crop estimates committee
oesskattingskomitee

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Web page: www.nda.gov.za/core business/EDT&M/SEA/Reports/Crop Estimates or www.sagis.org.za/CEC: Crop Estimates
EMBARGO: **15:30**

agriculture
Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

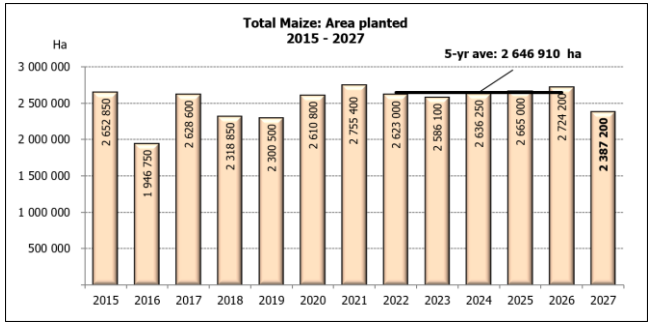
27 October 2026

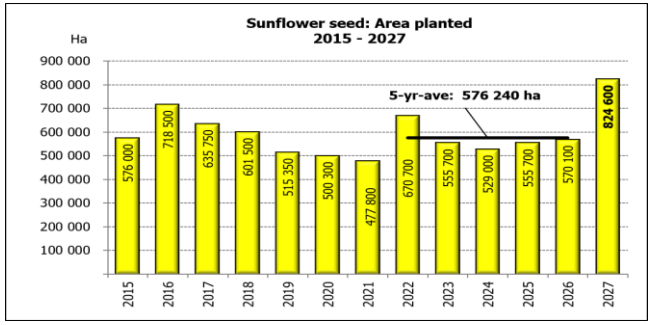
The intentions' of producers to plant summer crops for 2027 is hereby released.

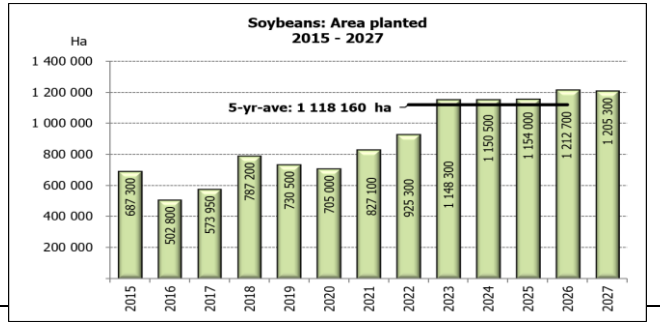
SUMMER CROPS – INTENTIONS TO PLANT: 2027

CROP	**Intentions 2027 Ha as mid Oct 2026**	Area planted 2026 Ha	Ninth estimate 2026 Tons as on 27 Oct 2026	Change %
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A) ÷ (B)
Commercial:				
White maize	**1 370 200**	1 674 700	9 777 340	-18,18%
Yellow maize	**1 017 000**	1 049 500	7 914 050	-3,10%
Total Maize	**2 387 200**	2 724 200	17 691 390	-12,37%
Sunflower seed	**824 600**	570 100	874 805	44,64%
Soybeans	**1 205 300**	1 212 700	3 010 175	-0,61%
Groundnuts	**43 280**	44 650	65 620	-3,07%
Sorghum	**39 500**	40 000	123 325	-1,25%
Dry beans	**35 770**	38 520	80 695	-7,14%
TOTAL	**4 535 650**	4 630 170	21 846 010	-2,04%

Note: Estimate is for calendar year, e.g. production season 2026/27 = 2027







The Crop Estimates Committee comprises officials of the following institutions:
Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development; Provincial Departments of Agriculture; various ARC-Institutes (Soil, Climate and Water; Small Grains Institute; and Grain Crops Institute); BFAP and Statistics SA.

