

Oats

Oats marketing

Oats are grown mainly in southern New South Wales (Riverina), Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia. Approximately 1.6 million tonnes are produced annually. Approximately 85% is used within Australia, and 90% of this is used for stockfeed.

Domestic trading in oats is free except in South Australia, where it is controlled by the Australian Barley Board, and in Western Australia by the Grain Pool. Only the Western Australian Grain Pool exports substantial quantities.

Oats storage

In some overseas markets there are strict requirements on pesticide levels on oats sold for use in the manufacture of breakfast cereals, biscuits and rolled oats. Some overseas customers require residue free oats (e.g. 0.1 ppm for some European countries). In South Australia and Western Australia, oats are generally treated only with phosphine. Insecticides have been used in Victoria. The processing of oats for breakfast cereals is thought to break down residues.

Oats hygiene

There is no information on the occurrence of mycotoxins on oats in Australia, but they do occur elsewhere.