



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**
ABARES

Australian crop report

Prepared by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource
Economics and Sciences

No. 193

February 2020



© Commonwealth of Australia 2020

Ownership of intellectual property rights

Unless otherwise noted, copyright (and any other intellectual property rights, if any) in this publication is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia (referred to as the Commonwealth).

Creative Commons licence

All material in this publication is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) except content supplied by third parties, logos and the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

Inquiries about the licence and any use of this document should be emailed to copyright@awe.gov.au.



Cataloguing data

This publication (and any material sourced from it) should be attributed as: ABARES 2020, *Australian crop report*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra, February. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25814/5e3a014fa7e2d> CC BY 4.0.

ISSN 1447-8358

ISBN 978-1-74323-463-1

ABARES project AWP12

Internet

This publication is available at agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/agricultural-commodities/australian-crop-report

Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES)

GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601

Telephone 1800 900 090

Web awe.gov.au

The Australian Government acting through the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, represented by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, has exercised due care and skill in preparing and compiling the information and data in this publication. Notwithstanding, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, ABARES, its employees and advisers disclaim all liability, including liability for negligence and for any loss, damage, injury, expense or cost incurred by any person as a result of accessing, using or relying on any of the information or data in this publication to the maximum extent permitted by law.

The purpose of this publication is to provide a high level overview of domestic commodities for information only, it is not intended to be relied on as a comprehensive representation of Australia's agricultural sector or used for commercial purposes. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, ABARES and its employees do not accept responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the contents and disclaim all liability, including liability for negligence and for any loss, damage, injury, expense or cost incurred by any person directly or indirectly as a result of accessing, using or relying on any of the contents of this publication to the maximum extent permitted by law.

The next issue of *Australian crop report* is scheduled to be released on Wednesday 10 June 2020.

In the next issue:

2020–21 winter crop area and production forecasts

2019–20 summer crop area and production estimates updated

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Amelia Brown, Charley Xia, Chris Mornement, James Fell and Matthew Miller.

Contents

National overview	1
Climatic and agronomic conditions	4
Crop conditions and production forecasts, by state	9
New South Wales	9
Queensland	10
Victoria	12
South Australia	13
Western Australia	13
Statistical tables	15

Tables

Table 1 Summer crop area and production, Australia, 2009–10 to 2019–20	2
Table 2 Winter crop production, Australia, 2009–10 to 2019–20	2
Table 3 Winter crop area, Australia, 2009–10 to 2019–20	3
Table 4 Summer crop forecasts, New South Wales, 2019–20	10
Table 5 Winter crop estimates, New South Wales, 2019–20	10
Table 6 Summer crop forecasts, Queensland, 2019–20	11
Table 7 Winter crop estimates, Queensland, 2019–20	12
Table 8 Winter crop estimates, Victoria, 2019–20	12
Table 9 Winter crop estimates, South Australia, 2019–20	13
Table 10 Winter crop estimates, Western Australia, 2019–20	14
Table 11 Winter crop production and area, Australia, 2017–18 to 2019–20	15
Table 12 Summer crop production and area, Australia, 2017–18 to 2019–20	15
Table 13 Production, major crops, Australian states, 2017–18 to 2019–20	16
Table 14 Production, other crops, Australian states, 2017–18 to 2019–20	18
Table 15 Supply and disposal of wheat, canola and pulses, Australia, 2013–14 to 2018–19	20
Table 16 Supply and disposal of coarse grains, Australia, 2013–14 to 2018–19	21
Table 17 Grain, oilseed and pulse prices, first quarter 2018 to fourth quarter 2019	22

Maps

Map 1 Australian rainfall percentiles, 1 November 2019 to 31 January 2020	4
Map 2 Australian rainfall totals, 1 to 10 February 2020	5
Map 3 Upper layer soil moisture, January 2020	6
Map 4 Lower layer soil moisture, January 2020	7
Map 5 Rainfall outlook, March to May 2020	8

National overview

Production prospects for summer crops in Queensland and northern New South Wales remain well below average. This follows unfavourable seasonal conditions in December that further depleted soil moisture levels to well below average in most summer cropping regions and record lows in some others. These low levels of soil moisture constrained planting of summer crops in most regions. Other than in central Queensland, substantial rainfall from late January through to mid-February generally arrived too late for additional planting of summer crops. Sufficient and timely rainfall over the remainder of the summer crop season will be required to achieve average yields in most regions.

According to the latest three-month rainfall outlook (March to May), issued by the Bureau of Meteorology on 6 February 2020, rainfall in most cropping regions in Queensland and northern New South Wales is generally more likely to be below average than above average but this likelihood is generally stronger in Queensland. There is no strong tendency toward either above or below average rainfall in the remaining summer cropping regions.

Planting of **summer crops** is largely complete and planted area is estimated to have decreased by 66% in 2019–20 to 357,000 hectares. This is a 33% downward revision from the forecast ABARES published in the December 2019 *Australian crop report*, largely reflecting much more unfavourable conditions in December than expected. Total summer crop production is forecast to fall by 66% to around 878,000 tonnes.

Area planted to **grain sorghum** is estimated to have decreased by 71% in 2019–20 to 143,000 hectares. Production is forecast to fall by 77% to around 292,000 tonnes.

Area planted to **cotton** is forecast to fall by 82% in 2019–20 to 61,000 hectares because of low supplies of irrigation water and insufficient levels of soil moisture to plant dryland cotton. Planted area is estimated to be the lowest since 1978–79 when it was 50,000 hectares. Production is forecast to decline by 72% to around 135,000 tonnes of lint and 191,000 tonnes of seed. The average yield is forecast to rise from last season because almost all cotton crops this season are irrigated.

Rice production is forecast to remain low at around 54,000 tonnes because of low water allocations and high water prices.

Harvesting of 2019–20 **winter crops** is largely complete and estimated production remains largely unchanged from the forecast ABARES published in the December 2019 edition of *Australian crop report*. Higher than expected barley and canola production is estimated to have offset lower than expected wheat production.

Australian winter crop production is estimated to have decreased by 5% in 2019–20 to just under 29 million tonnes. Wheat production is estimated to have fallen by 12% to 15.2 million tonnes, barley production is estimated to have increased by 7% to 8.9 million tonnes and canola production is estimated to have increased by 7% to 2.3 million tonnes. Amongst other crops, chickpea production is estimated to have remained largely unchanged at 281,000 tonnes and oats production is estimated to have increased by 1% to 900,000 tonnes.

Winter crop area is estimated to have increased slightly in 2019–20 to 18 million hectares.

Table 1 Summer crop area and production, Australia, 2009–10 to 2019–20

Year	New South Wales		Queensland		Australia	
	'000 ha	kt	'000 ha	kt	'000 ha	kt
2009–10	381	1405	514	1342	903	2764
2010–11	713	2514	790	1901	1514	4446
2011–12	757	3064	783	2379	1556	5489
2012–13	711	3205	686	2250	1411	5506
2013–14	568	2317	559	1469	1139	3847
2014–15	435	2044	696	2134	1149	4263
2015–16	412	1646	624	1814	1054	3552
2016–17	662	2289	566	1278	1247	3666
2017–18	614	2205	649	1648	1283	3952
2018–19 s	425	1019	617	1493	1056	2593
2019–20 f	101	343	239	459	357	878
% change 2018–19 to 2019–20	-76.3	-66.3	-61.3	-69.3	-66.2	-66.1

s ABARES estimate. **f** ABARES forecast.

