

District Reports...

July–August 2019

Kwinana North-East

Cereals in the eastern areas of the Kwinana zone are on track for average grain yields. Most of the region had small reserves of sub-soil moisture when the break arrived and now with average or above average rain in June, the potential is there if the rain keeps falling.

The area of fallow is back on earlier predictions with planted area now up to originally planned hectares. Once growers got going on the remaining paddocks not sown dry following the rain in early June, most elected to complete their planned seeding programs.

Albany West

The region is in very good shape with many growers fertilising for above average grain yields.

Some of the earlier sown cereals have finished tillering and are starting to lift. The emergence of crops was very good with even plant stands across paddocks and good plant density.

There is no waterlogging in the susceptible areas just yet which can be a 'dampener' on yield in the zone. The more growth crops can put on now, the better they are able to handle waterlogging and grow away from it in the spring.

A lot of early nitrogen has been applied since the break and this has assisted with crop growth in the cold growing conditions.

Leaf disease is just starting to get going in barley with most crops being sprayed.

The barley area is up slightly from last year at the expense of wheat while the canola and oat areas are similar to 2018.

Albany South

The west and southern areas of region are in very good shape with crops well advanced with most average to above average yield potential. Rainfall has been lighter in the northern and eastern areas of the region and crop potential really tapers off east of the Pallinup River.

Crops to the north in the southern Lakes District and Western Esperance zone have missed out on the good opening rains that the rest of the state received. Crops in these areas have emerged well considering the conditions, although they will need more rain than what came their way in early July to reach average grain yields.

Crops in the western and coastal parts of the region are well advanced with cereal tiller numbers indicating in excess of six tonnes per hectare yield for barley. Canola crops are starting to flower and most have bulked up well prior to flowering indicating good yield potential.

Albany East (lakes region)

The rainfall in the region has followed a similar pattern as 2018 with a gradient of decreasing rainfall from north to south.

The region has very little stored moisture from rainfall events in April and May and whilst the recent rain in early July will go a little way in filling the profile, the region is going to need a good season from now to reach average grain yields.

Crops are later than growers would like for this time of the year and most cereals are just at the three leaf stage now. Crops

were very slow to get out of the ground. Crop emergence was a little patchy and staggered with weed control from the pre-emergent herbicides not quite as brilliant as further north in WA.

Cereal crops sown prior to the opening rains in June are cleaner than those sown just after the rain as grass weeds got the jump on emerging crops without a knockdown spray.

Barley area is up in the region replacing both canola area and wheat. The pasture area is slightly up as growers opted to keep more country out of crop in this region for stockfeed. As previously reported, the barley area this year will exceed wheat for the first time in history.

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GIWA Crop Report – July 5, 2019

NORTHERN DISTRICT

The cloud band and cold front that I mentioned in my previous report did show up on June 7 and did deliver significant rain across the region. All areas had a good opening rain at this time and the season is well underway. Rain fell for a few days in most



A well established wheat crop on the Eradu sand.



Jurien lupin crop that emerged with a May rain, north west Mullewa.