

GIWA Crop Report

June 8 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

The planted area estimates are at this stage unchanged from the last report on May 17, pending final sowing activities. It is likely that the area planted may be revised downwards slightly, especially for canola in the Geraldton and Kwinana zones. The yield potential of all grain declined during May due to lack of meaningful widespread rainfall events, but it is still possible that the crops can recover to reach average yields during 2012.

After a general rain across WA in early May that provided up to 50 mm in southern regions and 15 to 25mm in the northern regions, the remainder of May was obstinately dry, with the exception of the far southern part of the Albany zone.

Sowing had stopped in the northern regions as growers assess the risk of continuing to seed into dry soils.

However, widespread rainfall on 6th and 7th June, with further rain forecast through the next week will see sowing resume and growers complete their 2012 programs. Whilst sowing of Canola and lupins has finished there is still wheat and barley to be completed plus oats and field pea.

Note that the crop condition scores attached to this report were compiled prior to this week's rainfall.

Kwinana: The area east of Moora has had its equal driest opening on record. Moora has only had 7mm. The Bindi Bindi to Miling district is in good condition after 25mm of rain in May. The coastal region from Reagan's Ford to Dandaragan is in very good condition. Further north past Badgingarra is poor to very poor.

Most seeding had stopped with the majority of the best country sown. The rain events of 6-11 June are expected to see sowing programs resume and be completed.

The canola area is 10 to 15% up on 2011 and all sown.

The barley area is down slightly on last year with a big varietal swing to Hindmarsh.

In the central and eastern wheatbelt, decisions are being made now about paddocks to cull. 10 to 30% of the intended program has already been dropped in the east as the production risk is now very high to extreme.

Early sown Canola is just surviving; while non-germinated canola should germinate (90%) after this weeks and next week's rain.

Soil moisture is 30 to 50 cm deep, requiring substantial rainfall events for crops to be able to utilise it. Soil Nitrogen, as a consequence of the summer rain, is very high and adequate for early growth.

Albany: Seeding is 80% complete with wheat, barley and field peas still to go. Some paddocks may be left out for volunteer pasture. Generally, more canola has been sown in preference to lupins.

Sowing programs in the Lakes region have not finished yet. There is patchy germination which is worse on heavier soils. Germinated crops are OK and will survive and average yields are still expected given the recent rains.

Further south in the Albany zone is generally in very good condition after substantial rain at the start and finish of May combined with generally mild temperatures. 60% of the crop has germinated well and the rest will be germinating now, all with very good yield potential.

The western and south coast districts are in excellent condition and the eastern areas have improved in the last two weeks.

There have been some insect issues with vegetable weevil and mites.

Esperance: 85% of the crop is sown, with a lesser percentage completed around Salmon Gums and east of Esperance. However, the sowing window in the Esperance zone is reasonably long and yield potential remains good despite the recent concerns.

Crops in the mallee district, north from Grass Patch, are in very poor condition. It improves southwards towards Scaddan and Cascades. The Beaumont district, east of Esperance is also very dry. At least 10mm of rain is needed in the next two weeks to revive the yield prospects. The area from Ravensthorpe to Mt Madden is in poor condition after only 7 to 15mm of rainfall in early May. The west coastal area, from Hopetoun, is in very good condition due to frequent light coastal showers through May.

Some post emergent weed control in canola has been necessary, and nitrogen applications are currently on hold pending further rain.

Geraldton: The Geraldton zone is dry and dusty. Crops generally have patchy to poor germination on heavy soils, with more even germination on light soils. Early dry sown lupin and canola crops around Binu have died, or won't make a viable crop. Resowing will be considered after the early June rains but in most cases this is too late and likely to be unprofitable.

Paddocks planted after the May rains have a patchy to poor germination, but the non-germinated seed appears to be viable and will produce an adequate establishment rate after further rain.

It is estimated that Canola crops in the Geraldton zone will currently only average 0.8t/ha, while lupin yield potential will also be below average.

Only about 20% of the intended sown area is in the ground from Morawa to Perenjori. Elsewhere seeding is almost complete but with maybe only a 10% germination achieved in the Carnamah/Coorow districts. Wheat in the Chapman Valley is at the 4 leaf stage and surviving. Growers will look to reduce inputs on wheat to match the season. Hindmarsh barley is proving popular as growers target the feed barley market.

