

Western Australia

There has been little rainfall in Western Australia during May. Of additional concern is that it has been very warm, with temperatures around 25 to 28°C for June 10 to 13.

The Albany and Esperance zones remain in mostly good condition with adequate soil moisture levels, while the Geraldton and Kwinana zones are mostly dry. Subsoil moisture is maintaining crop development in the short term.

A widespread rain in all regions this month is needed to maintain even average yield potential.

Victoria

Victoria is dry, and the forecast of an El-Nino for this year is a concern. Victoria simply didn't get a break to the cropping season in April, nor May or June so things are dry and tough across Victoria. State temperatures were 5°C above average for June. During May most of Victoria's statewide rainfall was 29% below the long-term average. For the first week of May, the Mallee and Wimmera regions experienced rainfall events between 11mm – 17mm across however very little has fallen since.

Lentil remains the number one pulse crop followed by faba bean. The area to Chickpea remains stagnate while the area to Field pea has declined. Interestingly, the area sown to Vetch has increased for brown manuring.

Growers are trying to be optimistic however there are some with concerns for the season and foresight for the year and have already stored and allocated seed for 2016/17 in preparation for a worst case scenario.

South Australia

Although below average rainfall was received across most agricultural regions of South Australia during May, growers are fairly optimistic for the season up until spring.

The optimism comes from knowing there is a reasonable sub soil moisture component of the soil profile, that and the odd shower will most likely carry crops up until August. By the end of August crop will be in need of rainfall. South Australia

has received more rain and has greater subsoil moisture to start the season and is significantly better than Victoria.

Central and northern regions of the Eyre Peninsula and the South East of South Australia are the driest regions of the state.

Lentil is the number one pulse choice across all alkaline soils across the state. The ever increasing delivery price is extremely attractive. So far to date, crop conditions are healthy, with predicted average yields.

Queensland

Seasonal conditions in Queensland remain similar to May.

The eastern Darling Downs is generally looking very good with sufficient soil moisture for the intended area to be planted. The western Darling Downs is patchy in terms of soil moisture with the current plantable area being closer to 60,000 ha.

Of significant concern is the current prediction of an El Nino event during 2015, as this will most likely have an adverse effect on crop yields. This may result in the total production being lower than what might be expected from such a large planted area.

New South Wales

Northern NSW continued to receive excellent rainfall in May, ranging from 55 to 30 mm. The rainfall was perfectly timed for sowing chickpeas. Goondiwindi and the surrounding district is experiencing one of the best sowing conditions in recent years. The western cropping regions like Walgett has only received ~36 mm since January.

The central west region has also received some excellent falls of rain in May and June. There are good indications that above average sowing for chickpeas will occur this season in the central west.

Rainfall in the south has been below average when compared to northern and central NSW. Wagga Wagga has received approximately 6 mm so far in June and 24 mm in May. Griffith has only received 4 mm in June and will require some

Estimated Pulse Area in Australia for 2015 (hectares)

State	Chickpea		Beans		Field Pea	Lentil	Lupin		Total 2015 (ha)	% of 2014 (ha)
	Desi	Kabuli	Faba	Broad	Dun	Red & Green	Sweet Lupin	Albus Lupin		
New South Wales	265,000	25,800	50,000	-	48,100	2,600	29,000	32,700	453,200	130%
Victoria	7,000	12,000	95,000	5,300	47,000	129,000	33,500	-	328,800	196%
Queensland	350,000	-	1,200	-	-	-	-	-	351,200	92%
South Australia	2,000	13,400	79,000	18,000	93,000	112,000	68,000	-	385,400	146%
Western Australia	2,500	500	3,000	-	22,000	-	333,000	9,000	370,000	116%
Total	626,500	51,700	228,200	23,300	210,100	243,600	463,500	41,700	1,888,600	127%
% of 2014 (ha)	169%	94%	139%	96%	88%	129%	112%	137%	127%	

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Chickpea

Desi Chickpea

Region State	Western	Southern				Northern			Australia Total
	WA	SA	VIC	S/NSW	Subtotal	QLD	N/NSW	Subtotal	
2015 Sown area (ha)	2,500	2,000	7,000	30,000	39,000	350,000	235,000	585,000	626,500
Variation from 2014 (ha)	-300	-600	-750	4,000	2,650	185,000	69,000	254,000	256,350

Kabuli Chickpea

Region State	Western	Southern				Northern			Australia Total
	WA	SA	VIC	S/NSW	Subtotal	QLD	N/NSW	Subtotal	
2015 Sown area (ha)	500	13,400	12,000	2,800	28,200		23,000	23,000	51,700
Variation from 2014 (ha)	0	-5,100	-6,650	1,000	-10,750		7,500	7,500	-3,250

Queensland

The high prices on offer for new season desi chickpea has resulted in considerable interest from Queensland growers.