WHITE AND YELLOW MAIZE – INTENTIONS TO PLANT: 2027

Province	**Intentions (Area planted) 2027**			Area planted 2026			Ninth estimate[1] 2026		
	White Ha	**Yellow Ha**	**Total Ha**	White Ha	Yellow Ha	Total Ha	White Tons	Yellow Tons	Total Tons
Western Cape	**200**	**4 000**	**4 200**	200	4 000	4 200	1 840	38 000	39 840
Northern Cape	**2 500**	**40 000**	**42 500**	3 000	42 500	45 500	40 500	680 000	720 500
Free State	**715 000**	**365 000**	**1 080 000**	845 000	370 000	1 215 000	4 943 250	2 460 500	7 403 750
Eastern Cape	**6 000**	**31 000**	**37 000**	6 000	30 000	36 000	43 800	276 000	319 800
KwaZulu-Natal	**50 000**	**71 000**	**121 000**	47 000	72 000	119 000	310 200	640 800	951 000
Mpumalanga	**170 000**	**350 000**	**520 000**	172 000	366 000	538 000	1 032 000	2 653 500	3 685 500
Limpopo	**10 000**	**21 000**	**31 000**	16 000	20 000	36 000	108 800	170 000	278 800
Gauteng	**55 000**	**67 000**	**122 000**	60 500	65 000	125 500	356 950	471 250	828 200
North West	**361 500**	**68 000**	**429 500**	525 000	80 000	605 000	2 940 000	524 000	3 464 000
Total	**1 370 200**	**1 017 000**	**2 387 200**	1 674 700	1 049 500	2 724 200	9 777 340	7 914 050	17 691 390

1) 27 October 2026

SUNFLOWER SEED –INTENTIONS TO PLANT: 2027

Province	**Area planted Ha 2027**	Area planted Ha 2026	Ninth estimate[1] Tons 2026
Western Cape	**0**	0	0
Northern Cape	**500**	500	1 150
Free State	**455 000**	309 000	494 400
Eastern Cape	**500**	500	1 000
KwaZulu-Natal	**1 500**	1 500	3 000
Mpumalanga	**6 000**	6 000	9 000
Limpopo	**100 000**	96 500	101 325
Gauteng	**1 100**	1 100	1 430
North West	**260 000**	155 000	263 500
Total	**824 600**	570 100	874 805

1) 27 October 2026

SOYBEANS – INTENTIONS TO PLANT: 2027

Province	**Area planted Ha 2027**	Area planted Ha 2026	Ninth estimate[1] Tons 2026
Western Cape	**200**	200	700
Northern Cape	**2 000**	2 000	7 000
Free State	**585 000**	607 000	1 456 800
Eastern Cape	**6 100**	7 500	25 500
KwaZulu-Natal	**45 000**	44 000	176 000
Mpumalanga	**340 000**	314 500	676 175
Limpopo	**15 000**	17 500	63 000
Gauteng	**57 000**	55 000	126 500
North West	**155 000**	165 000	478 500
Total	**1 205 300**	1 212 700	3 010 175

1) 27 October 2026

INTENTIONS TO PLANT SUMMER CROPS (2027)

Producers intentions to plant summer crops are mainly based on the results of a non-probability survey conducted by the Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis of the Department of Agriculture, and reflects the position as at the middle of October 2026. Various factors can, however, still influence these intentions up until planting time.

According to the results of the survey, commercial producers intend to plant 2,387 mill. ha of **maize** for 2027, which is 12,4% or 337 000 ha less than the 2,724 mill. ha planted the past season (2026).

The figures show that producers intend to plant 1,370 mill. ha to **white maize**, which is 304 500 ha (18,2%) less than the past season. In the case of **yellow maize**, the expected plantings are 1,017 million ha, which is 32 500 ha (3,1%) less than in the past season.

In the case of **sunflower seed**, the expected area planted is estimated at 824 600 ha, which is 44,6% or 254 500 ha more than the 570 100 ha planted the previous season. This is the second largest plantings on record for sunflower seed since 1999 when 828 000 ha were planted.

The intended plantings of **soybeans** shows a decrease of 0,6% or 7 400 ha compared to the previous season – from 1,213 mill. ha to 1,205 mill. ha.

