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REDSUN RAISIN REPORT #7 -2021 July SOUTH AFRICAN RAISIN CROP

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS REPORT

Unrest and Covid in South Africa

Shipping Companies

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Unrest and Covid in South Africa

In South Africa we have a resurgence of COVID 19 (Delta variety). There are roughly 16,500 new cases every day. Vaccinations are ongoing but at a very slow pace. As at today, there are about 5 million people vaccinated in South Africa out of an approximate 50 million population.

In addition, over the past week, there has been the worst outbreak of violent looting in Durban and Johannesburg since the advent of democracy in 1994. 25,000 soldiers have been deployed to support the police. This was apparently in protest against the imprisonment of former President Jacob Zuma, who was jailed by the Constitutional Court (the highest Court in South Africa) for contempt of Court. The riots and looting has now settled down again, with the resultant damages estimated to be around USD500 million.

Redsun is fortunate. Our operations have continued in Keimoes, Northern Cape Province without any interruption.

Health protocols are working and we have no positive Covid 19 cases among our 178 staff.

Our logistic network to Cape Town Harbour has been fully operational. In Cape Town our problem is the cold, stormy weather that causes delays in the loading of vessels. This is absolutely normal for Cape Town at this time of the year. This delay can be up to 5 days.

Shipping Companies

Redsun works with three shipping lines (MSC, DAL and Maersk) to secure the most efficient delivery of food grade containers to load our product for delivery. As of today, Redsun has 53 loads which have been packed and we are waiting for food grade containers. These loads are all kept in our warehouse until the arrival of the empty food grade containers.

The delay in delivering the containers is average 15 days for Europe, South America and Far East. For USA there are longer delays. The earliest shipment to USA waiting for a container is now 33 days. This is now getting worse due to the delays in Durban (first port of call for ships travelling to Europe and USA) caused by the unrest.

Another important development is the “14 day Demurrage free days”. For those loads shipped on MSC, the 14 days is no longer allowed. Please note that the demurrage free days have been reduced to 10 demurrage free days by MSC. The reason is the shortage of equipment. According to Redsun agreement,

DAL maintains the 14 days.

There have been adjustments made to the voyage tariffs, but these relate mainly to a premium to be paid on the availability of “food grade containers”. It is not the voyage itself.

Anuga 21

Due to the many uncertainties pertaining to international travel, and our COVID 19 status in South Africa, Redsun will unfortunately not be participating in Anuga 21.

Please be assured we are always very happy to meet with you, our special customers, via ZOOM. Fortunately, our internet is doing very well. It is fast and strong.

Organic Certified Raisins

Redsun is now in our third year of working with raisin farmers to secure an organic certified status for part or the whole of these farmer’s raisin production unit. There are 10 farmers that Redsun is working with representing 188ha (potentially 940mt of organic raisins). 3 of those farmers should be certified for crop 2022. That will represent 40ha (200mt of organic raisins in 2022).

Redsun presently buys 50mt of organic certified raisins from the crop in SA.

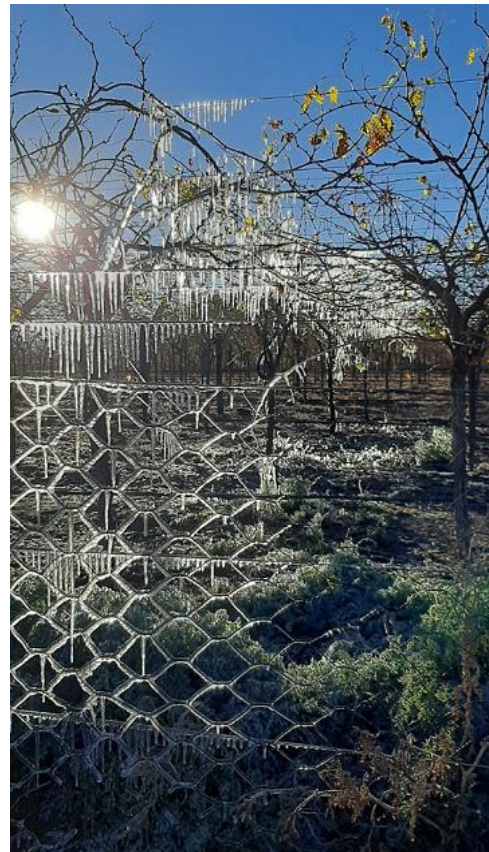
While these farmers are working towards the organic certification, they are delivering “chemical free” Thompson raisins to Redsun. Laboratory tested to be without chemicals, but not yet certified “organic”.

What is happening in the vineyards?



A Pruning team taking a break to warm up in the morning

Icy dew at sunrise in the vineyards



We are experiencing freezing weather in the raisin producing region. Temperatures of -3°C at sunrise are the norm. This is ideal for the vines. It kills off insects and it puts the vines into rest mode. Horticulturists will say this is the ideal condition for vines.

It is also time for farmers to start pruning their vines for the 2022 crop. As you see, our teams of pruners are warmly wrapped up against the cold. Pruning vines in the early mornings will never be a “fun job”!

South Africa Pecan crop 2021

The icy cold weather signifies the arrival of harvest time for pecans. The nut in shell (NIS) falls easily from the tree. The harvesting can now take place from the orchard floor that has been prepared for harvesting.

The 2021 pecan crop was anticipated to be 22,500mt NIS. The deliveries are slowly beginning to come in. Redsun has 43mt of the 500mt target we have for our first year.

Our new pecan NIS processing machinery has arrived and we are packing our orders. We are selling NIS natural and polished in the medium, large and extra large sizes.



Redsun nut in shell processing equipment.

More information about the Redsun pecan project is available. We will be happy to include you on our mailing list for the “Redsun Pecan Post” news letter. Please let me know if you would like to receive this newsletter at peter@redsun.co.za.

Similarly, Redsun does not want to clog your mailbox unnecessarily, if you would like us to remove your name from our mail list for “Redsun Raisin Report”, please send me a note at peter@redsun.co.za. We will comply with your wish immediately.

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