

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: South Africa Concludes the 2025-26 Table Grape Season

Country: South Africa - Republic of

Post: Pretoria

Report Category: Fresh Deciduous Fruit

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Report Highlights:

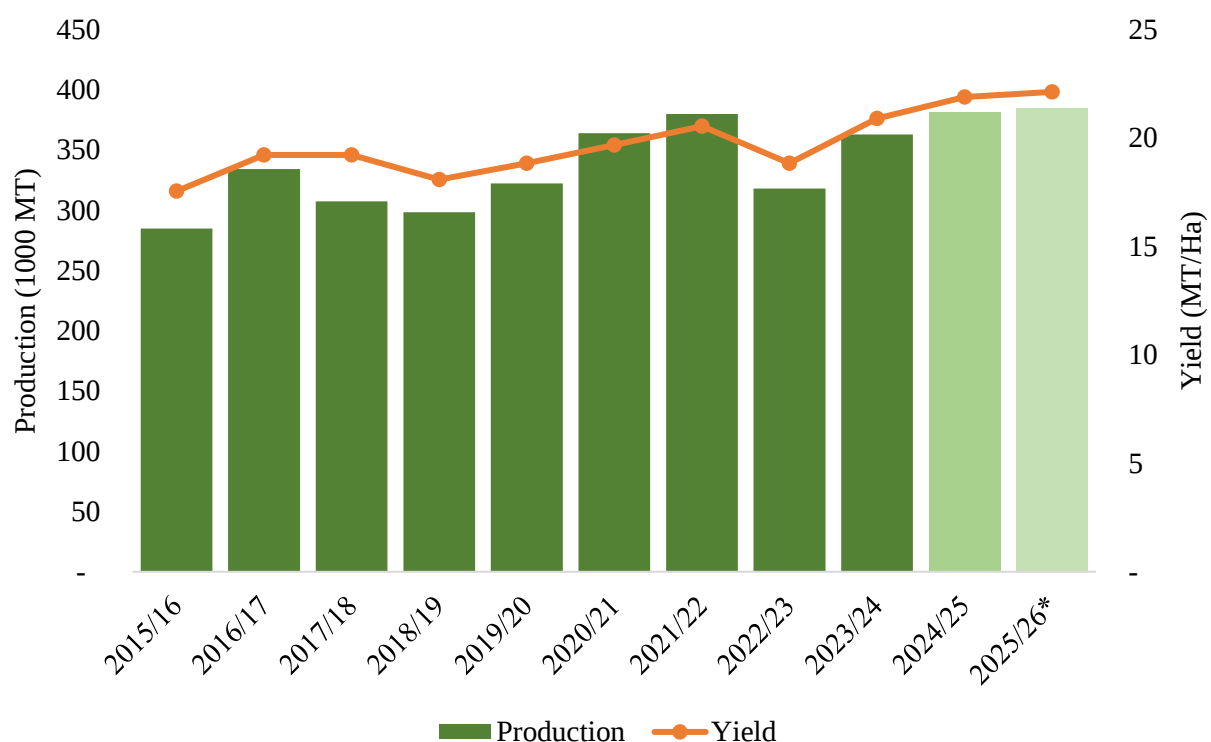
The Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual Report for South Africa is published in December; however, the season for table grapes runs from November to April each year. This report updates the Annual Report with information on the 2025/26 Marketing Year for table grapes. Production in major production regions was favorable. Export share through the Port of Cape Town dropped significantly due to record weather disruptions. Exports of table grapes to the United States dropped by 86 percent from MY 2024/25 record levels after an import duty took effect in April 2025.

Report Note: The South African table grape season typically runs from November through April; however, the marketing year for this report runs October through September. This report updates the grape section of the 2025 [Deciduous Annual Report](#).

Production

The South African table grape season ran from November 2025 to April 2026. The 2025/26 season started 10 to 14 days earlier in the Western Cape than the preceding marketing year due to warmer weather conditions. Production regions experienced favorable weather overall; however, FAS Pretoria reports that one region was affected by rains toward the end of the season. Pest pressure remained under control. FAS Pretoria maintains MY 2025/26 production volumes at a record-setting 385,000 MT. This represents a one percent increase from MY 2024/25, supported by higher-yielding cultivars coming into full production and sufficient water for irrigation. FAS Pretoria maintains MY 2024/25 production at 381,000 MT.