The expected plantings of **groundnuts** will decrease by 3,1% or 1 370 ha, from 44 650 ha to 43 280 ha.

The intended plantings of **sorghum** is expected to decrease by 1,3% or 500 ha to 39 500 ha, compared to the past season.

The expected plantings of dry beans is estimated at 35 770 ha, which is 7,1% or 2 750 ha less than in the previous season.

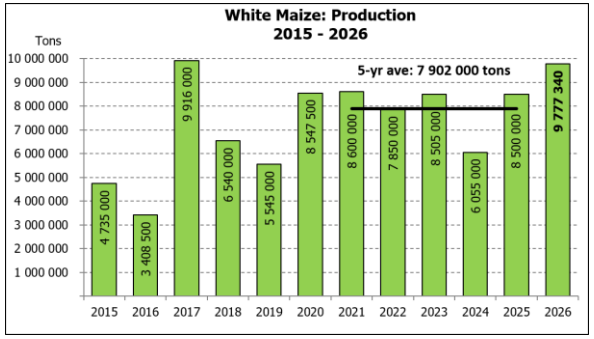
Please note that the preliminary area planted estimate for summer grains for 2027 will be released on 27 January 2027.

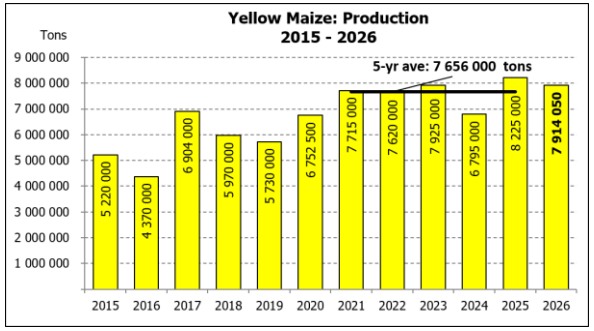
The area planted estimate and <u>ninth</u> production forecast for summer crops for 2026 is hereby released.

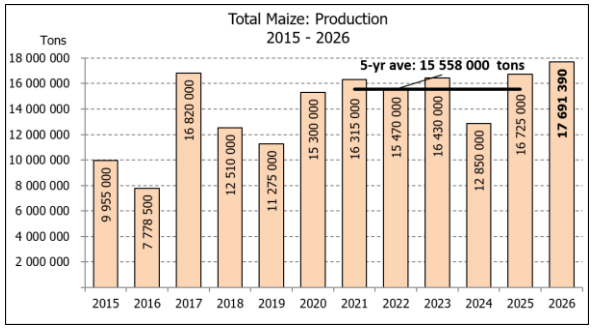
SUMMER CROPS – AREA PLANTED AND NINTH PRODUCTION FORECAST: 2026

CROP	**Area planted 2026 Ha (A)**	**9th forecast 2026 Tons (B)**	8th forecast 2026 Tons (C)	Area planted 2025 Ha (D)	Final crop 2025 Tons (E)	Change % (B) ÷ (C)
Commercial:						
White maize	**1 674 700**	**9 777 340**	9 608 790	1 635 000	8 500 000	1,75%
Yellow maize	**1 049 500**	**7 914 050**	7 914 050	1 030 000	8 225 000	0,00%
Total Maize	**2 724 200**	**17 691 390**	17 522 840	2 665 000	16 725 000	0,96%
Sunflower seed	**570 100**	**874 805**	874 805	555 700	708 635	0,00%
Soybeans	**1 212 700**	**3 010 175**	3 010 175	1 154 000	2 800 000	0,00%
Groundnuts	**44 650**	**65 620**	65 620	48 750	63 350	0,00%
Sorghum	**40 000**	**123 325**	123 325	41 350	154 000	0,00%
Dry beans	**38 520**	**80 695**	80 695	45 620	90 556	0,00%
TOTAL	**4 630 170**	**21 846 010**	21 677 460	4 510 420	20 541 541	0,78%
Non-Commercial Maize:						
Total Maize	**397 170**	**695 025**	695 025	358 000	621 500	0,00%
Maize: Commercial + Non-Commercial						
Total Maize RSA	**3 121 370**	**18 386 415**	18 217 865	3 023 000	17 346 500	0,93%

