

# GRAINS

## GRAIN PRODUCTION TABLE

1.45 million hectares

Approx. 55% cropped annually (approx. 797,500Ha)

Annual cropping (935,000 ha)	Annual hectares	Mildura Region average yield Tonnes /Ha (03-04)	Total Average annual Tonnes	Mildura Region average value \$/Tonne (03-04) (\$A)	Total Average farm gate value (\$A)	Total Australian average yield Tonne/Ha (03-04)
60% Wheat	478,500Ha	1.6t	765,600t	\$200	\$153.1m	2.01t
30% Barley	239,250Ha	1.8t	430,650t	\$190	\$81.8m	2.27t
10% Canola/Legumes/ Triticale	79,750Ha	0.7t	55,825t	\$290	\$16.2m	Canola 1.61t Triticale 1.89t Lupins 1.49t Field Peas 1.35t

\*Data provided is an industry estimate only, provided by the Department of Primary Industries New South Wales and Victoria and Sunraysia Environmental. Total Australian Yield data sourced from Australian Crop Report study November 2004 based on ABARE estimates and ABS statistics.

The majority of the Mildura Region's grain producing area now has access to a reticulated water supply pipe from the Murray River, providing high quality water to many growers across the district.

There has been a dramatic change in the last 3-4 years from cultivating fallow to minimum till and direct drill techniques; designed and implemented to minimise wind erosion risk. The soils of the area are generally sandy to sandy-loam and contain high alkaline levels (pH 7.5 -9); highly productive soils given the low rainfall.

In the period of normal crop growth, April through October (inclusive the Dareton grain growing district) has an average rainfall of 181mm. In the Northern Central Mallee district the average rainfall during growing season is from 225mm in the south and 165mm in the north.

Salinity issues affecting the grain growing industry in the Mildura Region in recent times is reversing positively thanks to educated management techniques in the dry land farming industries and salinity recharge; excess rain water finding its way to the water table has been minimised.

The Mildura Regions cropping area consists of around 1.25 million hectares in the Northern/Central Mallee in Victoria (Mildura Local Government Area) and 200,000 hectares in the Dareton district situated in the southern western corner of NSW (Wentworth LGA). On average 50-60% of this growing area is cropped annually. However, intensity of cropping varies across the zone. An additional 5.6 million hectares surrounding the crop growing area is Crown land and National Park land, with around 4.7 million hectares of that area situated in the NSW area.

Crop proportions vary within the Mildura Region, however on average 60% is made up of Wheat, 30% Barley, 8% Canola/Legumes (peas/lupins) and a further 2% of Triticale. The following table provides an overview of average yield production and farm gate value for Grain produced in the Mildura Region during 03/04.



## GRAIN SILOS IN THE MILDURA REGION

Scattered across the vast Mildura Region are many silos, weigh bridges and sample stands. The silos are situated in key locations providing vital drop off/pick up points for transportation and storage. Silos in the Mildura Region are mainly operated by Graincorp, the Australian Wheat Board (AWB), and AUSBulk (Australian Barley Board). For further information regarding grain storage locations please refer to the industry contact details in the table on page 33.

Grain organisation	Contact number	Email / website
Graincorp	Tel 61 2 9325 9100 Toll Free 1 800 809 482	inquiries@graincorp.com.au www.graincorp.com.au
AUS Bulk (Australian Barely Board)	Tel 61 8 8231 1249 Toll Free 1 800 018 205	abb@abb.com.au www.abb.com.au
Australian Wheat Board	Tel 61 3 9209 2000 Toll Free 1 800 054 433	www.awb.com.au



**CONTACTS**

**NSW Department of Primary Industries**

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PO Box 62  
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Website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

**Victorian Department of Primary Industries**

PO Box 905  
Mildura VIC 3502  
Tel 61 3 5051 4500  
Email rob.sonogan@dpi.vic.gov.au  
Website www.dpi.vic.gov.au

**Mallee Sustainable Farming**

PO Box 363  
Buronga NSW 2739  
Tel 61 3 5021 9413  
Email beatrice.matthews@dpinr.nsw.gov.au  
Website www.msfp.org.au

**Victorian Farmers Federation Grains Corporation**

24 Collins St  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
Tel 61 3 9207 5537  
Email tpittard@vff.org.au  
Website www.vff.org.au

**NSW Farmers' Association**

225 Elizabeth St  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Tel 61 1300 794 000  
Website www.nswfarmers.org.au

**Other Links**

Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics  
**www.abare.com.au**  
Australian Wheat Board  
**www.awb.com.au**  
Australian Grains Corporation  
**www.graincorp.com.au**  
Australian Barley Board  
**www.abb.com.au**

An innovative company is utilising the Mildura Region's dry climate to turn a potential environmental problem into a gourmet food product. SunSalt is pumping saline underground water onto existing salt-affected sites, where high evaporation rates and low humidity create the right conditions for crystallisation. Naturally occurring minerals give the resulting salt an attractive pink colour. The award-winning range of inland salt products is receiving widespread support from the hospitality industry locally, nationally and internationally.

SunSalt also produces stockfeed and industrial salt.

**CONTACT**

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