

USDA, June 29, 2007 Planting Report

During May sunflower growers planted their intended acreage ahead of the normal pace, reaching 41 percent by month's end, 9 points ahead of the normal pace. However, on June 17, eighty-two percent of the crop had been planted, compared with 92 percent last year and 87 percent for the 5-year average. Seeding was well behind normal in South Dakota but at or ahead of normal elsewhere.

Sunflower: Area planted to sunflower in 2007 totals 1.86 million acres, down 4 percent from 2006.

Harvested area is expected to be down 5,000 acres from last year to 1.77 million acres. Planted area of oil type varieties, at 1.54 million acres, is down 7 percent from 2006 but the non-oil varieties, estimated at 324,000 acres, are up 11 percent from last year.

Acreage declines in Nebraska, South Dakota, and Texas were partially offset by increases in Colorado, Minnesota, and North Dakota. South Dakota sunflower acreage, at 395,000, is down 25 percent from last year, while acreage in Nebraska and Texas is down 58 and 15 percent, respectively. As of June 17, only 58 percent of the sunflower crop was planted in South Dakota, 21 points behind the 5-year average, as rainy weather during late May slowed progress. In North Dakota, planted area is 960,000 acres, up 7 percent from 2006. Sunflower planting got off to a good start in North Dakota, as planting progressed ahead of last year and the 5-year average during May. By June 17, planting was virtually finished in North Dakota at 96 percent complete. Eighty-five percent of the crop was rated good to excellent as of June 17, seventeen points above last year.