Calendar year, e.g. production season 2025/26 = 2026







WHITE AND YELLOW MAIZE – AREA PLANTED AND NINTH PRODUCTION FORECAST: 2026

Province	**Area planted 2026**			**9th forecast 2026**			Area planted 2025			Final crop 2025		
	White Ha	**Yellow Ha**	**Total Ha**	**White Tons**	**Yellow Tons**	**Total Tons**	White Ha	Yellow Ha	Total Ha	White Tons	Yellow Tons	Total Tons
Western Cape	**200**	**4 000**	**4 200**	**1 840**	**38 000**	**39 840**	200	3 500	3 700	1 900	32 525	34 425
Northern Cape	**3 000**	**42 500**	**45 500**	**40 500**	**680 000**	**720 500**	3 000	43 500	46 500	37 950	700 350	738 300
Free State	**845 000**	**370 000**	**1 215 000**	**4 943 250**	**2 460 500**	**7 403 750**	865 000	360 000	1 225 000	4 238 500	2 520 000	6 758 500
Eastern Cape	**6 000**	**30 000**	**36 000**	**43 800**	**276 000**	**319 800**	6 000	28 000	34 000	43 200	240 800	284 000
KwaZulu-Natal	**47 000**	**72 000**	**119 000**	**310 200**	**640 800**	**951 000**	50 000	66 000	116 000	325 000	617 100	942 100
Mpumalanga	**172 000**	**366 000**	**538 000**	**1 032 000**	**2 653 500**	**3 685 500**	168 000	362 500	530 500	1 142 400	2 918 125	4 060 525
Limpopo	**16 000**	**20 000**	**36 000**	**108 800**	**170 000**	**278 800**	10 000	18 500	28 500	71 000	159 100	230 100
Gauteng	**60 500**	**65 000**	**125 500**	**356 950**	**471 250**	**828 200**	57 500	70 000	127 500	382 375	549 500	931 875
North West	**525 000**	**80 000**	**605 000**	**2 940 000**	**524 000**	**3 464 000**	475 300	78 000	553 300	2 257 675	487 500	2 745 175
Total	**1 674 700**	**1 049 500**	**2 724 200**	**9 777 340**	**7 914 050**	**17 691 390**	1 635 000	1 030 000	2 665 000	8 500 000	8 225 000	16 725 000

SUNFLOWER SEED – AREA PLANTED AND NINTH PRODUCTION FORECAST: 2026

Province	**Area planted Ha 2026**	**9th forecast Tons 2026**	Area planted Ha 2025	Final crop Tons 2025
Western Cape	**0**	**0**	0	0
Northern Cape	**500**	**1 150**	1 000	2 400
Free State	**309 000**	**494 400**	264 500	383 525
Eastern Cape	**500**	**1 000**	700	1 435
KwaZulu-Natal	**1 500**	**3 000**	1 000	2 000
Mpumalanga	**6 000**	**9 000**	2 500	3 625
Limpopo	**96 500**	**101 325**	90 000	90 000
Gauteng	**1 100**	**1 430**	1 000	1 400
North West	**155 000**	**263 500**	195 000	224 250
Total	**570 100**	**874 805**	555 700	708 635

SOYBEANS – AREA PLANTED AND NINTH PRODUCTION FORECAST: 2026

Province	**Area planted Ha 2026**	**9th forecast Tons 2026**	Area planted Ha 2025	Final crop Tons 2025
Western Cape	**200**	**700**	0	0
Northern Cape	**2 000**	**7 000**	2 000	7 600
Free State	**607 000**	**1 456 800**	568 000	1 306 400
Eastern Cape	**7 500**	**25 500**	5 500	16 775
KwaZulu-Natal	**44 000**	**176 000**	47 000	183 300
Mpumalanga	**314 500**	**676 175**	315 000	771 750
Limpopo	**17 500**	**63 000**	16 500	51 975
Gauteng	**55 000**	**126 500**	52 000	114 400
North West	**165 000**	**478 500**	148 000	347 800
Total	**1 212 700**	**3 010 175**	1 154 000	2 800 000

