



Grain Industry Association of Western Australia

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GIWA planting estimate Crop Report July 8 2011

2011 WA Planting estimate- hectares

Port zone	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea	State total
Kwinana	2,235,000	366,000	195,000	105,000	136,000	9,000	
Albany	907,000	431,000	299,000	74,000	24,000	11,000	
Esperance	454,000	271,000	200,000	7,000	17,000	40,000	
Geraldton	925,000	29,000	79,000	8,000	156,000	500	
Totals	4,521,000	1,097,000	773,000	194,000	333,000	60,500	6,978,500
<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

The season so far in Western Australia is one of contrasts. The Geraldton zone is experiencing good to excellent conditions, the Esperance and western Albany zones generally good conditions, with average to below average conditions for the Kwinana, north east Albany zones and the mallee district of Esperance.

Of note is the rapid crop development which is 2 to 2 ½ weeks ahead of schedule due to warm temperatures through most of June. This contrasts with very low temperatures at the start of July.

The area planted to wheat in Western Australia is forecast to be slightly higher than that reported on May 30. A rise of 54,000ha for the Geraldton zone and 39,000ha for Albany has been countered by a reduction of 41,000ha in the Kwinana zone to see a net increase of 52,000 hectares.

The Crop condition report includes the summary from July 8 2010 showing the improvement compared to last year in most zones, with the overall crop sitting at between average to good at this stage

Kwinana: Overall the zone is a mixed bag with an average crop for the region predicted at this stage of the season. Western parts are in good condition because the below average rain has prevented the usual waterlogging. Canola is in particularly good condition, with Roundup Ready and hybrid varieties growing rapidly. Subsoil moisture is variable but much better than early June. Generally, yield potential is very good to excellent.

Bolgart/New Norcia/Yerecoin districts are excellent, while Dalwallinu has had consistent rain but is lacking good subsoil moisture.

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Wyalkatchem/Dowerin to Meckering/Yorkkrakine are dry spots in the central wheat belt, an area of around 50km long and 70km wide. This is very much the same area with suffered badly in 2010. Rainfall to date is less than decile 1.

The eastern wheatbelt districts of Bodallin/Southern Cross/Warralakin/Bullfinch are very dry. Elsewhere crops are variable with good growth crops just 5km from poor growth crops. Subsoil moisture is limited in almost all districts.

Albany: The overall crop for the Albany zone is expected to be average at this stage of the season. In the north eastern districts, June rain was just 75% of average. Crops on heavier soils have staggered germinations and poor growth, while light land is average to good. Some heavy paddocks have not been planted. Canola and lupin plantings have declined in response to the limited early rainfall. Pasture growth is poor. Yield potential is just average or below average.

For the remainder, and larger part, of the Albany zone conditions are good to excellent. Sowing conditions were good for all districts after the May 20 opening rains of 20-40mm. Growth of all crops since has been excellent with development ahead of schedule due to the warm soil and temperatures through June, and with relatively few weed problems. Mineralised N from summer rain is producing exceptional cereal growth and health. Canola is at budding stage and had received its N requirements for the season. Cereals will receive a further N top up in the next fortnight.

The south coast districts have received less rain, but are in good condition mainly due to a lack of waterlogging.

Esperance: Overall, seasonal conditions should result in an above average crop for the zone. Following a dry April, Esperance recorded a decile 7 rainfall for May and then a decile 2/3 rainfall in June. Salmon Gums and east Esperance has remained on the drier side with the western part of the region bolstered by good sub soil moisture.

Most canola crops have had grass herbicides applied with 15- 20% now starting to grow rapidly and flower. Cereal crops have remained relatively weed free after a double knock application of herbicide and as a consequence of being sown into good moisture. Mt Madden/Ravensthorpe/West River crops are progressing well but need rain to maintain growth. Hopetoun and Munglinup are also in good condition with excellent subsoil moisture. Cascade, Grass Patch and Scaddan crops are all well established although constant wind has hampered much of the spraying operations in the last few weeks. Salmon Gums and east of Esperance have below average conditions with many crops sown dry due to poor rainfall events.

Geraldton: Overall, the season has the potential to provide an above average crop for the zone. Rainfall deciles are 5-8 across the Geraldton region. The coastal strip is worse but improving after 50-80mm in last 10 days. Nitrogen and herbicides are being applied now. Growth rates are strong with dry sown wheat now in the boot stage. Canola is 80% flowering in Yuna/Mullewa districts. Coorow/Carnamah districts are excellent. East of the Gt Northern hwy are more variable and generally poorer than the west.

To reach the yield potential, constant rain is needed in sandy soils while heavier soils can sustain growth for quite a while yet.

Some fallow paddocks have been planted to wheat in June and this has increased the overall planted wheat area in the zone.

Non-wetting soils have poor establishment where early rainfall has been light. By comparison ameliorated soils are demonstrating benefits with strong establishment and crop growth.

Diamond back moth is proving difficult to control, though the recent cold weather has slowed their impact. Effective control will be important when it warms up, as could that of locusts.

Additional information can be sourced from:

[BoM rainfall totals for WA June 2011](#)

[DAFWA Statistical Seasonal forecast](#)

[DAFWA June Seasonal Outlook](#)

[DAFWA Soil moisture maps](#)

[DAFWA Growing season Outlook June 2011](#)

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**Crop condition Report
July 4 2011**

Port zone	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Kwinana	0	21	48	24	8
Albany	0	15	55	26	4
Esperance	0	13	48	30	10
Geraldton	0	6	18	21	55
State Totals	0	15	44	25	16
Kwinana zone	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
East	0	30	50	20	0
North	0	5	30	35	30
Central	0	20	50	30	0
Southern	0	30	60	10	0
Total	0	21	48	24	8
Albany zone	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	0	30	50	20	0
West	0	0	50	40	10
Eastern	0	20	55	25	0
Coastal	0	10	65	20	5
Total	0	15	55	26.25	3.75
Esperance zone	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Mallee	0	20	50	30	0
East coastal	0	20	60	20	0
North western	0	10	50	40	0
West coastal	0	0	30	30	40
Total	0	12.5	47.5	30	10
Geraldton zone	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	0	0	0	10	90
Eastern	0	0	0	10	90
Southern	0	10	30	35	25
South eastern	0	15	40	30	15
Total	0	6.25	17.5	21.25	55

July 8 2010

Port zone	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Kwinana	15	28	46	9	2
Albany	0	19	21	60	0
Esperance	4	0	5	5	86
Geraldton	23	25	38	12	2
Total	10	20	31	23	16

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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