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## REDSUN RAISIN REPORT #1 – 2019 SOUTH AFRICAN RAISIN CROP JANUARY 2019

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS REPORT

1. The SA Dried Grape Crop 2018 compared with projections for 2019
2. Redsun's Food Safety project
3. Jumbos and bolds
4. Currants from 2019
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6. Photos of the vines

#### 1. The SA Dried Grape Crop 2019 projections.

Our farmers are looking forward to a good quality raisin crop, although the volume will not be as good as 2018 crop. The major players for the 2018 SA Dried Grape crop were;

Item	Percentage of whole	Metric Ton
Total 2018 South African dried grape crop	100	71,072
Thompson medium	46	32,725
Golden Medium	32,5	23,116
Currants	3,3	2,328

The 2019 South African Dried grape crop will probably be around 68,000 mt . The percentage of Thompson mediums will increase to about 55%. Redsun believes the Golden medium volume will decrease to be about 22% of the total crop. The currant share of the crop will increase slightly to about 4,5% of the crop.

The grapes are now fully developed, and they are starting to ripen. The temperatures have been consistently stable with maximum daylight temperatures of 39°C to 41°C. The night time temperatures have also remained high at 25°C to 29°C. the grapes are not burnt by the sun. The sugars develop in the hot night time temperatures. Therefore there is "even" development of sugars throughout the bunches.

Very importantly, we have had no rain in the growing region. At this stage, there is no rain forecast. The higher sugar content of the fruit will cause the fruit to be damaged in the event of rain, because the sugar will absorb the rain water into the fruit, causing it to burst.

The earlier regions and earlier grape varieties will start harvesting mid January. Deliveries of raisins to processors will start at the last week of January beginning February.

## **2. Redsun's Food Safety project**

Redsun is carrying out random residue tests on the grapes of farmers who will be delivering their dried grapes to Redsun. There has been a lot of education given to the farmers on the use of chemicals. The results of the tests come back very clean, however, we must remember that the tests are done on the fresh grapes at this stage. When the grape is dried, any residue that exists on the fresh grape, will be multiplied by 4 x. That is the drying ration for dried grapes. 400kg of grapes will make 100kg of dried grapes. Therefore, there is an effective concentration of 400% of any residue that exists on the grape.

In the circumstances, our testing program is more to keep the farmers aware of the need to produce low residue/ clean grapes.

Redsun encounters more chemical residues on jumbo raisins than the mediums, because these grapes are from the table grape industry. In order to preserve the appearance and quality of the table grapes, farmers in this business are more likely to apply additional chemicals. The medium grapes that are planned only for the production of dried grapes are clean.

## **3. Jumbos and bolds**

During the 2018 crop, 7,6% of the South African dried grape production was jumbo and bold size. The quantity was 5,427mt. Redsun believes there will be more jumbos and bolds available as dried grapes during 2019 crop. The reason is the relative low price that is available presently in the market for table grapes. The farmers involved in the industry have decided to prepare certain grapes only for production of dried grapes. It is a good alternative, provided the grapes are harvested at the correct sugar content. To make a good quality raisin, the sugar content of the grape should be 20%, at least. If not, the grape is not fully ripe, and is therefore not suitable for dried grape production. In our opinion, at least 60% of the jumbos and bolds produced in South Africa during 2018 did not have the correct sugar content, and therefore, do not have the correct flavour.

The relative sizes of the jumbos and bolds are

<b>Product name</b>	<b>berry count per 100gr</b>	<b>size on sorting screen</b>
Medium or Select	220-300 berries/100gr	Through 12mm RHS Over 8mm RHS
Bold	120-200 berries/100gr	Through 14mm RHS over a 12mm RHS
Jumbo	Maximum 120 berries/100gr	Over 14mm RHS

## **4. Currants from 2019**

As we have reported previously, the drought in the Western Cape is over. However, the effect of the drought on the currants seems to be continuing. The yield per plant remains affected negatively. This is coupled with a very hot heat wave mid-December 2018 which caused young fruit to fall to the ground. The currant berries of the 2019 crop have returned to "normal" size of 1000 berries per 100gr.

## **5. Buying commences and provisional prices for 2019 crop**

The competition between processors to secure dried grapes from farmers for the 2019 crop, has not yet started. We should see the action start from next week commencing 7 January. By mid January, prices from packers should be confirmed. The farmers need the bins from the processor of choice to be delivered to collect the dried grapes. The processors compete with vigour to secure sufficient quantities of dried grapes each year.

At this stage, Redsun's ideas regarding prices are as set out herein. Please note that these are provisional only and may change, according to market conditions for the sourcing of dried grapes from farmers at origin. Prices per mt CFR Main European Port

Thompson medium choice	USD2850
Golden medium choice	USD3050
Thompson jumbo choice	USD2400
Thompson Bold Choice	USD 2350
OR Sultanas medium choice	USD2700
WP Sultanas medium choice	USD2400

These are obviously a sample of the various varieties and qualities that Redsun will have from the 2019 dried grape crop. Please let us know if you would like any additional information.

The Redsun intake will start on 1 February. Our factory will start processing the new crop on 1 March, with first shipments expected the second half of March.

Please let me know if we can supply any additional information.

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Vines and clear blue sky



Sultanas hanging on the vine. Jan 19





Close up of the sultanas Jan 19



Currants in the bunches Jan19