GROUNDNUTS – AREA PLANTED AND NINTH PRODUCTION FORECAST: 2026

Province	**Area planted Ha 2026**	**9th forecast Tons 2026**	Area planted Ha 2025	Final crop Tons 2025
Western Cape	**0**	**0**	0	0
Northern Cape	**2 550**	**6 884**	3 100	8 525
Free State	**16 750**	**24 288**	21 800	29 648
Eastern Cape	**0**	**0**	0	0
KwaZulu-Natal	**200**	**360**	175	182
Mpumalanga	**0**	**0**	0	0
Limpopo	**2 650**	**5 963**	1 650	2 970
Gauteng	**0**	**0**	0	0
North West	**22 500**	**28 125**	22 025	22 025
Total	**44 650**	**65 620**	48 750	63 350

SORGHUM – AREA PLANTED AND NINTH PRODUCTION FORECAST: 2026

Province	**Area planted Ha 2026**	**9th forecast Tons 2026**	Area planted Ha 2025	Final crop Tons 2025
Western Cape	**0**	**0**	0	0
Northern Cape	**0**	**0**	0	0
Free State	**10 500**	**26 250**	13 000	47 450
Eastern Cape	**100**	**300**	200	620
KwaZulu-Natal	**100**	**350**	100	375
Mpumalanga	**7 400**	**36 260**	9 200	44 620
Limpopo	**16 000**	**44 000**	13 000	40 950
Gauteng	**550**	**2 255**	850	3 485
North West	**5 350**	**13 910**	5 000	16 500
Total	**40 000**	**123 325**	41 350	154 000

DRY BEANS – AREA PLANTED AND NINTH PRODUCTION FORECAST: 2026

Province	**Area planted Ha 2026**	**9th forecast Tons 2026**	Area planted Ha 2025	Final crop Tons 2025
Western Cape	**100**	**200**	100	200
Northern Cape	**750**	**1 838**	950	2 280
Free State	**9 000**	**14 850**	17 500	28 875
Eastern Cape	**170**	**340**	200	400
KwaZulu-Natal	**1 500**	**3 450**	3 000	5 100
Mpumalanga	**1 950**	**3 218**	2 320	4 176
Limpopo	**18 350**	**44 040**	11 100	30 525
Gauteng	**300**	**600**	950	1 900
North West	**6 400**	**12 160**	9 500	17 100
Total	**38 520**	**80 695**	45 620	90 556

CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS for CEC members on the day of the meeting

- Personal items such as laptops, handbags, cellular phones and other electronic devices are not permitted in the meeting venue
- Crop estimate discussions by members of the Committee may only commence from **12:00** on the day of the meeting
- The embargo time for the public release of crop estimates information is **15:30**
- Before the embargo time, members may not discuss crop estimates information with anyone other than fellow Committee members
- Only the Chairperson, or a member authorised by the Chairperson, may release crop estimate information to the media
- Members must treat all information collected for, presented at, or discussed during the meeting as strictly confidential
- Individual information received for crop estimate purposes must be treated as strictly confidential and may not be disclosed or used for any purpose other than the crop estimation process.

AREA ESTIMATE AND NINTH PRODUCTION FORECAST OF SUMMER CROPS (2026 PRODUCTION SEASON)
27 OCTOBER 2026

Summer field crops – 2026

Commercial maize: The size of the expected commercial **maize crop** has been set at 17,691 mill. tons, which is 0,96% or 168 550 tons more than the previous forecast of 17,523 mill. tons. This is the largest maize crop on record. The expected average yield is 6,49 t/ha.

The estimated maize crop is 5,78% or 966 390 tons more than the 2025 crop. The three main maize producing areas, namely the Free State, Mpumalanga and North-West provinces are expected to produce 82% of the 2026 crop.

