



**GIWA planting prediction  
Crop Report  
June 2, 2011**

**2011 WA Planting estimate- hectares**

Port zone	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea	State total
<b>Kwinana</b>	2,276,000	366,000	195,000	105,000	136,000	9,000	
<b>Albany</b>	868,000	431,000	299,000	74,000	24,000	11,000	
<b>Esperance</b>	454,000	271,000	200,000	7,000	17,000	40,000	
<b>Geraldton</b>	871,000	29,000	79,000	8,000	156,000	500	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,469,000</b>	<b>1,097,000</b>	<b>773,000</b>	<b>194,000</b>	<b>333,000</b>	<b>60,500</b>	<b>6,926,500</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

Rainfall across Western Australia during May was patchy with the northern regions receiving far more than the southern regions.

Despite generally low total rainfall to date, and generally negative seasonal forecasts, many growers are expecting good yield potential because the timing and intensity of the rainfall to date has been favourable. The prospects for the 2011 season are shaping up better than for 2010, particularly with positive market signals for wheat. The season to date has been especially good for northern regions.

Since the last GIWA Crop Report, the area planted to canola is now forecast to be further reduced by 60,000ha. All of this area is likely to be replaced by wheat and barley.

The next GIWA Crop report is due on July 7 and will include the first WA grain production forecast for 2011.

**Kwinana Zone:**

Most of the Kwinana zone is experiencing good conditions, with May rainfall in the range of 15-40mm. Most growers will be finishing their seeding programs by the 10<sup>th</sup> June.

The area sown to Canola is down 20-30% from that planned due to the delay in the break to the season. This freed up area is mainly being sown to wheat, which is up commensurately by 5%.

Dry sown crops have germinated very well and common feedback is "I should have put more in dry".

There was good subsoil moisture in the Buntine/Maya/Wubin area along with good rains in May. Less canola and lupins will be sown than last year. Wheat is being sown now, but to date without a knockdown chemical application.

In the western and north-western Kwinana zone, rainfall has been more variable; within a range of 15-70mm. Canola has been dropped east of Piawaning/Miling/Dalwallinu, while west of this line, it is still being sown.

South of Miling to Bolgart is quite dry after very patchy rainfall to date and no subsoil moisture to begin with. Canola and barley crops have germinated with wheat now being sown.

In the West Midlands, Badgingarra and Dandaragan are wet, with May rainfalls of up to 45mm. The Canola area is down as is the area sown to lupins. Sown areas of wheat and barley area are up accordingly.

By contrast, reflecting the patchy nature of the rainfall in May, Wyalkatchem and Dowerin are at the centre of a large dry patch in the central wheat belt, constituting an area of maybe 50km long and 40km wide.

### **Albany:**

Subsoil moisture in the west was generally good but dry east of Katanning.

There is no change to growers programs at this stage with confidence remaining high.

Rain on May 20 delivered 15-50mm across the western half of the Albany zone. Canola is now all sown west of the Gt Southern Highway, while it was sown dry in the eastern area or is only now going in. Some RR canola west of Katanning has received its first herbicide application. Most growers are waiting for weed germination before starting wheat.

Pastures are struggling at this stage. The south coastal region is in similar condition but with a lot more dry sown crop than usual.

In the eastern half of the Albany zone, there was a very low level of dry sowing this year because of extremely low subsoil moisture as a consequence of little, if any, summer rain. Rainfalls of 9-40mm in May have seen sowing programs commence.

The area sown to canola is expected to be down by 40%, along with a reduction in the area sown to lupins. Wheat area sown is expected to be up by 5%, while areas sown to field peas and barley will be similar to 2010.

Growers who were planning on sowing long season barley varieties may change to planting wheat.

### **Esperance:**

Conditions around the Esperance zone are very good at this stage. Most growers programs are 70% completed, with some close to finishing. Ravensthorpe, West River and Mt Madden have had very good sowing conditions, though controlling ryegrass is the biggest challenge. Canola and lupin crops have germinated, with wheat and barley already at the 1 - 2 leaf stage. Hopetoun, Jerdacuttup, Munglinup are verging on being too wet, but due to starting early with canola many of these areas are finishing seeding.

Cascade, Grass Patch, Scaddan and Salmon Gums are also all tracking very well with excellent soil conditions for sowing. East of Esperance is in a similar position after slightly later rains but still very good seeding conditions.

There have been no major swings in the relative areas of crop types sown throughout the zone

**Geraldton:**

Most growers will be finished by June 3rd after commencing seeding programs earlier than expected buoyed with confidence by generally good subsoil moisture. 50% of the crop went in dry, 15% went in wet and 35% after a knockdown.

Generally it is the best start in 10 years. Rainfall to May 30 of up to 50mm promises at least an average season from this point on.

The area sown to canola has declined by 10% along with a reduction in the area sown to lupins. Barley area sown is also down 15%, with the consequent freed up areas going in to wheat. All fallow area destined for cropping this year is going to wheat. The biggest increase in wheat area sown at the expense of the other crops is in the lower rainfall areas.

Additional information can be sourced from:

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

[DAFWA May Seasonal Outlook](#)  
[DAFWA Soil moisture map 15 May 2011](#)

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

May 26 2011

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

Port zone	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Kwinana	0	19	55	26	0
Albany	5	18	53	19	6
Esperance	0	10	48	33	10
Geraldton	0	8	35	15	43
State Totals	1	14	49	24	11

**Soil moisture condition report as %**

Kwinana regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
East	0	10	60	30	0
North	0	15	50	35	0
Central	0	20	50	30	0
Southern	0	30	60	10	0

**Soil moisture condition report as %**

Albany regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	10	20	50	15	5
West	0	0	60	30	10
Eastern	10	25	50	10	5
Coastal	0	25	50	20	5

**Soil moisture condition report as %**

Esperance regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Mallee	0	20	50	30	0
East coastal	0	10	60	30	0
North western	0	10	50	40	0
West coastal	0	0	30	30	40

**Soil moisture condition report as %**

Geraldton regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	0	0	0	10	90
Eastern	0	0	0	20	80
Southern	0	0	70	30	0
South eastern	0	30	70	0	0