



GIWA Crop Report

September 8 2011

(embargo: September 14 2011)

WA Planting estimate- hectares

Port zone	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea	State total
Kwinana	2,235,000	366,000	190,000	108,000	136,000	9,000	
Albany	907,000	431,000	299,000	74,000	25,000	11,000	
Esperance	454,000	272,000	181,000	7,000	17,000	40,000	
Geraldton	925,000	29,000	79,000	8,000	156,000	500	
Totals	4,521,000	1,098,000	749,000	197,000	334,000	60,500	6,959,500

WA Production estimate- tonnes

Port zone	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea	State total
Kwinana	3,940,000	782,000	236,000	249,500	175,000	7,000	5,389,500
Albany	1,686,000	954,500	382,000	181,500	24,500	8,500	3,237,000
Esperance	811,500	542,000	185,500	12,000	19,500	45,000	1,615,500
Geraldton	2,210,000	76,000	101,500	21,500	252,000	400	2,661,400
Totals	8,647,500	2,354,500	905,000	464,500	471,000	60,900	12,903,400
<i>2010</i>	<i>4,584,000</i>	<i>1,323,000</i>	<i>708,000</i>	<i>130,000</i>	<i>280,000</i>	<i>51,000</i>	<i>7,077,000</i>

WA Yield estimate- tonnes/hectare

Port zone	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea
Kwinana	1.76	2.14	1.24	2.31	1.29	0.78
Albany	1.86	2.21	1.28	2.45	0.98	0.77
Esperance	1.79	1.99	1.02	1.71	1.15	1.13
Geraldton	2.39	2.62	1.28	2.69	1.62	0.80

The 2011 season in Western Australia continues to be favourable, with an above average crop yield and total volume of crop now highly likely.

High yields are forecast in the Geraldton port zone, western Albany port zone, with average yields generally in the Kwinana and Esperance port zones.

Generally, pests have had a minimal impact on 2011 crops. Fungal diseases have been a problem, resulting in extensive fungicide use for controlling cereal leaf diseases.

Weeds, which survived in-crop control, are now posing a problem for growers to prevent an increased weed burden for the 2012 crop.

Kwinana: The Kwinana port zone has strong production prospects in the western half ranging to below average in the eastern wheatbelt. The Midlands region is generally very good. Good rain in the first week of September has enhanced grower confidence for harvest.

Dalwallinu and Wubin: east of great northern highway, expect wheat yields 1.8 to 2.2 t/ha.

West of the highway, wheat 2.4 to 3.2t/ha, Canola 1.4 to 1.6t/ha. Lupins and field peas also have high yield potential.

Baudin barley in the New Norcia/Moora/Walebing areas has potential to yield 4 to 5 t/ha.

Dandaragan and Badgingarra districts yields are expected to be average to slightly above average with some Nitrogen leaching requiring a further nitrogen application. Soil moisture is just adequate in the central wheatbelt. At least one more substantial rainfall event is required in the central wheatbelt to finish these crops.

Current yield estimates include

- East of Merredin - 70% average yield,
- Merredin average yields.
- Wyalkatchem, north Kellerberrin, north Cunderdin- average.
- Cunderdin to Northam, York, Toodyay - 20% above average

Albany: Crops in the Albany port zone are in good condition in the west and south but average at best in the north east Lakes district where rainfall has been patchy, and dry pockets are increasing in size. September will be a critical month with the outcome dependent on finishing rain events. Lupins are podding very well in the Kukerin/Dumbleyung districts. There have been no pest issues with canola but yields will at best be average. Field pea crops are in good condition. Oat crops are showing good growth and will mostly go for hay.

The region as a whole has received just 80% of the average growing season rainfall to date.

In the west and south, crops are two weeks ahead of where they usually are at this time of the year. While generally in very good condition, water-logging during August has had a negative impact, making it very difficult to spray radish and to apply Nitrogen. Crops have responded extremely well in the in the last week to applied nitrogen. Diseases and insects have made little impact so far.

Esperance: The Esperance port zone had a below average August rainfall and is generally dry. Production prospects in the west are still above average, but have declined markedly in the eastern half and the Mallee. Rainfall is needed soon to support the current potential as the soil moisture reserves are low in all areas.

Away from the coast, Cascade, Coomalbidgup, Grass Patch and Scaddan are drying rapidly with crops in gravel soils starting to wilt followed by crops on the sands and clays. Crops in the Ravensthorpe area are drying out rapidly. Hopetoun & Munglinup crops are in good condition but need more rain to support the large yield potential. Salmon Gums has had below average rain all winter and crops in this area continue to be poor. Crops east of Esperance are reasonable but they require rain within the next couple of weeks.

Geraldton: Geraldton port zone crops continue to be in excellent condition. Current soil moisture reserves are more than adequate to support record production, with the exception of crops on the deep sandy coastal soils which require spring rainfall.

There were good rains in the first week in September throughout the zone, with 12-14mm at Ajana, 20-30mm in the coastal area, and 12mm at Mullewa.

Early sown wheat is at 50% grain fill with later wheat finished flowering. Yield assessments indicate exceptional yields are likely with wheat at least 4t/ha on the best soils, and upwards of 2.5 t/ha in eastern areas. Protein will be down for this harvest in line with the amount of nitrogen applied and with the higher predicted yields. Leaf diseases have been controlled with extensive fungicide application.

Canola yield potential is being affected by Sclerotinia, with Canola without any control lodging badly.

Lupins are showing excessive vegetative growth and poor primary pod establishment. Yields may be half of what would normally be expected in the zone. Anthracnose is severely affecting Albus crops.

Barley crop yields will be average as most barley is planted on poorer country or after several cereals which limits yield potential.

Canola swathing will commence within 10 days and be in full swing in 20 days. First canola deliveries are tipped as early as the second week in October.

Crop condition Report

September 6 2011

Crop Condition report- weighted by the production average for each zone

Port zone	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Kwinana	0	15	53	25	8
Albany	0	9	55	29	8
Esperance	3	13	50	25	10
Geraldton	0	6	15	23	56
State Totals	0	11	44	25	19

Kwinana regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
East	0	30	60	10	0
North	0	0	20	50	30
Central	0	10	60	30	0
Southern	0	20	70	10	0
Total	0	15	53	25	8

Albany regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	0	10	60	30	0
West	0	5	30	35	30
Eastern	0	10	60	30	0
Coastal	0	10	70	20	0
Total	0	8.75	55	28.75	7.5

Esperance regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Mallee	10	20	60	10	0
East coastal	0	20	60	20	0
North western	0	10	50	40	0
West coastal	0	0	30	30	40
Total	2.5	12.5	50	25	10

Geraldton regions	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	30	35	20
Total	0	6.25	15	22.5	56.25

Additional information can be sourced from:

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

[DAFWA Growing Season Outlook](#)
[DAFWA September Seasonal Update](#)

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