



GIWA pre-planting prediction Crop Report May 6 2011

2011 WA pre-Planting estimate- hectares

Port zone	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea	State total
Kwinana	2,235,000	362,000	234,000	105,000	145,000	9,000	
Albany	805,000	452,000	316,000	74,000	27,000	11,000	
Esperance	454,000	271,000	200,000	7,000	17,000	40,000	
Geraldton	848,000	34,000	83,000	8,000	156,000	500	
Totals	4,342,000	1,119,000	833,000	194,000	345,000	60,500	6,893,500
<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
Production (t)¹	7,293,000	2,497,000	795,000	506,000	649,000	71,000
Yield (t/ha)²	1.6	1.8	1.2	1.9	1.2	0.9

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

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

April has delivered average rainfall generally for the western side of the south west land division with the eastern side only receiving light falls. However, due to the dry summer punctuated only by random storm events, much of the wheatbelt is dry. There is no immediate likelihood of significant rain and this is causing growers to reassess their sowing programs.

Since the April 14 report, the area to be planted to canola is now forecast to be reduced by 100,000ha. Some of this area will be replaced by wheat and barley, with the remainder put in pasture or left for fallow.

The lupin crop is now expected to be reduced by 50,000ha due to the dry weather, but also because of low profitability compared to cereals.

The current drivers for decisions about plantings for 2011 include the:

- amount of subsoil moisture
- poor short term outlook for rain
- the current high wheat price despite the high value of the Australian dollar,
- greater confidence in achieving cereal production in a dry season than for oilseeds and pulses.

Kwinana Zone:

Dry sowing has commenced across the zone with growers focusing on canola, lupins and wheat. Canola is being replaced with cereals in much of the central wheatbelt as the canola planting window closes. With no immediate rain forecast growers are not confident of profitable canola yields. Wheat will be sown in the eastern part of the zone at the expense of barley and canola, while paddocks with weed problems may be left for

fallow or volunteer pasture. Soil moisture remains low with small areas of significant moisture at Nungarin, Mukinbudin, Buntine to Dalwallinu, and west to Miling.

Albany:

Overall, 10% of the crop has been sown. For growers with good soil moisture, about 20% is sown. Generally, only the south coast has good soil moisture, with average moisture at Lake King and Mt Madden.

Good falls of rain were recorded since April west of Kojonup (30-50mm), Frankland (30mm) with rainfall declining further east. Growers have planted some canola, and are watching a good germination and applying knockdown herbicides. Some canola has been sown dry around Nyabing, while a limited number of paddocks have been sown along the south coast.

In the Lakes region, everywhere is dry to very dry. Dry sowing here presents a big erosion risk but it's not as prevalent as in the Geraldton and Kwinana zones. Some dry sown canola has not had Triazine applied in case a switch to cereals is warranted. For those with stock, fallow/volunteer pasture is more likely for weed control and stock feed.

Esperance:

Salmon Gums through to the east of the Esperance zone has received very poor rains and is very dry. The limited plantings to date have now stopped. The Grass Patch, Scaddan, Cascades, Ravensthorpe, Mt Madden, West River areas have been able to plant canola and small areas of barley but seeding has also stopped due to declining soil moisture. Most growers are prepared to wait for rain to recommence sowing. Munglinup, Jerdacuttup and Hopetoun continue in the best position, picking up some coastal rains in the past week (up to 20mm). Canola is now sown and growers have commenced planting barley and wheat.

Geraldton:

All growers are busy dry sowing. 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.

Growers with large plantings are about 50% complete, with 85% of canola and lupins sown. 20% of canola and lupins have germinated, and 5% of wheat is up.

However, confidence in the season is waning. Remaining canola and lupin paddocks may not be planted where the weed burden may be too high for in-crop control. Overall, area planted to canola is expected to drop by 5% with barley plantings increasing by the same amount. The oat area will be similar to 2010.

Deep sand paddocks need rain and will not be sown dry at this stage.

The West Midlands region is very dry (Badgingarra, Dandaragan), though sowing there is typically later than other regions. There are no changes to sowing programs at this stage.

Watheroo, Miling, Bindi districts are dry. Lupins are being dry sown and in less area than in 2010. Canola sown area is also declining.

Areas around Bolgart/Toodyay and West Wubin/Buntine have some subsoil moisture but it is not consistent throughout the entire district.

Barley plantings in these districts are likely to rise at the expense of canola.

Additional information can be sourced from:

[BoM rainfall totals for WA April 2011](#)
[DAFWA Statistical Seasonal forecast](#)

[DAFWA March Seasonal Outlook](#)
[DAFWA Soil moisture map 3 April 2011](#)

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.

Mission: "To identify issues, develop policy and communicate solutions for the WA grain supply chain"

May 5 2011

Soil moisture Condition report - weighted by the production average for each zone (as %)

Port zone	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Kwinana	60	35	4	1	0
Albany	18	35	35	12	0
Esperance	5	25	35	16	19
Geraldton	40	28	20	12	0
State Totals	34	31	21	9	5

Soil moisture condition report as %

Kwinana regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
East	60	35	5	0	0
North	60	25	10	5	0
Central	60	40	0	0	0
Southern	60	40	0	0	0
Total	60	35	4	1	0

Soil moisture condition report as %

Albany regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	30	60	10	0	0
West	0	20	60	20	0
Eastern	40	50	10	0	0
Coastal	0	10	60	30	0
Total	17.5	35	35	12.5	0

Soil moisture condition report as %

Esperance regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Mallee	20	50	30	0	0
East coastal	0	30	60	10	0
North western	0	20	50	30	0
West coastal	0	0	0	25	75
Total	5	25	35	16.25	18.75

Soil moisture condition report as %

Geraldton regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	20	20	40	20	0
Eastern	20	30	30	20	0
Southern	60	40	0	0	0
South eastern	60	20	10	10	0
Total	40	27.5	20	12.5	0