The figures reported in this Crop Forecast should be considered as grower 'intent' as planting has only just started and in some regions more rainfall is needed before crops can be planted.

At the time of writing, central Queensland soil moisture remains very patchy, with some planting underway. But if no additional rainfall is received the indicated area of 110,000 ha will most likely be reduced to 65,000 ha.

Planting can continue up until mid-June for profitable yields.

Victoria

Despite the continue climb of chickpea price, the predicted planted area unfortunately will not simulate an increase in production area. Without a seasonal break, a potential poor spring and no subsoil moisture, the area of chickpea will likely decline.

South Australia

Although prices have surged for chickpea slightly late in the planting season, most SA growers had already planted their pulse crops. While prices continue to remain strong for lentil and faba bean, chickpea will always be considered the 3rd pulse choice.

New South Wales

The excellent rainfall from Goondiwindi down to Dubbo in combination with the high prices for chickpea could be record breaking for these regions.

The large area sown to chickpeas has placed pressure on seed and pre-emergent herbicides, a further indicator that it will be an above average year for Chickpeas.

The timely rainfall has also meant that faba bean are progressing well. Some crops have issues of high weed infestations, herbicide damage (possible 2,4 D and Triazine). The registration of Sakura® for Chickpeas has given growers some options for weed control. It will depend on seasonal conditions on how affective they will be. Soil profiles in the north eastern regions are full and providing a very promising season.

The central west region has also received some excellent falls of rain in May and June. There are good indications that above average sowing for chickpeas will occur this season in the central west. There are some early sown chickpea crops that have emerged and looking very good. The main concern will be disease control in the early sown crops due to advanced canopies that will be hard to penetrate later in the season with fungicide if disease is present.

Field pea

Region State	Western	Southern				Northern			Australia Total
	WA	SA	VIC	S/NSW	Subtotal	QLD	N/NSW	Subtotal	
2015 Sown area (ha)	22,000	93,000	47,000	40,000	180,000		8,100	8,100	210,100
Variation from 2014 (ha)	-3,300	-17,000	-4,200	-5,000	-26,200		2,100	2,100	-27,400

New South Wales

The field pea area in NSW will remain about average with more profitable pulse options for growers to consider. The area sown to field peas will remain about average in the north as well as Albus Lupins.

The area sown to field pea will be similar to last year as they fit the farming systems north of Griffith to Hillston. The soil types are ideal for Field peas and are often valued for soil nitrogen benefits.

South Australia and Victoria

The area of field pea is down to both vetch for dry manuring and lentil because of price. A drop in the field pea acreage

across the Mallee region is a combination of soaring lentil prices, confidence in best management practices and agronomic support, a lack of retained stubble matter from field pea compared to other pulse and oilseeds and very optimistic pulse growers.

Many Victoria field pea growers are still feeling the brunt of a poor field pea harvest in 2014/15 compared to lentils.

Field pea grown on the upper Eyre Peninsula is under severe moisture stress, including the northern south east of SA. PBA Percy is commonly sown on the southern region of the Eyre Peninsula to avoid frost.

Faba/Broad bean

Faba bean

Region State	Western	Southern				Northern			Australia Total
	WA	SA	VIC	S/NSW	Subtotal	QLD	N/NSW	Subtotal	
2015 Sown area (ha)	3,000	79,000	95,000	17,000	191,000	1,200	33,000	34,200	228,200
Variation from 2014 (ha)	-1,000	17,200	32,600	9,000	58,800	-1,800	8,300	6,500	64,300

Broad bean

Region State	Western	Southern				Northern			Australia Total
	WA	SA	VIC	S/NSW	Subtotal	QLD	N/NSW	Subtotal	
2015 Sown area (ha)		18,000	5,300		23,300				23,300
Variation from 2014 (ha)		-1,000	0		-1,000				-1,000

New South Wales

The permit for Imazamox use in post-emergent faba beans has given growers some options for weed control. It will depend on seasonal conditions on how affective they will be. Soil profiles in the north eastern regions are full and providing a very promising season.

Rainfall in the south has been below average when compared to northern and central NSW. Wagga Wagga has received approximately 6 mm so far in June and 24 mm in May. Griffith has only received 4 mm in June and will require some significant rainfall to assist crops. The south is likely to see an increase in faba bean area east and west of Wagga Wagga due to good prices and soil nitrogen benefits.

South Australia

Faba beans were planted early and into subsoil moisture under near perfect conditions for a consecutive season. The Mid-North and Upper Yorke Peninsula growers are very optimistic about the season so far with adequate subsoil moisture. The South East of South Australia, a dominate

broad bean growing region, is currently unseasonably dry and this has the potential to pull back yield and seed size for that area only. The Upper Eyre Peninsula is very dry and like the rest of the state would welcome any rainfall.

