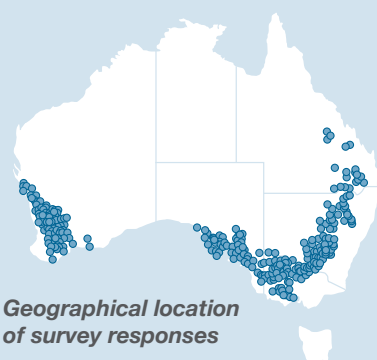


# 2020 AWB National Crop Survey

Thank you to all who took the time to participate in this year's AWB National Crop Survey. And congratulations to all the winners of the weekly prizes.

We are very pleased to report another solid participation rate. In total we had 1,091 farmers respond, which was only 24 fewer than last year. Again the quality rate of responses was very high at 97%. The higher the quality rate, the higher the amount of those responses can be used to calculate the key national and state trends.

We are pleased to provide some of the key trends from this year's survey. These trends maybe helpful when deciding to market your grain this season.



## AWB Survey National Trends



**Wheat** ↑ 30%



**Barley** ↑ 10%



**Canola** ↑ 18%



**Pulses** ↑ 102%

### Wheat up strongly

Well it should be no surprise that a wet autumn across the east coast has seen a rebound in the planting of Australian winter crops. And with wheat historically accounting for around 55% of total winter crop area, wheat area is up strongly overall.

The biggest increases have occurred across Queensland (QLD) and New South Wales (NSW) after successive droughts. Whilst the drought continued into the first part of summer headlined by the bushfires, relieving rain started falling from mid-January and continued into March providing 300-350mls of moisture. Depending on location, that represented 50% to 100% more rain compared to all of last year! These rains have allowed farmers to plant into ideal moisture profile, something that been sadly missing over the past two to three years.

It is thought that wheat area across both states has returned to pre drought levels, possibly slightly higher. Over in the west, the drier start to parts of the West Australian (WA) grain belt this year has not deterred farmers from planting wheat, with the survey suggesting area is up 10% this year. In South Australia (SA), wheat area is up modestly by 4% year on year.

#### Key points

- Australian wheat area is back to pre drought levels.
- Whilst the season is still to play out, exports of wheat should start flowing again out of East Coast ports.
- With an exportable surplus, Australian wheat will need to be competitive against other origins.

### Congratulations to all the draw prize winners!

#### Week 1 (\$250 Debit card)

Russell Grundy, Malu QLD  
Tony Chaston, Henty West NSW  
Ash Moon, Boort VIC  
Todd Matthews, Warramboos SA  
Tony York, Tammin WA

#### Week 2 (\$250 Debit card)

Andrew Smith, Moura QLD  
Alan Payne, West Wyalong NSW  
Mark Morcombe, Lakaput VIC  
Aaron Kitson, Tumby Bay SA  
Jamon Poultny, Bulyee WA

#### Week 3 (\$250 Debit card)

Liz Hill, Thallon QLD  
Gary Drew, Brocklesby NSW  
Russell Turnbull, Beulah VIC  
Neville Jacka, Crystal Brook SA  
Kate Pollard, Cranbrook WA

#### Week 4 (\$1000 Debit card)

Melissa Austin, Condamine QLD  
Grant Turnbull, Croppa Creek NSW  
Jake Leith, Donald VIC  
Peter Phillips, Naracoorte SA  
Colleen Parsons, Gairdner WA



## 2020 AWB National Crop Survey

### Imposed tariffs by China impact on barley area

Barley has been one of the key growth crops over recent years with the new higher yielding varieties negating the price differential to wheat. But whilst the survey suggests the national area could be up overall, I would caveat that it is highly weighted by the rebound in conditions across QLD and NSW.

According to the survey results, declines in area have occurred across the key barley export zones.

The combination of an early autumn break across the East Coast and the \$55–\$70 discount to wheat was always likely to see some switch out of barley area to either wheat or canola. But perhaps the biggest trigger of all came in early May with the announcement that China was to place a 80% tariff on Australian barley imports.

Whilst it is hard to know exactly how much of the decline in area can be attributed to the announcement by China alone, the survey picked up declines in area from Southern New South Wales (SNSW), Victoria (VIC), SA and WA.

Across Southern Queensland (SQLD), Northern and Central New South Wales (NNSW & CNSW), the decision to plant barley is all about capitalising on the on the welcome return to good seasonal conditions, and growing some feed for domestic livestock.

In terms of varieties, both Planet and Spartacus dominate. Across survey participants they account for 62% of the barley crop in QLD, 54% in NSW, 76% in VIC, 55% in SA and 80% in WA. Of the two, Spartacus is the most planted in the key exporting states.

La Trobe is losing ground, making up 19% of barley sown in NSW, compared to 29% last year, 6% in VIC (10% last year), and 8% in WA (14% last year).

