



With the recent rain in Southern Queensland there have been crops that have emerged after being sown dry. In fact there maybe some growers that may still plant wheat even though the ideal window is well and truly closed. The recent jump in wheat prices is proving tempting to some traditional growers who did not receive enough rain during the ideal planting window.

At the other end of the spectrum, there are parts of Central Queensland have wheat that is on the turn and harvest could start as early as late August. This is quite extraordinary given the current sorghum harvest in Central Queensland is still only about sixty five percent done. It is not often that you see wheat and sorghum being harvested together and at this stage this is looking possible given the problems being experienced by growers in Central Queensland in getting their sorghum to dry down to acceptable levels for harvest. Sunflowers were also sown very late this year in Central Queensland and this harvest looks like it will be happening along side wheat and sorghum as well.

From a yield perspective it is still early days for most of the Queensland crop and the more advanced wheat has been surviving on small amounts of rain that has maintained an average yield. We haven't seen crops that are world beaters yet but if we have a soft spring we could expect above average yields if we continue to get the sporadic rainfall we have had recently.

It is an interesting decision- making time for growers now with the approaching summer crop plant. A few months ago on the Darling Downs all the talk was about cotton, since then things have changed somewhat with a drop in cotton prices and a significant lift in sorghum prices. There has been some indication that traditional sorghum growers may stick with sorghum after all having considered the switch to dryland cotton. On the western downs there has been a number of enquiries for early plant sunflowers, this is largely due to the fact they can be planted very early with a harvest in January. These enquiries have mostly come from growers who did not get a full winter crop plant and have land ready for plant.

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