



GIWA Crop Report

November 8 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	3,915,000	778,000	248,000	213,000	180,000	10,000	5,344,000
Albany	1,993,000	1,096,000	401,000	205,000	30,000	12,000	3,737,000
Esperance	839,000	560,000	177,000	12,000	18,000	44,000	1,650,000
Geraldton	2,492,000	76,000	112,000	21,000	362,000	600	3,063,600
Totals	9,239,000	2,510,000	938,000	451,000	590,000	66,600	13,794,600
<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>

●Note: Estimate is for total farm production, and includes grain retained on farm for seed and stock feed, and direct private sales to end users and packers.

WA Yield estimate- tonnes/hectare

Port zone	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea
Kwinana	1.75	2.13	1.30	1.98	1.33	1.10
Albany	2.20	2.54	1.34	2.77	1.19	1.08
Esperance	1.85	2.06	0.98	1.74	1.08	1.09
Geraldton	2.69	2.61	1.42	2.62	2.32	1.24

There has been widespread above average rainfall throughout the grain growing regions of WA during October and early November. This has been very beneficial for crops in the Kwinana and Albany zones. However, crops in the Geraldton zone were mature and have consequently declined in quality.

Wheat has being downgraded for low falling numbers in the Esperance and Geraldton zones while Barley has suffered staining and is borderline in meeting malt grade. Lupins have shed pods in the Geraldton zone due to the rain and consequent delay in harvest. Canola remains largely unaffected.

CBH reports 600,000 tonnes of grain has been received to date - 6 to 8% of the expected total. 55% of wheat is milling grade, while 7% is H3 (low protein hard varieties).

20% of wheat has been downgraded by low falling numbers, and this being seen from Scaddan to Binu. Barley receivals are approximately 40% Malt grade, with most downgrades to feed due to poor colour and staining. Canola so far is 99% CAN1 grade.

GIWA would like to acknowledge the support of DAFWA and contribution from industry consultants in the production of this report

Kwinana:

Harvest has just started for most growers, mainly canola and barley. Canola crops in the Narembeen and Bruce Rock shires are achieving 1 to 1.2 t/ha with good quality.

Wheat crops at Tammin have achieved 2.5 to 3 t/ha with one Mace paddock at 4 t/ha.

Barley crops at Cunderdin are averaging 3 t/ha with one paddock at 4 t/ha. Quality is just making malt grade with low hectolitre weight and colour issues.

Recent rainfalls of up to 50mm from Northam to Narembeen have affected 75-80% of crops. Standing canola (for direct heading) in these areas are green in patches and will need desiccation. Swathed canola is OK though regrowth will need controlling.

The October rains were generally too late to help yields. Wheat has short heads even though filling 4-5 grains wide and yield estimates remain unchanged from the October Update report

Weeds are the problem now with a mix of late germinated winter weeds and summer weeds. Spraying to gain good control will be expensive and will need good management to keep the number of spray applications to a minimum.

Albany:

Recent rainfalls have been of general benefit to crops in the high rainfall south west and south coast, especially for wheat and oat crops. Wheat is generally at the milky dough stage with green flag leaves.

Further east, grain is at the hard dough stage with no flag leaves, with no real gain from the recent rains but no damage either.

Rainfall of around 100mm in October, and 20mm in the last week, has set up good grain quality and yield in 50% of the Albany zone, with the remainder of crops still expected to yield as reported in the October Update report.

In western districts canola swathing has commenced. In the east and south coast, the Canola harvest has started with yields ranging from 800kg to 2.2 t/ha. Gardiner and the south Stirlings are the poorest yielding regions.

The dry September in the Great Southern area meant the October rain was 2 weeks too late to be of real benefit. Wheat is 3-4 grains wide with late tillers filling well, canola just average.

A lot of Barley crops are stained and early maturing wheat grains are low in quality.

Rain is promoting regrowth and germination of weeds and crop-topping will be critical for clean paddocks.

Cleaving and pink grain in barley is apparent on several crops on the south coast and in the Borden and Pingrup districts.

