and fallowed/ spraytopped pastures. Field peas and canola are also likely to decline while lupin production is likely to be mostly targeted at on-farm needs. Oat plantings should increase on last year to resupply the domestic market for grain and hay, possibly at the expense of canola.

Generally, soil moisture is low away from the coast, with good moisture at Lake King, Mt Madden and Ravensthorpe.

**Esperance:**

The mix of crop types to be sown is likely to be unchanged around Esperance. The recent run of average to above average seasons has delivered stable and profitable rotations.

Soil moisture is very good in the region, as far west as Ravensthorpe. For growers in Munglinup and Hopetoun, soil moisture is plentiful and sowing could continue throughout April without further rain.

**Geraldton:**

Wheat plantings are likely to rise in the Geraldton zone at the expense of barley possibly by around 10%. A stronger rise is tipped for the Three Springs/Carnamah districts. Canola could also rise but only on an early sowing opportunity. The lupin area is forecast to be similar to 2010. Planting is likely to commence next week (18/4) for canola and lupins.

Soil moisture is good north and east of Geraldton however it is patchy to the south and south-east. In the Mullewa district, soil moisture is excellent and has led to the early sowing of lupins and canola.

Additional information can be sourced from:

- [BoM rainfall deciles for WA March 2011](#)
- [BoM rainfall deciles for WA January to March 2011](#)
- [DAFWA March Seasonal Outlook](#)
- [NEW: DAFWA Statistical Seasonal forecast](#)
- [BoM- WA Seasonal Rainfall Outlook: probabilities for April to June 2011](#)

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