Victoria

The north east and south west regions have expanded their production of faba bean for this season by 20-30%.

The heavy soils of the south west are dry and, in combination with well below average subsoil moisture and low rainfall to date, will require above average rainfall for crops to produce average yields.

The south west crops have the biggest potential of success and also the biggest potential of lower than average yields.

The Wimmera region is currently very dry. Yield potential will likely be below average without adequate spring rainfall.

Lentil

Red & green lentil

Region State	Western	Southern				Northern			Australia Total
	WA	SA	VIC	S/NSW	Subtotal	QLD	N/NSW	Subtotal	
2015 Sown area (ha)		112,000	129,000	2,600	243,600				243,600
Variation from 2014 (ha)		9,800	42,800	2,000	54,600				54,600

New South Wales

There are indications there will be a slight increase in the area sown to Lentil in southern NSW. There are full profiles in the south eastern regions allowing for an excellent start for these crops.

South Australia

Lentil production on the Yorke Peninsula is at near maximum capacity with the largest planting in history. Any further increased production of lentil on the Yorke Peninsula would seriously jeopardise disease pressure, cropping rotation, weed management and timely harvest management capabilities.

Growers are very pleased with the cleanliness, health and vigour of crops. To date there is no insect, virus or disease pressure across the state.

PBA Hurricane XT is close to the dominate small lentil variety due to its enhanced yield and weed management options.

There will be an increase in the area planted to PBA

Jumbo2.

Price is the number one driver that has encouraged lentil plantings to increase across all pulse regions of SA, including the higher risk region of the Mallee.

Victoria

Lentil is the number one pulse choice across Victoria in medium to high rainfall regions.

The strong lentil price is pushing an expansion into the non-traditional low to medium rainfall regions of Victoria.

Lentil has absorbed some of the field pea and canola area of the Mallee and Wimmera regions.

There are lentil crops are being grown under overhead irrigation in the Vic Mallee region with success.

There may be a decline in lentil yields across the state compared to recent seasons as Victoria is currently very dry with below average subsoil moisture and rainfall.

Lupin

Australian Sweet Lupin (*Angustifolius*)

Region State	Western	Southern				Northern			Australia Total
	WA	SA	VIC	S/NSW	Subtotal	QLD	N/NSW	Subtotal	
2015 Sown area (ha)	333,000	68,000	33,500	16,000	117,500		13,000	13,000	463,500
Variation from 2014 (ha)	49,000	-300	1,800	-1,000	500		1,800	1,800	51,300

Australian Albus Lupin (*Albus*)

Region State	Western	Southern				Northern			Australia Total
	WA	SA	VIC	S/NSW	Subtotal	QLD	N/NSW	Subtotal	
2015 Sown area (ha)	9,000	0	0	13,500	13,500		19,200	19,200	41,700
Variation from 2014 (ha)	4,000		-200	900	700		4,100	4,100	8,800

Western Australia

The WA lupin crop has been sown, with the majority germinated and established well. This is despite the current dry conditions across the Geraldton and Kwinana zones.

June rainfall needs to be at least average to maintain the potential for statewide average yields. The rainfall outlook to June 21 is not promising.

The most recent varieties, PBA Barlock and PBA Gunyidi, will make up 50% of this years area, with Mandelup providing around 40%. The area sown to Mandelup should decline markedly in the next 2 years.

The area of **Australian Albus lupin** has doubled to around 9,000 ha. Pricing and the yield potential of the new variety Amira are the main drivers. Additionally, Geraldton zone growers on fine textured soils have fond memories of Albus lupin before 1996 for their strong rotational benefits.

New South Wales

Albus lupin area in NSW will be similar to last year, particularly for the north west and north east areas of NSW.

Prices have remained steady for Albus lupin and they fit well in the central west rotation.

The central west will also see a similar planting of Albus Lupins as last year as it fits nicely into their rotation and soil type. Field peas also fit nicely for some central west growers and there will be a similar area sown compared to last year. The central west is looking to have a reasonable season.

The area sown to narrow leaf lupins will be similar to last year for the south of NSW.

Victoria

The largest increased Australian Sweet Lupin area is the south west to southern Wimmera. With the mild to dry season there is very little disease and insect damage to any lupin crops.

The increase in lupin area is a combination of price and a profitable farming system pulse option for acid soils.