Note: State production includes cottonseed, grain sorghum, corn (maize), mung beans, rice, peanuts, soybeans and sunflowers. Total for Australia also includes navy beans, and small areas and volumes of summer crops in other states. Due to a change in scope by the ABS of its agricultural data collections, crop production is shown for establishments with an estimated value of agricultural operations (EVAO) of \$5,000 or more until 2014–15, and an EVAO of \$40,000 or more from 2015–16. Area based on planted crop that is harvested, fed off or failed.

Sources: ABARES; ABS

Table 2 Winter crop production, Australia, 2009–10 to 2019–20

Year	Unit	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Australia
2009–10	kt	7787	5,889	1,617	7,035	12,943	35,343
2010–11	kt	14784	7,625	1,821	9,316	8,044	41,672
2011–12	kt	11,952	7,352	2,329	7,371	16,600	45,673
2012–13	kt	11,123	6,886	2,156	6,470	11,244	37,936
2013–14	kt	9,773	6,774	1,516	7,221	16,511	41,881
2014–15	kt	10,445	5,117	1,464	7,439	14,662	39,198
2015–16	kt	11,624	3,568	2,104	6,104	14,206	37,687
2016–17	kt	15,510	9,511	3,159	10,656	17,737	56,675
2017–18	kt	7,743	7,612	1,438	7,022	14,510	38,396
2018–19 s	kt	2,880	3,733	714	5,286	17,729	30,433
2019–20 s	kt	3,339	7,424	678	5,923	11,517	28,990
% change 2018–19 to 2019–20		15.9	98.9	-5.1	12.1	-35.0	-4.7

s ABARES estimate.

Notes: Includes barley, canola, chickpeas, faba beans, field peas, lentils, linseed, lupins, oats, safflower, triticale and wheat. Due to a change in scope by the ABS of its agricultural data collections, crop production is shown for establishments with an estimated value of agricultural operations (EVAO) of \$5,000 or more until 2014–15, and an EVAO of \$40,000 or more from 2015–16.

Sources: ABARES; ABS

Table 3 Winter crop area, Australia, 2009–10 to 2019–20

Year	Unit	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Australia
2009–10	'000 ha	6,106	3,488	1,173	3,783	8,271	22,844
2010–11	'000 ha	6,158	3,457	1,217	3,821	7,715	22,392
2011–12	'000 ha	5,969	3,411	1,205	3,838	8,252	22,693
2012–13	'000 ha	5,852	3,457	1,222	3,776	8,097	22,421
2013–14	'000 ha	5,314	3,283	1,105	3,448	8,249	21,419
2014–15	'000 ha	5,491	3,304	995	3,639	8,313	21,760
2015–16	'000 ha	5,375	2,915	1,049	3,152	7,771	20,283
2016–17	'000 ha	6,062	3,231	1,375	3,904	8,531	23,126
2017–18	'000 ha	5,489	3,509	1,302	3,645	7,898	21,861
2018–19 ^s	'000 ha	2,971	2,903	715	3,326	8,050	17,987
2019–20 ^s	'000 ha	3,085	3,101	657	3,462	7,692	18,021
% change 2018–19 to 2019–20		3.8	6.8	-8.2	4.1	-4.4	0.2

^s ABARES estimate.

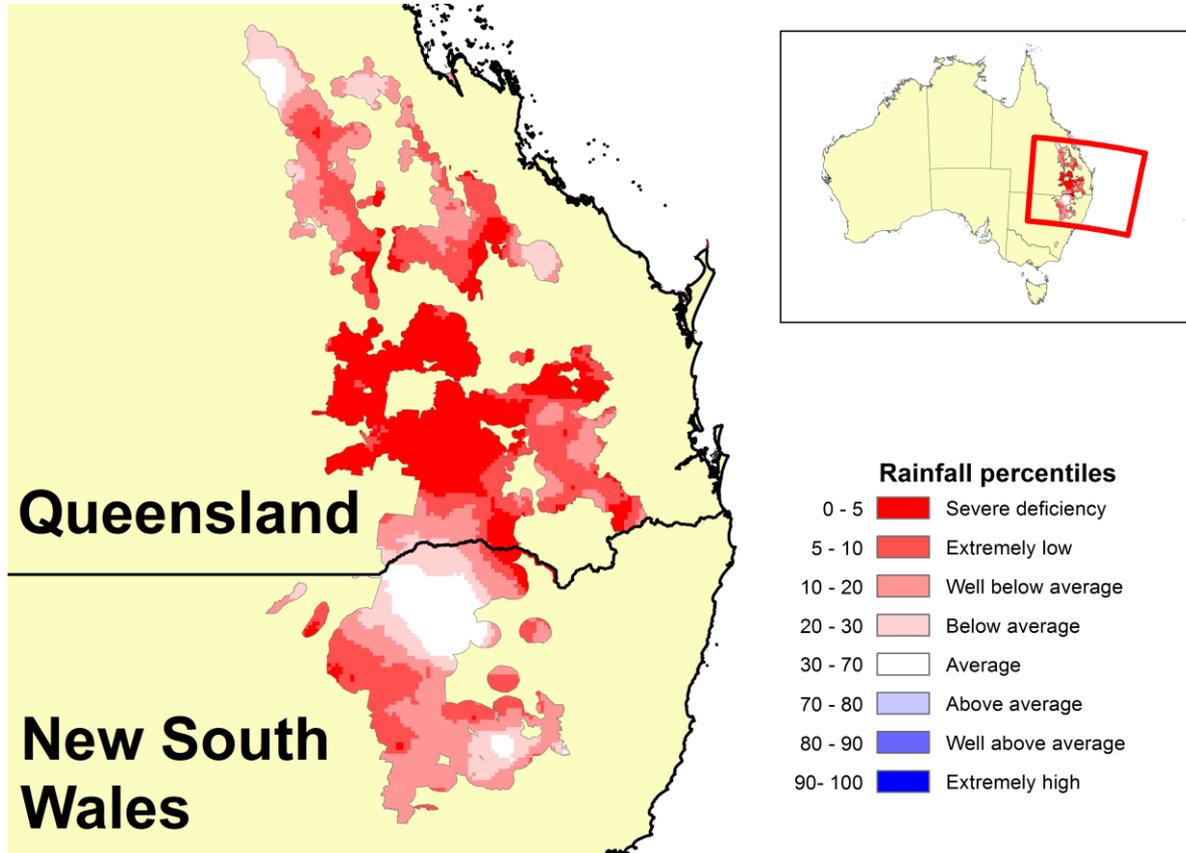
Notes: Includes barley, canola, chickpeas, faba beans, field peas, lentils, linseed, lupins, oats, safflower, triticale and wheat. Due to a change in scope by the ABS of its agricultural data collections, crop production is shown for establishments with an estimated value of agricultural operations (EVAO) of \$5,000 or more until 2014–15, and an EVAO of \$40,000 or more from 2015–16. Area based on planted crop that is harvested, fed off or failed.