June 5 2012

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

Port zone	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Kwinana	35	43	23	0	0
Albany	0	11	53	34	3
Esperance	20	30	30	15	5
Geraldton	43	44	14	0	0
State Totals	24	32	30	12	2

Crop condition report as %

Kwinana	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
East	50	40	10	0	0
North	20	60	20	0	0
Central	40	30	30	0	0
Southern	30	40	30	0	0
Total	35	43	23	0	0

Crop condition report as %

Albany	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	0	10	55	35	0
West	0	20	50	20	10
Eastern	0	10	55	35	0
Coastal	0	5	50	45	0
Total	0	11.25	52.5	33.75	2.5

Crop condition report as %

Esperance	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Mallee	80	20	0	0	0
East coastal	0	80	20	0	0
North western	0	20	80	0	0
West coastal	0	0	20	60	20
Total	20	30	30	15	5

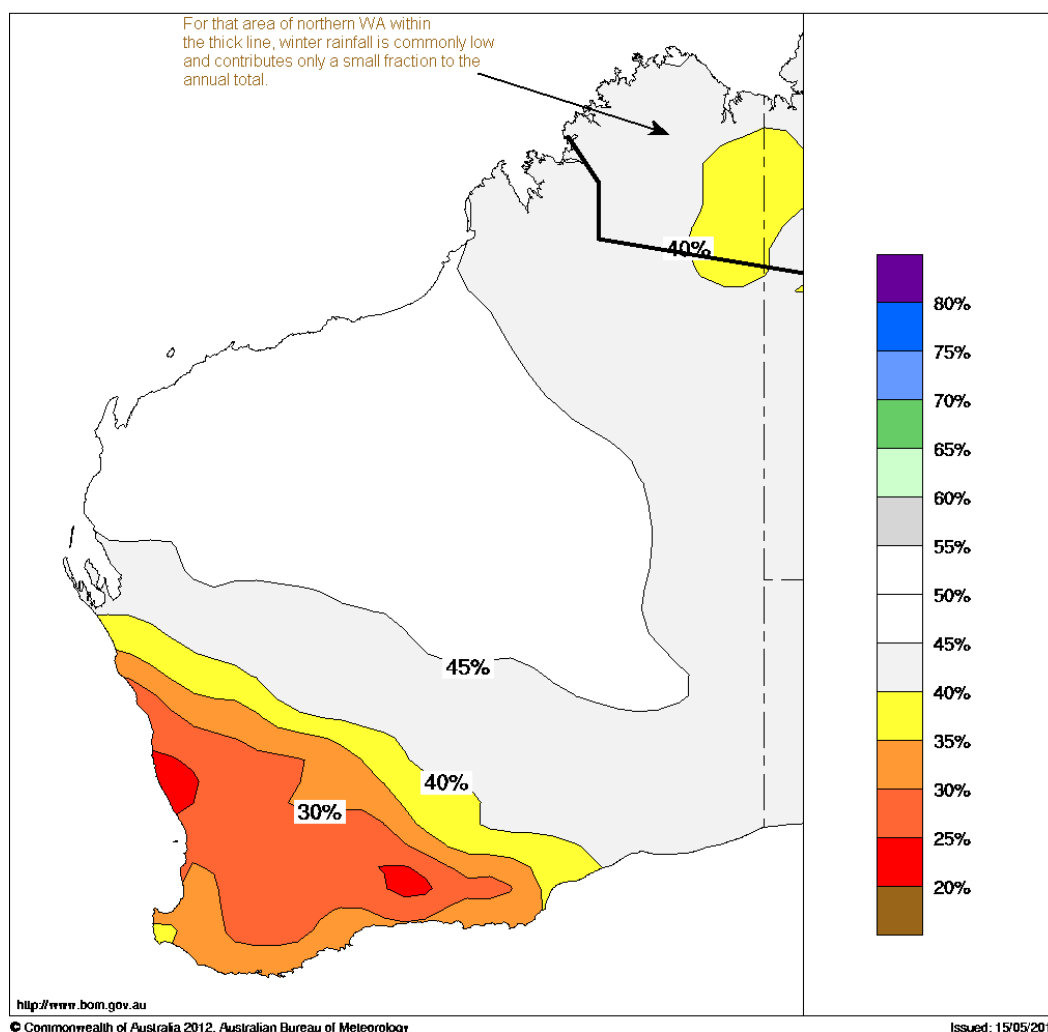
Crop condition report as %

Geraldton	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Northern	60	35	5	0	0
Eastern	60	30	10	0	0
Southern	25	60	15	0	0
South eastern	25	50	25	0	0
Total	42.5	43.75	13.75	0	0

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

Chance of exceeding the median Rainfall June to August 2012
Product of the National Climate Centre



Additional information can be sourced from:

- **BoM rainfall deciles for WA May 2012**
- **BoM rainfall deciles for WA March to May 2012**
- **DAFWA Statistical Seasonal forecast**
- **BoM- WA Seasonal Rainfall Outlook: probabilities for June to August 2012**
- **DAFWA Seasonal Update June 2012**
- **BoM month to date rainfall for WA**