The production forecast of **white maize** is 9,777 mill. tons, which is 1,75% or 168 550 tons more than the 9,609 mill. tons of the previous forecast. The area estimate for white maize is 1,675 mill. ha with an expected average yield of 5,84 t/ha.

The production forecast for **yellow maize** remained unchanged at 7,914 mill. tons. The area estimate is 1,050 million ha, with an expected average yield of 7,54 t/ha.

Other summer crops:

Sunflower seed: The production forecast for sunflower seed remained unchanged at 874 805 tons. The area estimate for sunflower seed is 570 100 ha, while the expected yield is 1,53 t/ha.

Other crops: The production forecast for **soybeans** also remained unchanged at 3,010 mill. tons. This is the largest soybean crop on record. The estimated area planted to soybeans is 1,213 mill. ha, with an expected average yield of 2,48 t/ha.

The expected **groundnut** crop remained unchanged at 65 620 tons. For groundnuts, the area estimate is 44 650 ha, with an expected yield of 1,47 t/ha.

The production forecast for **sorghum** also remained unchanged at 123 325 tons, The area estimate for sorghum is 40 000 ha and the expected yield is 3,08 t/ha. Please note that the sorghum production estimate remains unchanged, despite being higher than the current producer deliveries monitored by the South African Grain Information Services (SAGIS). It has, however, been confirmed that some producers are retaining a portion of the sorghum produced during the 2025/26 production season on their farms and intend to deliver it only in a future marketing season. Consequently, current deliveries may not fully reflect the total production for the 2025/26 season.

In the case of **dry beans,** the production forecast remained unchanged at 80 695 tons. The estimated area planted is 38 520 ha, with an expected yield of 2,09 t/ha.

Please note that the final production estimate for summer field crops for 2026 will be released on 26 November 2026.

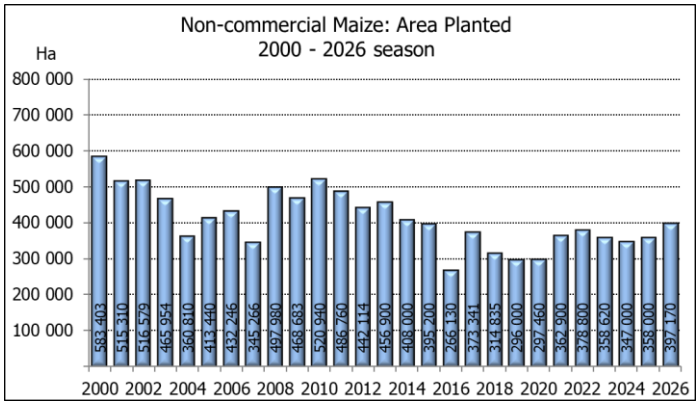
Information is available on the internet at http://www.nda.gov.za/core business/EDT&M/SEA/Reports/Crop Estimates or http://www.sagis.org.za, as from 15:30 on the date of the relevant meeting of the Crop Estimates Committee.

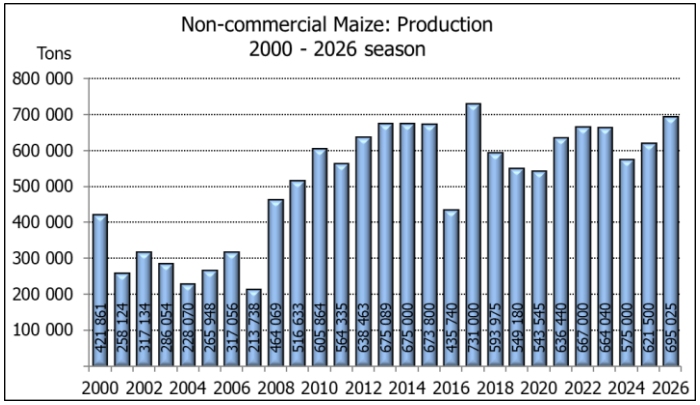
The non-commercial agricultural sectors' production estimate for maize for 2026 is hereby released.