Sources: ABARES; ABS

Climatic and agronomic conditions

From November 2019 to January 2020, rainfall was severely deficient to well below average in cropping regions in Queensland and extremely low to average in northern New South Wales. **(Map 1).**

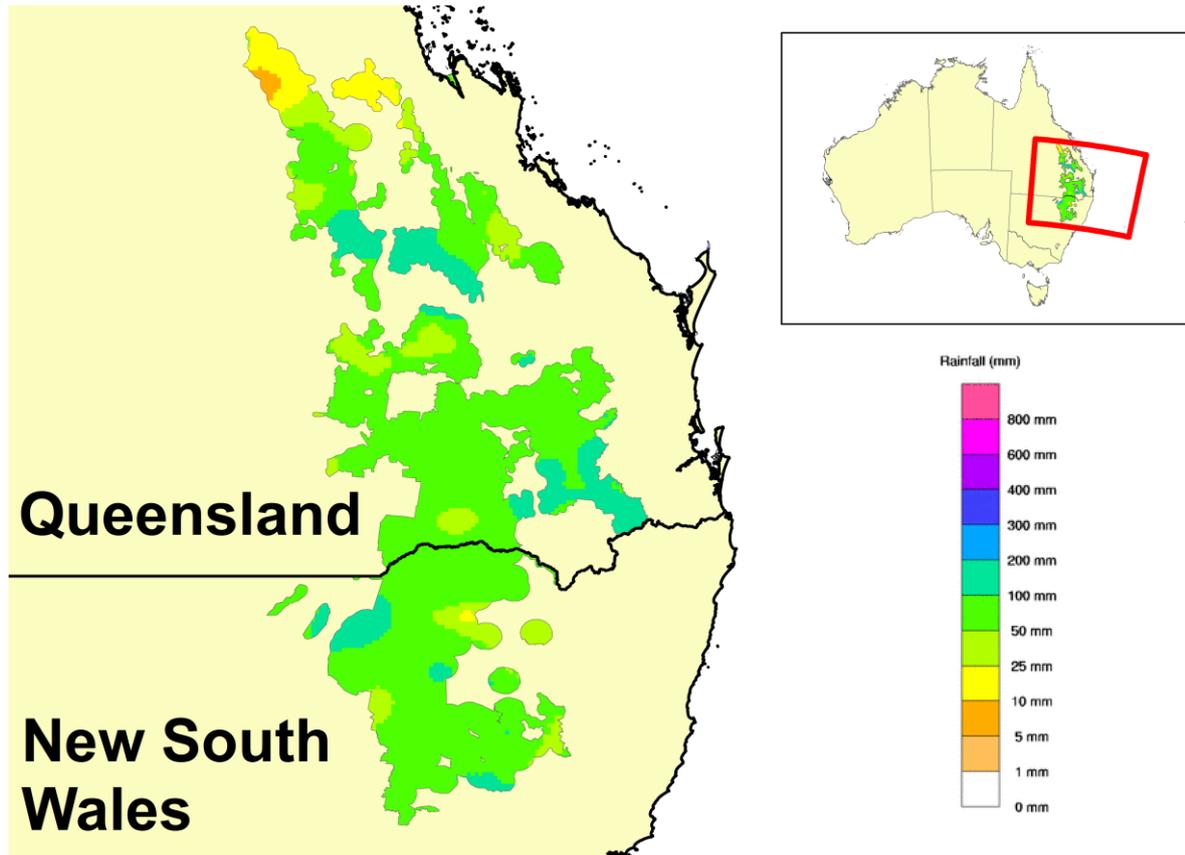
Map 1 Australian rainfall percentiles, 1 November 2019 to 31 January 2020



Note: Rainfall percentiles are displayed for grain sorghum growing regions only.
Source: Bureau of Meteorology

While rainfall from November 2019 to January 2020 was extremely low for most summer cropping areas, rainfall totals between 25 and 200 millimetres fell in the first 10 days of February in most cropping regions in Queensland and northern New South Wales **(Map 2)**. There were lighter falls of between 1 and 25 millimetres in northern cropping regions in Queensland.

Map 2 Australian rainfall totals, 1 to 10 February 2020



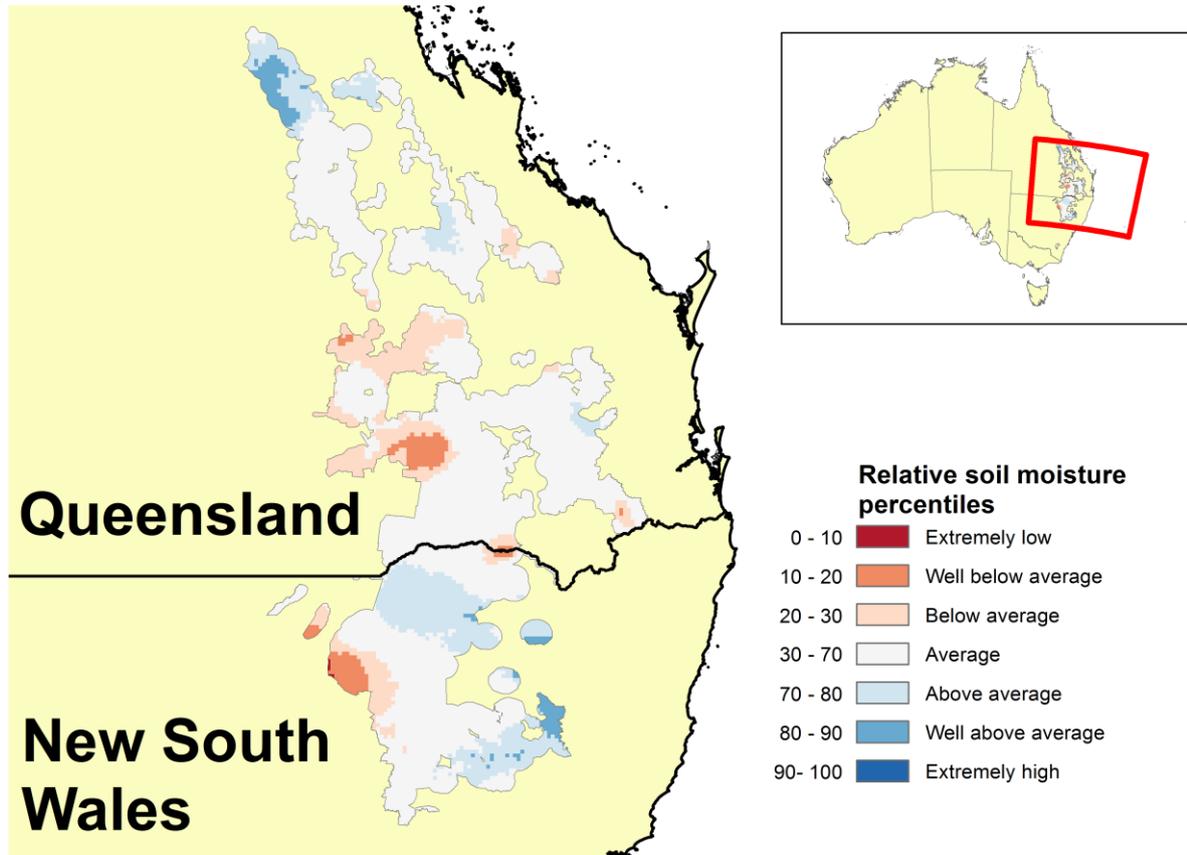
Note: Rainfall totals are displayed for grain sorghum growing regions only.
Source: Bureau of Meteorology

Map 3 and **Map 4** show the relative levels of modelled upper layer (~0.1 metres) and lower layer (~0.1 to ~1 metres) soil moisture for cropping zones across Australia for January 2019. Soil moisture estimates are relative to the historical long-term average (1911 to 2016) and presented in percentiles.

Upper layer soil moisture responds quickly to seasonal conditions and often shows a pattern that reflects rainfall and temperature events in the days leading up to the analysis date. Lower layer soil moisture is a larger, deeper store that is slower to respond to seasonal conditions and tends to reflect the accumulated effects of events that have occurred over longer periods.