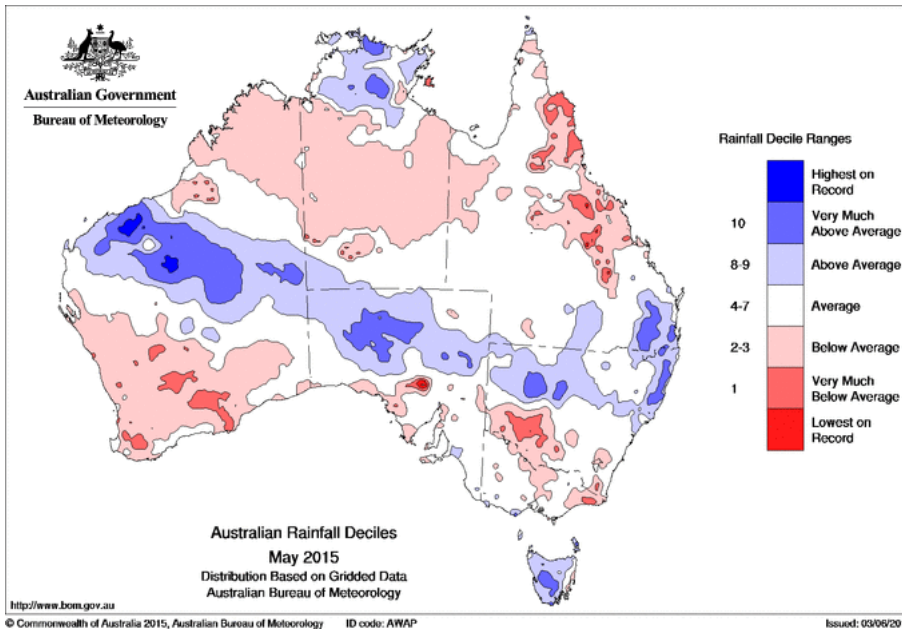
South Australia

The Australian Sweet lupin area across South Australia is similar to previous seasons.

The Eyre Peninsula continues to remain a strong lupin producing region, so to the Mallee regions of sand and acid soils where other pulse crops are challenged to perform.

The new variety PBA Barlock is gradually increasing in area, replacing Mandelup.

Australian Weather - May 2015 rainfall



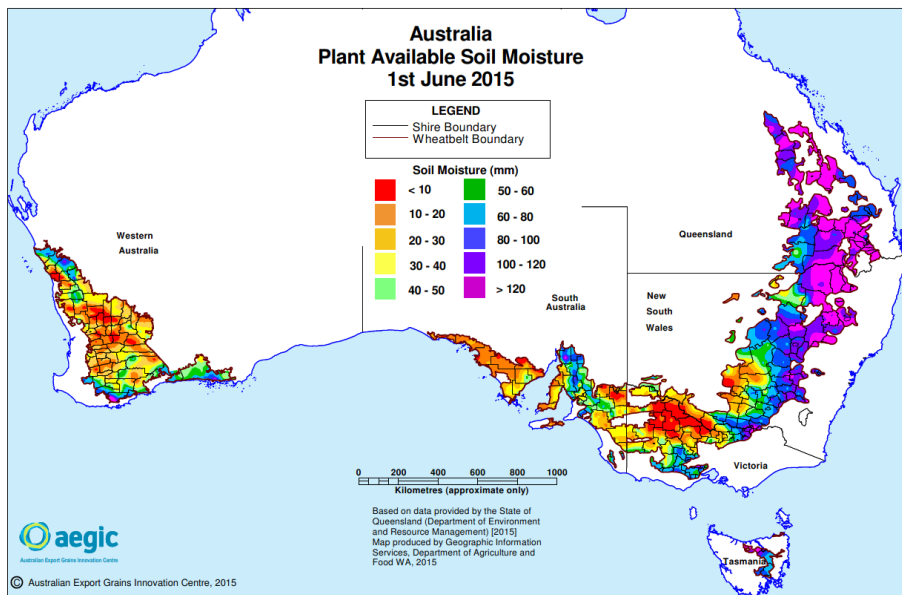
May 2015 Rainfall deciles

The May rainfall deciles shows below average rainfall across Western Australia and southern New South Wales.

May rainfall was average in South Australia, northern New South Wales and south east Queensland.

The spread and intensity of rainfall across Australia is reflected in the soil moisture map below from the Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre (AEGIC).

The outlook for June is poor with continuing dry weather forecast for most states.



PASM– courtesy AEGIC

The Plant Available Soil Moisture map from the Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre (AEGIC) to June 1 shows continuing good levels of soil moisture in Queensland, extending into northern and east central New South Wales.

South Australia, Victoria and west central and southern New South Wales have low levels of soil moisture after below average rainfall in May. The exception is the Mid-North of South Australia.

For Western Australia, rainfall in May was low. The majority of WA has low soil moisture levels, with the best areas being the far northern districts and the south coast.

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