NON-COMMERCIAL MAIZE – AREA PLANTED AND PRODUCTION ESTIMATE: 2026

CROP	**Area planted 2026 Ha (A)**	**Production 2026 Tons (B)**	Area planted/ 2025 Ha (C)	Final crop 2025 Tons (D)	Change % (B) ÷ (D)
Non-commercial agriculture:					
White maize	**261 305**	**390 720**	252 030	389 410	+0,3
Yellow maize	**135 865**	**304 305**	105 970	232 090	+31,1
Maize	**397 170**	**695 025**	358 000	621 500	+11,8

The area planted to maize in the non-commercial agricultural sector is estimated at 397 170 ha, which represents an increase of 10,94%, compared to the 358 000 ha of the previous season. The expected maize crop for this sector is 695 025 tons, which is 11,83% more than the 621 500 tons of last season. It is important to note that about 36,96% of the maize produced in the non-commercial sector, is planted in the Eastern Cape, followed by Limpopo with 31,00% and then KwaZulu-Natal with 21,90%.





The area estimate and third production forecast for winter cereals for 2026 is hereby released.

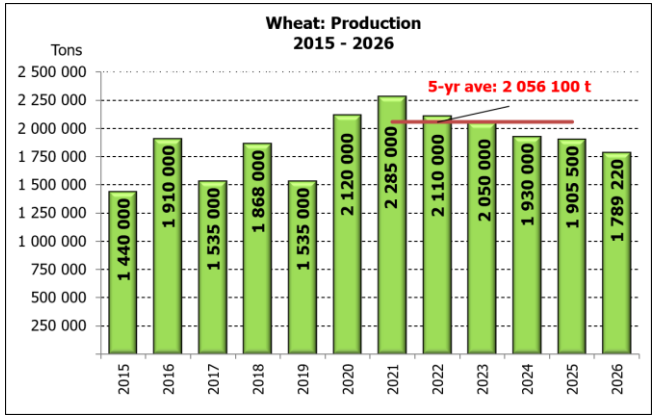
WINTER CEREALS – AREA PLANTED ESTIMATE AND THIRD PRODUCTION FORECAST: 2026 PRODUCTION SEASON

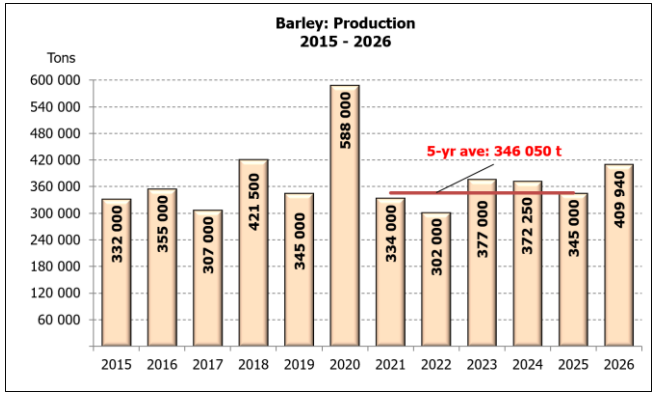
CROP	Area planted 2026 Ha (A)	3rd forecast 2026 Tons (B)	2nd forecast 2026 Tons (C)	Area planted 2025 Ha (D)	Final crop 2025 Tons (E)	Change % (B) ÷ (c)
Commercial:						
Wheat	**487 500**	**1 789 220**	1 805 720	517 300	1 905 500	-0,9%
Barley	**105 320**	**409 940**	414 640	96 950	345 000	-1,1%
Canola	**197 890**	**368 270**	377 770	174 515	306 000	-2,5%
Oats	**40 800**	**55 850**	55 850	35 520	43 500	0,0%
Sweet lupines	**20 000**	**17 000**	18 000	21 000	17 850	-5,6%
Total winter	**851 510**	**2 640 280**	2 671 980	845 285	2 617 850	-1,2%