Relative upper layer soil moisture levels in January 2020 (**Map 3**) in Queensland and northern New South Wales were mostly average or higher. There were some areas in both regions that were below average or lower.

Map 3 Upper layer soil moisture, January 2020

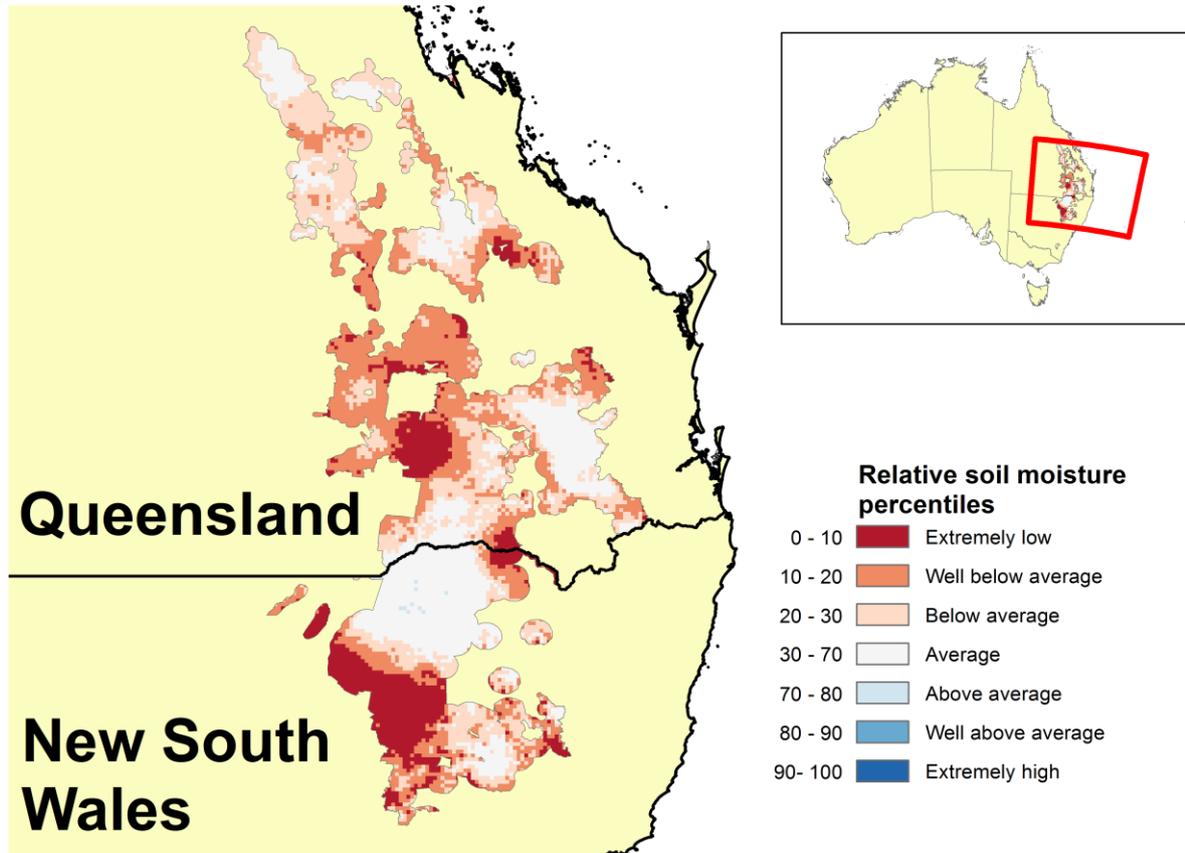


Note: Relative upper layer soil moisture is displayed for grain sorghum growing regions only. The extremely high band indicates where the estimated soil moisture level for January 2020 fell into the wettest 10 per cent of estimated soil moisture levels on that day each year between 1910 and 2015. The extremely low band indicates where the estimated soil moisture levels for January 2020 fell into the driest 10 per cent of estimated soil moisture levels on that day between 1910 and 2016.

Source: Bureau of Meteorology.

Relative lower layer soil moisture levels in January 2020 were below average or lower in most cropping regions in Queensland and the southern part of the New South Wales summer cropping region. Lower layer soil moisture levels were around average in the remaining cropping regions in Queensland and northern New South Wales (**Map 4**).

Map 4 Lower layer soil moisture, January 2020



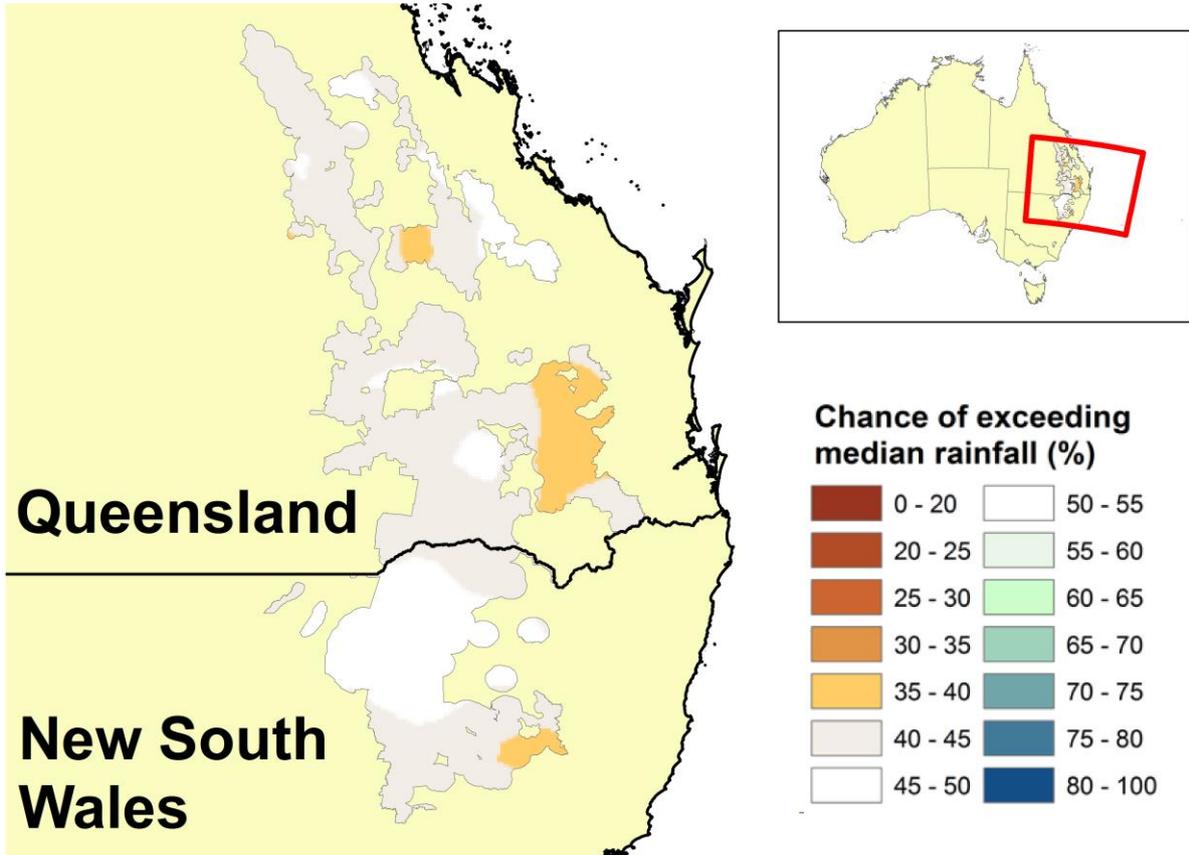
Note: Relative lower layer soil moisture is displayed for grain sorghum growing regions only. The extremely high band indicates where the estimated soil moisture level for January 2020 fell into the wettest 10 per cent of estimated soil moisture levels on that day each year between 1910 and 2015. The extremely low band indicates where the estimated soil moisture levels for January 2020 fell into the driest 10 per cent of estimated soil moisture levels on that day between 1910 and 2016.