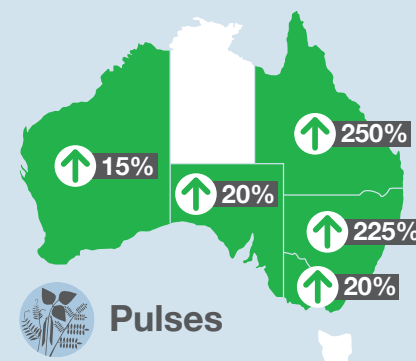
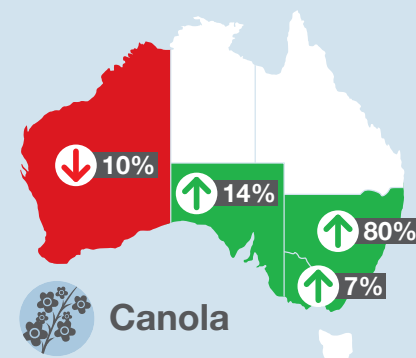
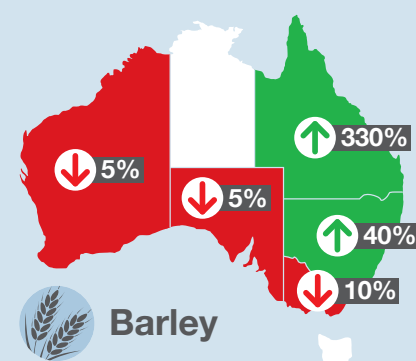
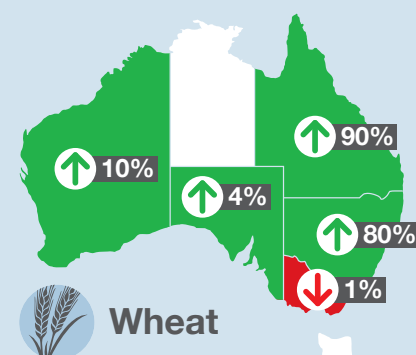
#### Key points

- Large plantings of barley across SQLD and NNSW and good seasonal conditions should see regionally produced supplies of domestic feed grain return.
- Area is lower across the key barley exporting states/zones, seasonal conditions will determine whether that translates into lower supplies vs last year.

#### Barley varieties planted by %

Variety	QLD	NSW	VIC	SA	WA
Bass	-	-	-	-	3%
Baudin	-	1%	-	-	-
Buloke	-	1%	-	-	-
Commander	17%	2%	-	3%	-
Compass	11%	12%	11%	28%	-
Flinders	-	-	-	-	1%
Gairdner	-	-	1%	-	-
Hindmarsh	-	11%	2%	1%	-
Latrobe	-	19%	6%	1%	8%
Planet	55%	31%	17%	4%	19%
Scope	-	-	3%	11%	7%
Spartacus	17%	23%	59%	51%	61%
Westminster	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Key Crop Directional Trends by State



## 2020 AWB National Crop Survey

### Ideal planting conditions favour East Coast canola

Early autumn moisture across the key canola growing regions in NSW was always going to favour canola. Supported by gross margins that was very competitive against cereals, the survey suggests the oilseed crop area is up significantly, perhaps back near pre drought levels.

More modest increases look to have occurred in both VIC and SA, a result of a higher base of area planted last year due to better planting conditions.

In stark contrast to eastern states, a poor autumn break to parts of WA has resulted in area declining as much as 10% this year. In addition, harsh weather to parts of the state post planting hasn't helped, with severe winds ahead of storms has caused some reseeding of crops.

In terms of the make up of the crop, the overall split of GM vs non-GM is relatively steady from last year at 21% GM and 79% non-GM.

#### Key points

- East Coast crushers should be well supplied with seed this year from NSW and VIC. WA seed imports will not be needed.
- Area is up year on year and back to near pre drought levels.
- Seasonal conditions across major east coast canola growing areas are so far good.

#### GM vs Non-GM

State	GM	Non-GM
NSW	14%	86%
VIC	19%	81%
SA	-	100%
WA	30%	70%
National	21%	79%

### Pulses up

*We do need to state that the level of response data on pulses in these types of surveys is always small compared to the 3 main winter crops, so I would treat the below trends and particularly the magnitudes with a bit of caution.*

The survey suggests the area sown to pulses to have rebounded in 2020. Primarily as result of better planting conditions across the key pulse region of QLD and NNSW, overall pulse area is up 103% nationally.

Survey participants have committed a strong level planting of chickpeas across QLD and NSW which is up 80% and 300% respectively. Faba bean plantings are up 45%-50% across NSW, VIC, and SA. And to round out protein crops, Lentil area is up 20-30% across the traditional growing areas of the Wimmera in VIC and the mid North/Yorke Peninsula region of SA.

#### Key point

- The potential of a large pulse crop this harvest assuming good seasonal conditions will provide good supplies of protein for both the domestic and export markets.