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REDSUN RAISIN REPORT #8 -2023 November SOUTH AFRICAN RAISIN CROP

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS REPORT

Sales of the 2023 South African Raisin crop

How does the 2024 South African Raisin crop look?

Raisins from Namibia

Product mix from 2024 raisin crop.

Sales of the 2023 South African Raisin crop

As at end October 2023, South Africa had actually shipped 52,198 mt of raisins since 1 January 2023. The 2023 crop was 60,204mt. Statistics supplied by Raisin SA. The carry over crop from 2022 is also included in these figures. The volume shipped is about 93% of the net processed weight of the 2023 crop.

Country	Shipped (mt)	Percentage of %
Germany	14 024	27%
USA	8 698	17%
Rep South Africa	6 711	13%
Netherlands	5 138	10%
Algeria	3 957	8%
Canada	2 510	5%
France	2 378	5%
United Kingdom	2 711	5%
UAE	456	1%
Belgium	414	1%
Switzerland	360	1%
Spain	381	1%
Portugal	381	1%
Japan	159	<1%
China	298	<1%
Sweden	241	<1%
Finland	185	<1%
Denmark	675	1%
Norway	166	<1%
Others	2 355	5%
Total shipped	52 198	100%

Table showing largest destinations for SA raisin crop for the 10 months ending 31 October 23.

The biggest month for shipping was March 2023 at 6617 mt. Thereafter, shipping was relatively constant at about 5 000mt per month through to October.

How does the 2024 South African Raisin crop look?

At the end of November 2023, these are early days for the SA raisin crop due in February 2024, however farmers are optimistic that a good crop of 85,000 mt is on hand. Temperatures are between 40°C and 43°C. Occasional rain showers, but nothing serious as the fruit is too immature for there to be any negative effect.



Grapes developing towards the 2024 crop (end November 23)

It is also the time for Redsun and other factories to visit the growing areas to talk to farmers regarding buying their upcoming crop. Farmers are paid based on market prices as estimated by the packers at the time of harvest in February 2024. It is always a difficult time, due to the strong competition that exists between the South African packers to buy the farmer's stock raisins.

There is some concern amongst the farmers about the production capacity available in South Africa to handle a crop of 85,000mt. The concern is against the background that one of the larger raisin processors in South Africa, Desert Raisins has now shut down. That means 12,000mt of processing capacity is out of the system.

Existing processors in SA are confident that they will be able to handle the full crop.

If this 2024 crop comes in at 85 000mt, it will be equal to the previous record SA crop of 85,080mt harvested in 2020. Since 2020, there have been substantial additional plantings of raisin grapes, which should now add to the volume. Presently, there are 16,365 ha of raisin grapes planted in South Africa. At a rough (conservative) estimate of 5 mt dried grapes per ha, that confirms what our farmers are reporting.



Redsun meeting with raisin farmers at Vredendal

Raisins from Namibia

Namibia produces about 2800 mt of raisins each year (and growing). We are not sure if this volume is included in the estimate projected by Raisins SA for 2024 of 85,000mt. All Namibian raisins are processed in South Africa. Redsun is the main buyer of raisins from Namibia with roughly 95% of the crop.



Stryls Straus, Redsun Manager of Technical services looking at a new drying structure for raisins in Namibia

The Namibian farmers are excited about this developing industry in their country. Most importantly they are eagerly adopting the food -safety regulations as they are applied in the raisin industry in South Africa.

Product mix from 2024 raisin crop.

Based on the price indications that we have seen offered by the various packers at the meetings held with the farmers they are wanting to deliver to them, the mix of dried grapes from the SA crop 2024, may have some more SA Sultanas in the mix than usual. (in 2023 SA produced about 750mt of SA sultanas) This change is due to the higher price the market is offering for sultanas.

We also predict that the number of jumbos available from SA will be on the increase. The reason is the greater participation by table grape farmers into the raisin industry. For example, 70% of the raisins from Namibia are jumbos.

Raisin Variety	2023*	Anticipated 2024 crop mix
Thompson medium	47%	36%
Golden medium	26%	22%
Flame medium	8%	7%
SA Sultana	1,5%	16%
OR Sultana	1%	1%
Currants	5%	5%
Jumbos/ bolds	11%	13%
Total	60 204 mt	85 000mt

*Source is Raisins SA Weekly Intake Report Final 26 July 2023

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