Source: Bureau of Meteorology.

According to the latest three-month rainfall outlook (March to May), issued by the Bureau of Meteorology on 6 February 2020, rainfall in most cropping regions in Queensland and northern New South Wales is more likely to be below average than above average, but the likelihood of below average rainfall is generally stronger in Queensland than northern New South Wales. There is no strong tendency toward either above or below average rainfall in the remaining summer cropping regions (**Map 5**).

The outlook for maximum and minimum temperatures for March to May 2019 indicates hotter than average daytime and night-time temperatures are likely in cropping regions in northern New South Wales and Queensland. In areas with sufficient soil moisture, these hotter than average temperatures will benefit crop growth and yield prospects particularly for crop sown later than the recommended planting window. However, in areas of below average soil moisture, below average rainfall and hotter than average temperature are likely to decrease crop prospects.

Map 5 Rainfall outlook, March to May 2020



Note: Rainfall outlook is displayed for grain sorghum growing regions only.
Source: Bureau of Meteorology

Crop conditions and production forecasts, by state

New South Wales

Seasonal conditions for summer crop production in 2019–20 have been extremely unfavourable. Prolonged drought conditions resulted in record low soil moisture levels during the planting window, which limited the area planted to summer crops. December rainfall was below average across the State, and at record lows in many summer cropping areas. Record high temperatures occurred in almost all of New South Wales during December, with repeated bursts of days with above average temperatures. This followed an unfavourable spring during which temperatures were very much above average and rainfall very much below average. Although rainfall in January and early February boosted soil moisture and improve yield prospects for earlier planted crops, it was generally too late to encourage any significant late planting.

According to the latest three-month rainfall outlook (March to May), issued by the Bureau of Meteorology on 6 February 2020, below average rainfall is slightly more likely than above average rainfall in most summer cropping regions in New South Wales (Map 5). Temperatures in all summer cropping regions are likely to be higher than average.

Area planted to summer crops in New South Wales is estimated to have decreased by 76% in 2019–20 to a record low 101,000 hectares. Very low supplies of irrigation water and record low soil moisture in many regions prevented widespread planting of summer crops. Total summer crop production is forecast to fall by 66% to a record low 343,000 tonnes in 2019–20.

Area planted to **grain sorghum** in 2019–20 is estimated to be a record low of 12,000 hectares. Soil moisture levels were extremely low at the start of summer and significant widespread rainfall was needed for planting to occur. However, December and early January rainfall was below to very much below average and temperatures were record high. Yields are forecast to be below average and grain sorghum production expected to be around 30,000 tonnes, 89% lower than in 2018–19.

Area planted to **cotton** is estimated to have decreased by 81% to 43,000 hectares in 2019–20 due to low supplies of irrigation water during the planting window and insufficient levels of soil moisture to plant dryland cotton. Cotton production is forecast to fall by 70% to 98,000 tonnes of lint and around 138,000 tonnes of seed. The average yield is forecast to increase by 60% because nearly all cotton planted this season is irrigated.

Rice production in 2019–20 is forecast to fall marginally to 46,000 tonnes because of high water prices and low availability of irrigation water.

Table 4 Summer crop forecasts, New South Wales, 2019–20

Crop	Area '000 ha	Yield t/ha	Production kt	Area change %	Prod. change %
Grain sorghum	12	2.50	30	-89	-89
Cotton lint	43	2.27	98	-81	-70
Cottonseed	43	3.21	138	-81	-70
Rice	3.4	13.50	46	-15	-15

Note: Yields are based on area planted, except cotton which is based on area harvested. Area based on planted crop that is harvested, fed off or failed. Percent change are relative to last year.

Sources: ABARES

Winter crop production in New South Wales is estimated to have increased by 16% to around 3.3 million tonnes in 2019–20. Despite the increase this is 68% below the 10-year average to 2018–19. Area planted to winter crops was 44% below the 10-year average to 2018–19 reflecting very unfavourable seasonal conditions and a significant area intended for grain and oilseed production being cut for hay as seasonal conditions deteriorated.

Wheat production in 2019–20 is estimated to have increased by 16% to around 2.1 million tonnes. However, estimated production is 69% below the 10-year average to 2018–19. Area planted to wheat is estimated to have been 1.9 million hectares.

Barley production is estimated to have increased by 10% in 2019–20 to just below 700,000 tonnes. Although average yield is estimated to have increased, it is expected to be 41% below the 10-year average to 2018–19. Area planted to barley fell by 3% to 580,000 hectares.

Canola production is estimated to have increased to 225,000 tonnes in 2019–20, 75% below the 10-year average to 2018–19. The average yield is forecast to be well below average at 0.9 tonnes per hectare. Area planted to canola is estimated to have been 250,000 hectares, 60% below the 10-year average to 2018–19. A significant number of canola crops were cut for hay in early spring as the risk of crops failing before harvest rose.

Table 5 Winter crop estimates, New South Wales, 2019–20

Crop	Area '000 ha	Yield t/ha	Production kt	Area change %	Prod. change %
Wheat	1,900	1.10	2,090	6	16
Barley	580	1.20	696	-3	10
Canola	250	0.90	225	32	48

Note: Yields are based on area planted. Area based on planted crop that is harvested, fed off or failed. Percent change are relative to last year.

Sources: ABARES

Queensland

Prospects for summer crop production in Queensland remain well below average because of the long period of well below average rainfall in most cropping regions. Seasonal conditions during December were more unfavourable than expected and depleted soil moisture levels in most cropping regions to well below average and to record lows in others. Substantial rainfall in late January and early February is expected to facilitate some additional planting of summer crops in central Queensland. However, this rainfall was generally too late for the additional planting of summer crops in southern Queensland. Some growers are expected to increase area planted to

forage crops to avoid risks associated with carrying late planted grain crops through to harvest. Others will likely fallow their land in preparation for the upcoming winter crop season.

According to the latest three-month rainfall outlook (March to May), issued by the Bureau of Meteorology on 6 February 2020, below average rainfall is more likely than above average rainfall in most summer cropping regions in Queensland (Map 5). Temperatures in all summer cropping regions are likely to be higher than average.

Area planted to **summer crops** in Queensland is forecast to fall by 61% in 2019–20 to around 239,000 hectares. This is due to a significant fall in area planted to irrigated cotton and grain sorghum. Summer crop production is forecast to decrease by 69% to 459,000 tonnes.

Area planted to **grain sorghum** is forecast to fall by 66% in 2019–20 to 130,000 hectares, the lowest on record. Grain sorghum production is forecast to fall by 74% to 260,000 tonnes, driven by the fall in planted area and an expected 23% fall in the average yield.

Area planted to **cotton** is estimated to have decreased by 85% to 17,000 hectares in 2019–20, which is mainly comprised of irrigated cotton. Cotton production is forecast to decline by 77% to 37,000 tonnes of lint and around 53,000 tonnes of seed. The average yield is forecast to increase by 52% because nearly all the cotton planted is irrigated.

