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REDSUN RAISIN REPORT #5 -2025 July SOUTH AFRICAN RAISIN CROP

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS REPORT

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ANUGA 2025 From 4th until 8th of October

South African Raisin Crop Development

It is now common Knowledge that the South African 2025 raisin crop was 100,500 mt. this is a new record ahead of the last record sized crop being 2024 at 96,445mt. The crop has grown ahead of infrastructure required for drying of the grapes. Urgent attention is needed to continue drying on accredited drying facilities.

The chart of SA raisin crop size shows the stable forward growth.

Crop Year	Crop size mt	Diff from previous	% Change
2025	100,495 mt	4050 mt	4%
2024	96,445 mt	36,213mt	60%
2023	60,232mt	-18,525 mt	-24%
2022	78,757 mt	6,025	8%
2021	72,732 mt		

Historical raisin crops in South Africa

The exception to the growth was 2023. The crop was affected by downey mildew during 2022. The effect is seen a year later. Thereafter the growth remained firmly on track.

The average annual growth is 7000mt. That will take the SA crop to 135,000mt by the year 2030. That is not taking into account ,

1. New plantings of more productive varieties (eg Selma pete)
2. New blocks of land planted to raisin grapes in the place of wine grapes
3. Raisins being produced from existing table grapes (mainly jumbos).

The South African raisin industry should base its planning on 150,000mt by the year 2030.

The mix of varieties going forward will depend on market forces and the dominance of other suppliers eg Turquía. Thompson medium, golden mediums, flame mediums OR sultanas and SA sultanas will always be leaders.

Market for the 2025 Raisin crop

The biggest disruption to the 2025 SA raisin industry has been the USA market. It is very likely, there will be the introduction of a 30% import tariff on raisins from South Africa entering the USA. That is only part of the problem, the greatest challenge has come from the price parity of the SA Thompson medium with the domestically produced Californian raisins.

The effect on the market has caused the USA destined sales of SA raisins to drop from 7,107mt during the first 6 months of 2024, to 2,851mt during the same period in 2025. That is 4,256 mt fewer raisins or, 60% drop compared to the same time last year. The difficult part, the import tariff of 30% will only commence from 1 August 2025.

As at end of June 2025, the volume of shipments of raisins from South Africa is 13% slower than the same period of 2024.

The following is a table showing the top 6 destinations of raisins from SA. This chart represents 78% of the shipments

Country destination	Volume shipped	% of total
Germany	8,068 mt	25%
The Netherlands	4,590 mt	14%
South Africa (domestic)	4,426 mt	14%
United Kingdom	3,840	12%
USA	2,851 mt	9%
France	1,201 mt	4%
Total shipped end June	31,884 mt	100%

Table of the six biggest destinations in volume for SA raisins as end June 2025

The total volume of raisins expected to be shipped from the 2025 crop is estimated at 93,500 mt. This figure takes into account processing loss and “no value”. Therefore, at end June 2025, we can estimate that 34% of the 2025 crop has been shipped. We have 8 months to go to end Feb 2026.

Redsun increase of factory processing capacity

The raisin processing capacity of the Redsun factory was 15,000mt per year up to 2024. Redsun then purchased an additional raisin processing line to add 12,000mt per year to our processing capacity. That additional line was to be installed at the beginning of 2025, to enable Redsun to process 27,000mt during 2025. The new installation happened in a year of the record sized 2025 South African raisin crop.

A new building was built. The machinery of the precleaning line was not fully functional after installation. That caused a delay of 4,5 weeks to resolve the defects. Then there was the repositioning of the old equipment with the upgrade

The production schedule determines the scheduling of the delivery of the products out of the factory.

When we work on the production schedule, we have to consider the ability of the factory to process the raisins ensuring the quality is maintained. The factory is doing very well. It is working 24 hours per day for 6 days per week. Three shifts of 8 hours each. We ensure we do not pack more than 4 mt per hour, to ensure the quality is maintained.

We are installing the new production line, side by side with the existing line. That means we will increase the processing rate to 8mt per hour. Our planning was effective at end May 2025.

There have unfortunately been delays in our plans with building not being ready on time, electrical supply being delayed, mechanical problem with effectiveness of new machine. All these combined means Redsun will only have the additional capacity operational from end August. Three months delay.

In the meantime, we have added additional shifts onto the existing line, so that we are packing at the maximum possible rate, ensuring not to compromise quality. That means we are ensuring we remove all the foreign material, such as cap stems, stalks etc.

However, once the new line is functional, we will continue with the additional shifts on both lines. In this way we will catch up with our delivery schedule we had originally planned. We will achieve the 27,000mt process by 28 February 2026.

My apologies for the delay in the delivery schedule.

Currants produced in South Africa

The South African 2025 currant crop comprised 3,974 mt. This is a good crop for SA and is produced only along the Olifants River in the Western Cape province. In the main raisin producing region (Orange River), the night temperatures are too high (24°C). For currants, cooler nights (about 18°C) are necessary to allow natural colour change from green to black, and the healthy development of the fruit. During the day, we need a more temperate temperature of 36°C. This region is about 42 km from the Atlantic Ocean. That cooler night air is key to the success of the currant crop.

All the currants are transported from the Olifants River, to the main producing region along the Orange River for processing. This is a journey of 600km.

The “normal” currant size in South African zante currants is a berry size of 900-1300 berries per 100gr. The fruit is very small but full of body. It is not empty husks, they are all full of meat and juice.

The demand for currants during 2025 has been very strong.

The reason is the ongoing difficulties experienced by the Greek supply of their currants. All our currants from 2025 are sold.

One of our concerns from the SA currants is the product is full-bodied and juicy. The sugar content is very high at about 22 brix at the time of harvesting. Once these currants are dried, they are very sweet and therefore absorb water during the washing process (Osmosis). At Redsun we try to restrict the water added during washing. It does lead to currants that are very juicy.

We are working with currant farmers to harvest currants at a lower sugar content. That contributes to better ultimate free flowing properties of currants.

Due to the demand and limited supply, Redsun is not able to offer additional currants from the 2025 crop. However, effective from 2026 April, there will be more currants from the 2026 crop. We do apologize for this.

ANUGA 2025 From 4th until 8th of October

Redsun will have a booth at Anuga 2025. The address is Hall 10.2 Booth E-091. There is no longer a South African pavilion at Anuga, so each of the companies must make our own arrangements.

Please come and visit us.

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