

GIWA Crop Report

May 18, 2012

WA Planting area estimate (hectares)

Port zone	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea	State total
Kwinana	2,450,000	450,000	300,000	110,000	95,000	5,000	
Albany	675,000	350,000	230,000	85,000	20,000	5,000	
Esperance	450,000	280,000	225,000	4,000	15,000	40,000	
Geraldton	950,000	30,000	160,000	5,000	160,000	1,000	
Totals	4,525,000	1,110,000	915,000	204,000	290,000	51,000	7,095,000
<i>2011</i>	<i>4,501,000</i>	<i>1,098,000</i>	<i>749,000</i>	<i>197,000</i>	<i>333,000</i>	<i>60,000</i>	<i>6,938,000</i>

WA 5 year grain production to 2010/11

	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea
Production (t)	6,468,000	2,335,000	813,000	526,000	516,000	61,000
Yield (t/ha)	1.43	1.78	1.02	2.01	1.01	0.90

Source: ABARES Crop Report February 2012

Since the April 26 report, rainfall across the Western Australian land division has provided a substantial break to the season for approximately half of the states growers. The area south west of a line from Badgingarra to Bremer Bay and the south eastern coast, received from 30 to 50mm. In other areas, rainfalls were lower to negligible.

The rainfall has added to the existing soil moisture from March and April rain, to provide confidence in the 2012 season in the west Kwinana, Albany and Esperance zones.

Dry seeding commenced in late April in most regions. Lupins and canola plantings are substantially finished in northern and eastern regions. Planting of wheat and barley is continuing in all areas.

The early break, and current market indications, has provided a further boost to confidence in planting canola. It has also provided a good opportunity to achieve knock down weed control.

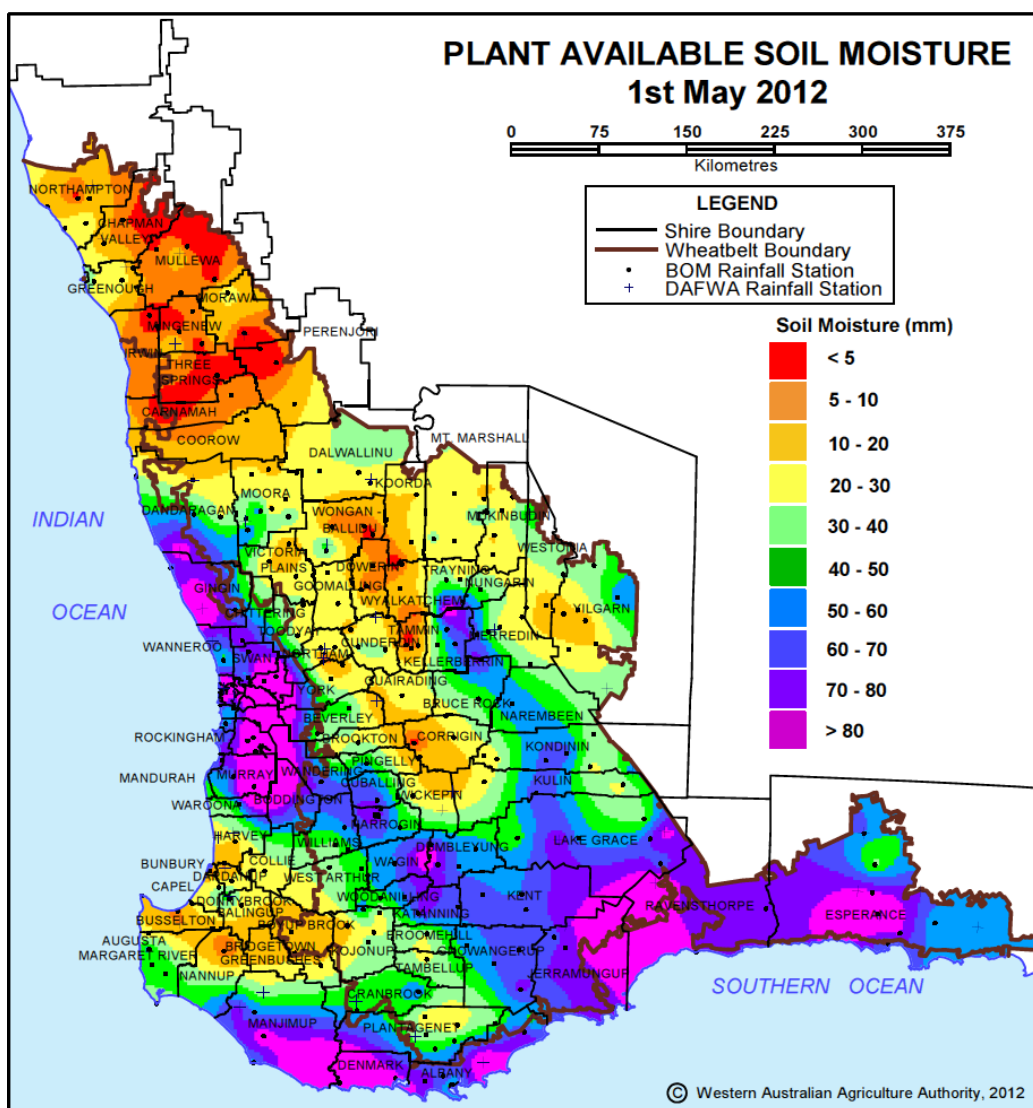
Planting area estimates, shown in the table above from April 26, are at this stage unchanged. Wheat sowings may be reduced slightly in preference for canola.

Kwinana: The west Kwinana zone received good rainfall in early May. Sowing of canola, wheat and lupins is continuing. Further east, from Kellerberrin, the rainfall was less but has enabled sowing to commence. Dry sown canola and lupins has already germinated and is awaiting follow up rains.

Albany: Substantial rainfall across almost the entire Albany Port Zone, extending to the Lakes region, promises high yield potential. Growers are planting canola, lupins and pastures. Knockdown weed control should be possible before sowing wheat and barley.

Esperance: Rainfall in the Esperance Port Zone ranged from 50mm near the coast to 15mm at Salmon Gums. Planting of canola and lupins has mostly finished and activity is now moving to planting cereal crops. Early germinated canola at Cascades is developing quickly, and showing high yield potential at this early stage.

Geraldton: Rainfall was light in the Geraldton zone but adequate to germinate dry sown canola and lupins. Seeding is continuing unabated in all areas. Germinated crops are showing rapid early growth. Pests and weeds appear to be having little influence at this stage.



Department of Agriculture and Food



Additional information can be sourced from:

- **[BoM rainfall deciles for WA April 2012](#)**
- **[BoM rainfall deciles for WA February to April 2012](#)**
- **[DAFWA Statistical Seasonal forecast](#)**
- **[BoM- WA Seasonal Rainfall Outlook: probabilities for May to July 2012](#)**
- **[DAFWA Seasonal Update April 2012](#)**
- **[BoM month to date rainfall for WA](#)**

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.

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