Rice production is forecast to remain largely unchanged at around 8,000 tonnes, constrained by local milling capacity. With the low level of rice production in New South Wales, Queensland production is expected to comprise around 15% of national production.

Table 6 Summer crop forecasts, Queensland, 2019–20

Crop	Area '000 ha	Yield t/ha	Production kt	Area change %	Prod. Change %
Grain sorghum	130	2.00	260	-66.2	-74.0
Cotton lint	17	2.14	37	-85.1	-77.3
Cottonseed	17	3.03	53	-85.1	-77.3

Note: Yields are based on area planted, except cotton which is based on area harvested. Area based on planted crop that is harvested, fed off or failed. Percent change are relative to last year.

Sources: ABARES

Winter crop production in Queensland in 2019–20 is estimated to have fallen by 5% to around 678,000 tonnes, which is the third consecutive fall in annual production since the record high production in 2016–17. Production in most cropping regions was constrained by well below average rainfall and above average temperatures during the season.

Winter crop area is estimated to be 657,000 hectares, which is 42% below the 10-year average to 2018–19 of 1.1 million hectares. This reflects drier than average seasonal conditions at the beginning of the winter crop season. Some area planted to wheat and barley intended for grain production was cut for hay in response to high fodder prices and unfavourable seasonal conditions that increased the risk of grain production.

Wheat production is estimated to have increased by 5% in 2019–20 to 420,000 tonnes, but remains well below the 10-year average to 2018–19 of 1.2 million tonnes.

Barley production is estimated to be 60,000 tonnes, which is well below the 10-year average to 2018–19 of 214,000 tonnes. This resulted from below average winter rainfall in southern Queensland, where most barley is grown in the state.

Production of **chickpeas** is estimated to have been 170,000 tonnes. Area planted to chickpeas is estimated to have fallen by 15% to 170,000 hectares in response to lower prices and weaker import demand from India. Yields are estimated to have increased because almost all chickpeas are grown in central Queensland where seasonal conditions improved from last season.

Table 7 Winter crop estimates, Queensland, 2019–20

Crop	Area	Yield	Production	Area change	Prod. change
	'000 ha	t/ha	kt	%	%
Wheat	400	1.05	420	0.0	5.0
Barley	45	1.33	60	-35.7	-36.5
Chickpeas	170	1.00	170	-15.0	-10.5

Note: Yields are based on area planted. Area based on planted crop that is harvested, fed off or failed. Percent change are relative to last year.

Sources: ABARES

Victoria

Winter crop production in Victoria is forecast to almost double in 2019–20 to around 7.4 million tonnes, which is 16% above the 10-year average to 2018–19. Production in most cropping regions outside of the northern Mallee and the north eastern parts of the Victorian cropping region were boosted by timely and sufficient rainfall, with production in the southern Mallee, Wimmera and the Western districts estimated to be well above average.

Planted area is estimated to have increased by 7%, after fewer crops intended for grains and oilseeds production were cut for hay compared to last year.

Wheat production is estimated to have increased by 85% in 2019–20 to 3.6 million tonnes, which reflects a significant increase in the average yield. The estimated average yield of 2.5 tonnes per hectare is 18% above the 10-year average to 2018–19.

Barley production is estimated to have increased by 127% in 2019–20 to 2.5 million tonnes, which is 35% above the 10-year average to 2018–19. The estimated increase is largely the result of an estimated 113% increase in the average yield. This yield improvement was driven by favourable seasonal conditions in the Wimmera and the Western districts.

Canola production is estimated to have increased by 117% in 2019–20 to around 650,000 tonnes. Production last year was low after many canola crops intended for oilseed production were cut for hay. Planted area is estimated to have increased by 28% and the average yield is estimated to have increased by 69%.

Table 8 Winter crop estimates, Victoria, 2019–20

Crop	Area	Yield	Production	Area change	Prod. Change
	'000 ha	t/ha	kt	%	%
Wheat	1,450	2.48	3,600	3.6	84.6
Barley	820	3.05	2,500	6.5	127
Canola	385	1.69	650	28.3	117

Note: Yields are based on area planted. Area based on planted crop that is harvested, fed off or failed. Percent change are relative to last year.

Sources: ABARES

South Australia

Winter crop production in South Australia is estimated to have increased by 12% in 2019–20 to around 5.9 million tonnes, but remains well below the 10-year average to 2018–19 of 7.4 million tonnes. Yields in most northern cropping regions were well below average as a result of below average rainfall and above average spring temperatures.

Winter crop area in South Australia is estimated to have increased by around 4%, largely because less area planted to cereal crops and intended for grain production was cut for hay in 2019–20 than in 2018–19.

Wheat production is estimated to have increased by 8.5% in 2019–20 to around 3.2 million tonnes, but remains well below the 10-year average to 2018–19 of 4.4 million tonnes. The estimated average yield of 1.6 tonnes per hectare is 22% below the 10-year average to 2018–19. This reflects well below average yields in most northern cropping regions including in the upper Eyre Peninsula, upper North and the northern Mallee.

Barley production is estimated to have increased by 21% to just under 1.9 million tonnes but is slightly below the 10-year average to 2018–19 of around 2.0 million tonnes. A partial shift towards barley production in some regions and yields mostly around average in southern cropping regions supported the higher production in 2019–20.

Canola production is estimated to have increased by 15% to around 300,000 tonnes, which largely reflects an estimated 10% increase in planted area. The estimated average yield of 1.4 tonnes per hectare is slightly below the 10-year average to 2018–19. Canola production was supported by sufficient and timely rainfall in the southern Eyre Peninsula and the South East.

Table 9 Winter crop estimates, South Australia, 2019–20

Crop	Area	Yield	Production	Area change	Prod. change
	'000 ha	t/ha	kt	%	%
Wheat	1,950	1.64	3,200	5.4	8.5
Barley	845	2.19	1,850	3.0	20.5
Canola	220	1.36	300	10.0	15.4

Note: Yields are based on area planted. Area based on planted crop that is harvested, fed off or failed. Percent change are relative to last year.

Sources: ABARES

Western Australia

Winter crop production in Western Australia is estimated to have decreased by 35% in 2019–20 to 11.5 million tonnes, the lowest since 2012–13. This fall largely reflects lower yields resulting from below average in-crop rainfall and above average spring temperatures.

Wheat production is estimated to have decreased by 43% in 2019–20 to 5.8 million tonnes, reflecting an estimated 39% fall in the average yield. Area planted to wheat is estimated to be 4.4 million hectares, 8% lower than the 10-year average to 2018–19 and reflects a partial shift from wheat to barley production.

Barley production is estimated to have decreased by 25% in 2019–20 to 3.7 million tonnes, largely reflecting an estimated 34% decrease in the average yield from the high yield in 2018–

19. Area planted to barley is estimated to have increased by 14% to around 1.7 million hectares, largely at the expense of area planted to wheat.

Canola production is estimated to have decreased by 21% in 2019–20 to 1.2 million tonnes. This largely reflects an estimated 22% fall in planted area resulting from unfavourable seasonal conditions during the planting window for canola.

Table 10 Winter crop estimates, Western Australia, 2019–20

Crop	Area	Yield	Production	Area change	Prod. change
	'000 ha	t/ha	kt	%	%
Wheat	4,400	1.32	5,800	-6	-43
Barley	1,650	2.24	3,700	14	-25
Canola	940	1.22	1,150	-22	-21
Lupins	350	1.00	350	-8	-42

Note: Yields are based on area planted. Area based on planted crop that is harvested, fed off or failed. Percent change are relative to last year.