In the Lakes districts harvesting of Barley and Field peas has commenced. Barley yields are achieving up to 3 t/ha but with marginal colour causing problems for reaching Malt grade. October rainfall varied between 26 to 86 mm for the districts between Kukerin to Lake Grace. Generally little impact on yield after a dry September, these rains helped maintain previous yield estimates with barley the only crop suffering a negative quality impact. Stem rust is still present in some eastern areas but spraying has stopped as there is no economic benefit from further spraying. There could well be rust issues for the 2012 growing season if further rains set up a green bridge over the summer period.

Esperance:

The Esperance zone has recorded between 80 and 180 mm of rain for the period 1 October to 7 November. Rain last week was too late to provide a yield boost but heavy enough to cause significant downgrading of grain quality. A fortnight of fine warm weather is needed to deliver at most average grain quality.

To date, only a relatively small amount of canola has been harvested, with average yields of 1.5 - 1.7 t/ha in the higher rainfall areas (Hopetoun/ Munglinup) and 1 t/ha in the medium to low rainfall areas. Wheat crops are losing quality potential with sprouted grain already seen in the Mace wheat variety. Most unharvested barley crops are already showing darker grain colour and will be unlikely to make Malt quality. A small amount of field peas have been harvested, but the late rain has done some damage with some crops lodged with pods shedding seed.

Geraldton:

North of Geraldton the harvest is 50 to 70% complete. Yield estimates remain the same as reported in the October Crop Update. Falling numbers range greatly across regions and varieties, with 50% of Magenta & Carnamah only making GP grade but Mace quality seems much better.

Exceptional yields are being reported for wheat crops east of Yuna at 3 to 3.5 t/ha in all paddocks even the poor sand areas. Harvesting of wheat is starting south of Geraldton down to Carnamah. Yields are good but the dry September has curtailed potential high yields especially out between Morawa to Perenjori. Quality wise there is some lodging in wheat and staining in barley.

Overall, over 50% of the Canola harvest has been completed with almost all Canola crops making Can1 grade. Yields are ranging between 1.6 to 2 t/ha.

No lupins have been harvested yet as growers seek to harvest the higher value crops first. Shedding in Mandelup lupins has started and will get worse with delays. Diseases have started to impact with weakened stems and lodging occurring, together with brown spot, anthracnose, and phomopsis.

Crop-topping has worked well but rain has allowed regrowth and further spraying will be required in many crops.

Most of the barley planted will make malt grade but colour quality is borderline now. Protein in barley is lower than predicted but as expected for wheat crops.

Weeds are a huge problem. Radish has germinated up to 6 times. Late crop-topping is needed where normal spray applications have only burnt the radish.

Crop condition Report

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

Port zone	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Kwinana	0	15	43	35	8
Albany	0	9	46	34	11
Esperance	3	13	53	28	5
Geraldton	0	5	15	24	56
State Totals	0	10	39	31	20
Kwinana regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
East	0	30	40	30	0
North	0	0	20	50	30
Central	0	10	60	30	0
Southern	0	20	50	30	0
Total	0	15	43	35	8
Albany regions	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	0	10	50	40	0
West	0	5	25	35	35
Eastern	0	10	50	40	0
Coastal	0	10	60	20	10
Total	0	8.75	46.25	33.75	11.25
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	40	40	20
Total	2.5	12.5	52.5	27.5	5
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	10	30	40	20
Total	0	5	15	23.75	56.25

Additional information can be sourced from:

BoM rainfall totals for WA October 2011-

http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/silo/rain_maps.cgi?map=contours&variable=totals&area=wa&period=1month®ion=wa&time=latest

DAFWA Wheat yield forecast October 2011-

http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/objtwr/imported_assets/content/lwe/cli/wa_shire_wheat_yield_gen_avg_oct_03_2011.pdf

DAFWA Statistical Seasonal forecast-

http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/PC_94494.html

DAFWA November Seasonal Update-

http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/objtwr/imported_assets/content/lwe/cli/seasonalupdatenov11.pdf

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