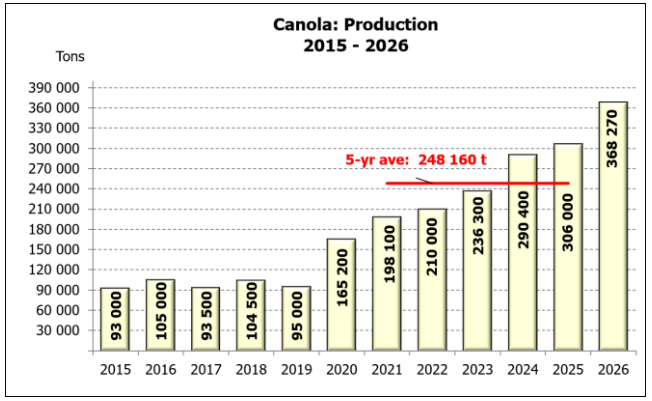
1) Commercial only. Excluding barley or oats used as pasture, silage, hay and/or on the farm as fodder for livestock /

WHEAT – AREA PLANTED ESTIMATE AND THIRD PRODUCTION FORECAST :2026 PRODUCTION SEASON

Province	Area planted Ha 2026	3rd forecast Tons 2026	Area planted Ha 2025	Final crop Tons 2025
Western Cape	**330 000**	**858 000**	363 000	980 100
Northern Cape	**40 000**	**288 000**	40 000	302 000
Free State	**64 000**	**300 800**	57 000	270 750
Eastern Cape	**5 700**	**39 900**	5 500	37 950
KwaZulu-Natal	**8 400**	**50 400**	8 500	51 000
Mpumalanga	**3 100**	**20 770**	3 500	22 400
Limpopo	**25 000**	**160 000**	28 000	165 200
Gauteng	**800**	**5 200**	800	5 150
North West	**10 500**	**66 150**	11 000	70 950
Total	**487 500**	**1 789 220**	517 300	1 905 500







AREA ESTIMATE AND THIRD PRODUCTION FORECAST OF WINTER CROPS (2026)

Winter cereal crops – 2026 production season

Wheat: The expected production of wheat is 1,789 mill. tons, which is 0,91 % or 16 500 tons less than the previous forecast of 1,806 mill. tons, whilst the expected yield is 3,67 t/ha.

The expected production in the Western Cape is 858 000 tons (48%), which is 16 500 tons less than the previous month's forecast of 874 500 tons. In the Northern Cape, 288 000 tons (16%) is expected to be produced – unchanged from the previous month's forecast. In the Free State, the expected production is 300 800 tons (17%) – the same as the previous month's forecast.

The estimated area planted to wheat is 487 550 ha, the lowest since the 2015/16 production season, when the area was estimated at 482 150 ha. An estimated 330 000 ha or 68% is planted in the Western Cape, 64 000 ha or 13 % in the Free State and 40 000 ha or 8 % in the Northern Cape.

Other crops: The production forecast for **barley** was decreased by 1,13% or 4 700 tons, from 414 640 tons to 409 940 tons. The area planted is estimated at 105 320 ha, while the expected yield is 3,89 t/ha.

The expected **canola crop** is 368 270 tons, which is 2,51% or 9 500 tons less than the previous month's crop forecast of 377 770 tons. This is the largest canola crop on record. The area estimate for canola is 197 890 ha, with an expected yield of 1,86 t/ha

The crop for **oats** for the 2026 season remained unchanged at 55 850 tons. The area planted is 40 800 ha. The expected yield is 1,37 t/ha.

In the case of **sweet lupines,** the production estimate is 17 000 tons, which is 5,56% or 1 000 tons less than the previous month's expected crop of 18 000 tons. The area estimate of sweet lupines is 20 000 ha, with an expected yield of 0,85 t/ha

Please note that the fourth production forecast for winter cereals for 2026 will be released on 26 November 2026.

Information is available on the internet at http://www.nda.gov.za/core business/EDT&M/SEA/Reports/Crop Estimates or http://www.sagis.org.za, as from 15:30 on the date of the relevant meeting of the Crop Estimates Committee.