Sources: ABARES

Statistical tables

Table 11 Winter crop production and area, Australia, 2017–18 to 2019–20

Crop	Area			Production		
	2017–18 '000 ha	2018–19 s '000 ha	2019–20 s '000 ha	2017–18 kt	2018–19 s kt	2019–20 s kt
Wheat	10919	10159	10110	20941	17298	15165
Barley	4124	3719	3950	9254	8310	8851
Canola	3171	1893	1798	3893	2180	2329
Chickpeas	1075	303	263	998	282	281
Faba beans	313	178	196	416	217	327
Field peas	291	179	230	317	152	225
Lentils	418	303	240	543	323	338
Lupins	612	500	484	714	693	475
Oats	874	680	673	1227	888	900
Triticale	55	66	71	87	89	96

s ABARES estimate.

Notes: Crop year refers to crops planted during the 12 months to 31 March. Slight discrepancies may appear between tables as a result of including the Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory in Australian totals. Area based on planted crop that is harvested, fed off or failed.

Sources: ABARES; ABS; Pulse Australia

Table 12 Summer crop production and area, Australia, 2017–18 to 2019–20

Crop	Area			Production		
	2017–18 '000 ha	2018–19 s '000 ha	2019–20 f '000 ha	2017–18 kt	2018–19 s kt	2019–20 f kt
Grain sorghum	462	496	143	1255	1278	292
Cottonseed a	526	343	61	1497	686	191
Cotton lint a	526	343	61	1058	485	135
Rice	61	5	5	635	61	54
Corn (maize)	53	55	30	387	392	207
Soybeans	32	26	16	29	42	26
Sunflower	14	19	13	15	23	15

a Cotton area is estimated harvested area. f ABARES forecast. s ABARES estimate.

Notes: Crop year refers to crops planted during the 12 months to 31 March. Slight discrepancies may appear between tables as a result of including the Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory in Australian totals. Area based on planted crop that is harvested, fed off or failed.

Sources: ABARES; ABS; Cotton Australia.

Table 13 Production, major crops, Australian states, 2017–18 to 2019–20

Winter crops	New South Wales		Victoria		Queensland		South Australia		Western Australia		Tasmania	
	Area '000 ha	Prod. kt	Area '000 ha	Prod. kt	Area '000 ha	Prod. kt						
Wheat												
2019–20 s	1,900	2,090	1,450	3,600	400	420	1,950	3,200	4,400	5,800	10	55
2018–19 s	1,800	1,800	1,400	1,950	400	400	1,850	2,950	4,700	10,150	9	48
2017–18	2,793	4,703	1,447	3,682	639	765	1,976	4,052	4,057	7,699	7	40
Five-year average to 2018–19	2,788	5,975	1,427	2,949	581	994	1,964	4,283	4,618	8,966	9	48
Barley												
2019–20 s	580	696	820	2,500	45	60	845	1,850	1,650	3,700	10	45
2018–19 s	600	630	770	1,100	70	95	820	1,535	1,450	4,916	9	34
2017–18	763	1,305	844	2,110	105	188	876	1,861	1,531	3,775	5	16
Five-year average to 2018–19	854	1,833	864	1,755	117	269	857	2,012	1,473	3,850	6	23
Canola												
2019–20 s	250	225	385	650	2	1	220	300	940	1,150	1	3
2018–19 s	190	152	300	300	1	1	200	260	1,200	1,464	2	3
2017–18	860	893	542	938	1	0	237	335	1,531	1,724	1	4
Five-year average to 2018–19	621	849	386	543	1	1	224	304	1,314	1,641	1	3
Oats												
2019–20 s	190	171	100	175	35	18	65	90	280	440	3	7
2018–19 s	200	140	130	140	39	21	48	80	260	500	3	7
2017–18	366	229	97	188	45	12	57	94	306	697	3	6
Five-year average to 2018–19	307	320	133	237	47	26	63	109	300	678	3	6

continued ...

Table 13 Production, major crops, Australian states, 2017–18 to 2019–20 (continued)

Summer crops	New South Wales		Victoria		Queensland		South Australia		Western Australia		Tasmania	
	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.
	'000 ha	kt	'000 ha	kt	'000 ha	kt	'000 ha	kt	'000 ha	kt	'000 ha	kt
Grain sorghum												
2019–20 f	12	30	0	0	130	260	0	0	1	2	0	0
2018–19 s	110	275	0	0	385	1,001	0	0	1	2	0	0
2017–18	108	279	0	0	353	974	0	0	1	1	0	0
Five-year average to 2018–19	135	426	0	1	380	1,075	0	0	1	3	0	0
Cottonseed a												
2019–20 f	43	138	0	0	17	53	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018–19 s	227	454	0	0	117	231	0	0	0	0	0	0
2017–18	351	1,044	0	0	175	453	0	0	0	0	0	0
Five-year average to 2018–19	247	669	0	0	132	347	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rice												
2019–20 f	3	46	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018–19 s	4	54	0	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
2017–18	60	628	0	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Five-year average to 2018–19	48	488	0	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0

a Cotton area is estimated harvested area. **f** ABARES forecast. **s** ABARES estimate.

Note: Zero is used to denote nil or less than 500 tonnes or 500 hectares. Area based on planted crop that is harvested, fed off or failed.

Sources: ABARES; ABS

Table 14 Production, other crops, Australian states, 2017–18 to 2019–20

Winter crops	New South Wales		Victoria		Queensland		South Australia		Western Australia		Tasmania	
	Area '000 ha	Prod. kt	Area '000 ha	Prod. kt	Area '000 ha	Prod. kt						
Chickpeas												
2019–20 s	25	20	50	75	170	170	10	10	8	6	0	0
2018–19 s	50	35	20	20	200	190	25	25	8	12	0	0
2017–18	450	407	77	78	507	467	34	38	7	8	0	0
Five-year average to 2018–19	317	401	31	36	335	476	22	23	5	7	0	0
Field peas												
2019–20 s	35	32	55	55	0	0	105	100	35	38	0	0
2018–19 s	39	29	50	35	0	0	70	50	20	38	0	0
2017–18	75	46	84	91	0	0	102	137	31	42	0	0
Five-year average to 2018–19	53	60	58	62	0	0	99	114	26	39	0	0
Lentils												
2019–20 s	6	5	110	155	0	0	110	160	14	18	0	0
2018–19 s	7	5	125	105	0	0	160	200	11	13	0	0
2017–18	2	1	210	261	0	0	198	274	8	6	0	0
Five-year average to 2018–19	3	4	128	137	0	0	147	249	4	4	0	0
Lupins												
2019–20 s	55	41	34	37	0	0	45	46	350	350	0	0
2018–19 s	50	38	30	20	0	0	40	35	380	600	0	1
2017–18	95	46	49	52	0	0	66	82	402	532	0	1
Five-year average to 2018–19	69	65	38	38	0	0	61	69	352	555	0	0

continued ...

