



AgriWatch
Special Pulses Report
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CANADIAN PULSE CROP PROJECTIONS:

According to the Canadian Specialty Crop Association (CSCA) pulses crops yield and production estimates were best guesses at this point. However, there are number of factors that will influence the final outcome of the Canadian pulse crop in 2009.

DRY PEAS PROJECTION:

PEA PLANTING - This year pea planting was 2-3 weeks behind last year's and about 50% of the Canadian pea crop was planted after May 23, 2009. Yellow pea acreage in 2009 is forecast to be down 14% from last year, while green peas acreage is up 11%.

Crop Condition - after a very dry condition in May and June, Timely rains in July have significantly improved plant growth and cool weather, has resulted in fairly good blooming conditions.

Frost watch - Due to the delayed sowing, frost is a major concern for peas crop. Normally Canada faces frost during August and early September and given the cool growing conditions so far July, there are huge possibilities of frost in August or early September which in turn result in severe quality problems.

Pea Yield Projection - yields of the peas crop is expected to be down by almost 7 per cent this year to 1830 lbs/ac. due to late planting and late development of the crop. If there are any frost in August or early September may further reduce the yield besides the quality of the crop.

Canadian Dry Pea Acreage & Production Projection			
Dry Peas	2008	2009 Proj.	% Change
<i>Planted Acres</i>			
<i>Yellow Peas</i>	3,520,000	3,020,000	-14%
<i>Green Peas</i>	450,000	500,000	11%
<i>Other (Marrowfats, etc.)</i>	25,000	50,000	200%
Total Acres	3,995,000	3,570,000	-12%
Yield (lbs/ac)	1,971	1,830	-7%
Production (MT)	3,573,010	3,018,334	-15%

LENTIL PROJECTION:

Planted Acreage – This year lentil planted acreage is about 2.3 million acres up by 44% over the last year. Red lentil acreage is expected to hold the highest total acreage of lentils with over 1.2 million acres planted. Small, Medium and Large green lentils all increased over a year ago.

Crop Condition - Lentil production in Canada is concentrated in West-Central Saskatchewan and East-Central Alberta. Moisture from April through June was 60% of normal in the primary lentil growing regions of Canada. As per the reports 40% of the lentil growing region is still short of water. July rains have improved the condition of the crop in all growing regions.

Yield Projection - Given the early season drought the lentil yield for 2009 is projected to be 934 pounds per acre, 26% below last year. Total production of lentil is projected to reach only 982,800 MT up 7% over the last year.

As per the reports there were negligible carry-in stocks of lentils from the 2008 crop. The report also hints for an active lentil market in 2009 despite the significant increase in acreage.

Frost watch - Normally Canada faces frost during August and early September and given the cool growing conditions so far the July, there are huge possibility of frost in August or early September which in turn result in severe quality problems and yield loss to some extent.

Canadian Lentil Acreage & Production Projection			
Lentils	2008	2009 Proj.	% Change
Planted Acres			
<i>Red Lentils</i>	780,000	1,220,000	56%
<i>Large Green (Laird)</i>	630,000	815,000	29%
<i>Medium Green (Richlea)</i>	40,000	70,000	75%
<i>Small Green (Eston)</i>	160,000	215,000	34%
Total Acres	1,610,000	2,320,000	44%
Lentil Yield (lbs/ac)	1,259	934	-26%
Lentil Production (MT)	919,500	982,800	7%

CHICKPEAS:

Chickpea acreage increased from 140,000 acres in 2008 to 175,000 acres in 2009. Chickpea yields were expected to be 20% below last year due to the lateness of the crop and dry weather. Total production of chickpeas in 2009 is expected to rise to a total of 82,000 MT which is 1,000 metric tons higher than last year.

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