Table 14 Production, other crops, Australian states, 2017–18 to 2019–20 (continued)

Summer crops	New South Wales		Victoria		Queensland		South Australia		Western Australia		Tasmania	
	Area '000 ha	Prod. kt	Area '000 ha	Prod. kt	Area '000 ha	Prod. kt						
Corn (maize)												
2019–20 f	10	90	8	50	10	50	0	0	2	13	0	4
2018–19 s	18	162	5	55	30	159	0	0	2	12	0	4
2017–18	20	190	5	60	26	115	0	0	2	18	0	4
Five-year average to 2018–19	20	194	6	61	30	153	0	0	1	12	0	2
Soybeans												
2019–20 f	10	17	1	1	5	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018–19 s	16	27	1	1	9	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
2017–18	24	17	1	1	7	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Five-year average to 2018–19	16	23	1	1	7	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sunflower												
2019–20 f	7	10	0	0	5	5	0	0	1	0	0	0
2018–19 s	10	14	0	0	8	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
2017–18	10	9	0	0	4	5	0	0	0	2	0	0
Five-year average to 2018–19	10	12	0	0	7	6	0	0	2	3	0	0

f ABARES forecast. s ABARES estimate.

Note: Zero is used to denote nil or less than 500 tonnes or 500 hectares. Area based on planted crop that is harvested, fed off or failed.

Sources: ABARES; ABS; Pulse Australia

Table 15 Supply and disposal of wheat, canola and pulses, Australia, 2013–14 to 2018–19

Crop	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19 s
	kt	kt	kt	kt	kt	kt
Wheat						
Production	25303	23743	22275	31819	20941	17298
Apparent domestic use	6785	7154	7233	7805	8685	8920
– seed	619	564	610	612	508	506
– other a	6165	6590	6623	7193	8177	8414
Exports b	18612	16587	16116	22636	13820	8981
Imports b	20	22	25	25	28	327
Canola						
Production	3832	3540	2775	4313	3893	2180
Apparent domestic use a	969	915	1088	972	900	980
Exports	2863	2626	1857	3458	2489	1591
Pulses						
Production						
– lupins	626	549	652	1031	714	693
– field peas	342	290	205	415	317	152
– chickpeas	629	555	875	2004	998	282
Apparent domestic use a						
– lupins	286	306	398	637	258	487
– field peas	175	124	72	148	189	79
– chickpeas	0	1	1	1	1	1
Exports						
– lupins	340	243	254	395	456	206
– field peas	169	168	134	268	130	75
– chickpeas	629	663	1145	2293	724	372

a Calculated as a residual: production plus imports less exports less any observed or assumed change in stocks and, for wheat only, less seed use. **b** Includes grain and grain equivalent of wheat flour. **s** ABARES estimate.

Notes: Production, use, trade and stock data are on a marketing year basis: October–September for wheat; November–October for canola and pulses. Export data on a marketing year basis are not comparable with financial year export figures published elsewhere. Zero is used to denote nil or less than 500 tonnes. Due to a change in scope by the ABS of its agricultural data collections, crop production is shown for establishments with an estimated value of agricultural operations (EVAO) of \$5,000 or more until 2014–15, and an EVAO of \$40,000 or more from 2015–16.

Sources: ABARES; ABS; Pulse Australia

Table 16 Supply and disposal of coarse grains, Australia, 2013–14 to 2018–19

Crop	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19 s
	kt	kt	kt	kt	kt	kt
Barley						
Production	9,174	8,646	8,992	13,506	9,254	8,310
Apparent domestic use	3,187	3,243	3,271	3,314	4,282	3,914
– seed	184	185	218	186	167	178
– other a	3,003	3,058	3,053	3,129	4,115	3,736
Export	6,957	5,932	6,342	9,873	6,496	4,553
– feed barley	3,944	3,070	4,351	6,364	3,641	1,740
– malting barley	2,273	2,149	1,394	2,826	2,084	1,946
– malt (grain equivalent)	740	713	596	683	771	866
Oats						
Production	1,255	1,198	1,300	2,266	1,227	888
Apparent domestic use	1,001	960	1,074	1,708	1,075	554
– seed	41	39	49	42	33	32
– other a	960	920	1,024	1,666	1,042	521
Export	253	238	226	558	152	334
Triticale						
Production	126	143	127	150	87	89
Apparent domestic use	126	143	127	150	87	89
– seed	4	4	3	3	3	4
– other a	122	139	124	147	84	86
Export	0	0	1	0	0	0
Grain sorghum						
Production	1,282	2,210	1,791	994	1,255	1,278
Apparent domestic use b	747	1,038	773	442	977	960
– seed	3	4	3	2	3	3
– other a	744	1,034	769	440	974	958
Export b	1,146	397	1,638	913	277	441
Corn (maize)						
Production	390	495	400	436	387	392
Apparent domestic use b	276	430	349	359	344	322
– seed	1	1	1	1	1	1
– other a	276	429	348	358	343	321
Export b	106	60	64	63	68	73

a Calculated as a residual: production plus imports less exports less any observed or assumed change in stocks less seed use. **b** For summer crops, export and apparent domestic use volumes are shown in year of actual export and consumption, which is typically in the year following production. Export data are on a marketing year basis and are not comparable with financial year export figures published elsewhere. **s** ABARES estimate.

Notes: Production, use and export data are on a marketing year basis: November—October for barley, oats and triticale; March—February for grain sorghum and corn (maize). Zero is used to denote nil or less than 500 tonnes. Due to a change in scope by the ABS of its agricultural data collections, crop production is shown for establishments with an estimated value of agricultural operations (EVAO) of \$5,000 or more until 2014–15, and an EVAO of \$40,000 or more from 2015–16.

Sources: ABARES; ABS; UN Commodity Trade Statistics Database (UN Comtrade)

Table 17 Grain, oilseed and pulse prices, first quarter 2018 to fourth quarter 2019

Crop	2018	2018	2018	2019	2019	2019	2019
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	A\$/t						
Wheat							
Domestic: feed, del. Sydney	348	426	451	435	402	402	415
International: US no. 2 hard red winter, fob Gulf a	322	332	331	327	311	303	320
Barley							
Domestic: 2 row feed, del. Sydney	328	429	453	414	390	402	374
Export: feed b	299	336	353	345	344	364	319
Export: malting b	304	346	365	371	424	357	384
International: feed, fob Rouen a	277	320	330	300	273	256	275
Grain sorghum							
Domestic: feed, del. Sydney	375	417	442	402	391	388	433
Export b	333	362	584	401	440	420	729
Oats							
Domestic: feed, del. Sydney	297	426	518	538	532	506	485
International: CME oats nearby contract	216	233	275	269	288	273	302
Corn (maize)							
Domestic: feed, del. Sydney	400	428	447	445	445	446	445
International: US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf a	230	217	228	237	250	249	244
Oilseeds							
Domestic: canola, del. Melbourne	526	571	610	583	556	560	540
International: Europe rapeseed, cif Hamburg	544	588	596	588	590	613	637
International: US no. 2 soybeans, fob Gulf a	511	444	462	490	483	498	524
Pulses							
Domestic: lupins, del. Kwinana	351	375	363	375	390	396	432
Domestic: chickpeas, del. Melbourne	625	743	804	798	697	651	552
Domestic: field peas, del. Melbourne	369	429	526	617	535	508	394
Export: chickpeas b	737	764	835	896	833	749	829
Export: field peas b	425	494	546	683	689	662	606

a Average of daily offer prices made in US dollars and converted to Australian dollars using quarterly average of daily exchange rates. **b** Export unit values reflect the average price received for grain exported over the quarter, not current market prices. These prices are the average unit value (free on board) of Australian exports recorded by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. A long lag time can exist between when exporters negotiate prices and when the product is exported. Note: Q1 refers to the period January–March; Q2 refers to April–June; Q3 refers to July–September; Q4 refers to October–December. Prices used in these calculations exclude GST.

Sources: ABARES; ABS; CME Group; Farm Weekly; International Grains Council; Jumbuk AG; The Land; The Weekly Times; US Department of Agriculture