Figure 1: Table Grape Production in South Africa



Source: FAS Pretoria using South African Table Grape Industry (SATI) data

*FAS Pretoria Estimate

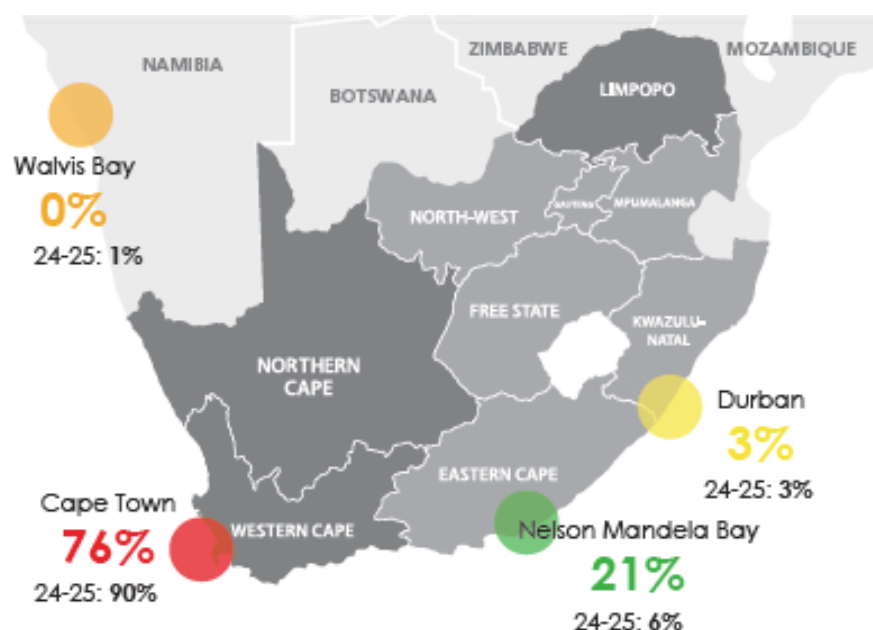
Exports

FAS Pretoria revises MY 2025/26 exports downward to 352,400 MT, remaining virtually unchanged from MY 2024/25, as logistical challenges at the Port of Cape Town, including record weather disruptions, constrained throughput.

The majority of South African table grapes are shipped through the port of Cape Town. However, FAS Pretoria contacts report that in MY 2025/26, exports through the Cape Town Port decreased to 76 percent from 90 percent in MY 2024/25. The diversion to other ports resulted from delays caused by early harvest, weather disruptions, and other port operational challenges. This also implies that growers had to cover additional cost of diverting fruit to other ports.

In November 2025, the Cape Town Container Terminal (CTCT) recorded 414 hours of weather-related delays due to wind and fog disruptions, compared to 265 hours in November 2024. In December 2025, the terminal recorded 349 hours of wind-related delays, compared to 127 hours in December 2024. This represents the highest record of weather-related delays, further exacerbated by 22 hours of network downtime. Additionally, the CTCT reported significant equipment downtime and operational inefficiencies causing export delays.

Figure 2: Export Share of Table Grapes Through the Port of Cape Town Declined



Source: SATI

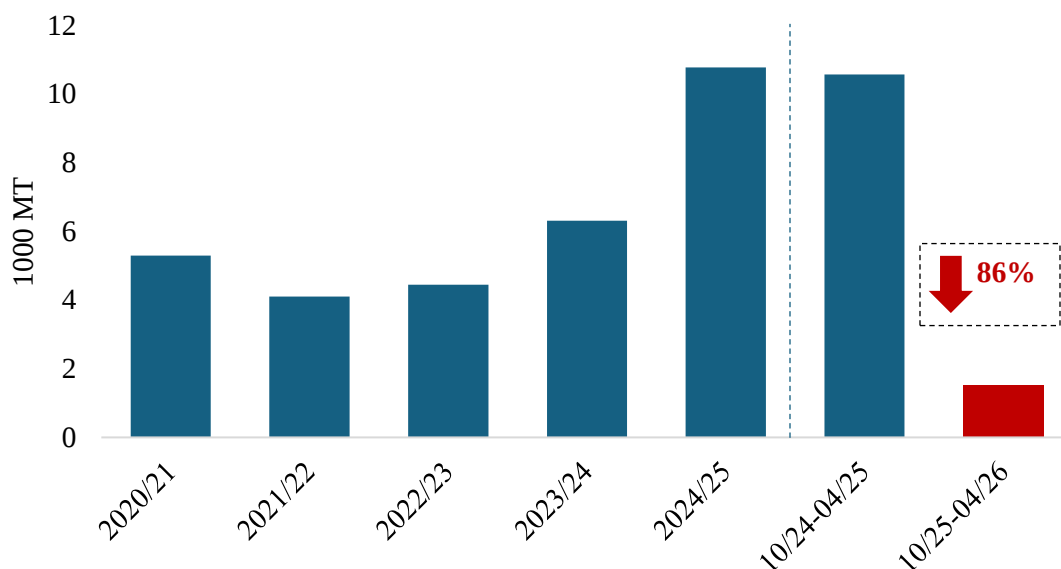
Exports through the Eastern Cape ports increased to 21 percent from 6 percent in MY 2025/26, while 3 percent of grapes were exported through the Durban port and less than 1 percent through Walvis Bay in Namibia. The top exported table grape varieties in MY 2025/26 were Crimson Seedless (12 percent), Sweet Globe (11 percent), Sweet Celebration (11 percent), AUTUMNCRISP (9 percent), and Prime (8 percent), in line with the most planted varieties.

FAS Pretoria maintains MY 2024/25 exports at 351,800 MT, reflecting a six percent growth compared to MY 2023/24, based on increased production of export-quality grapes. FAS Pretoria maintains MY 2023/24 export volumes at 332,800 MT.

Europe (the EU and UK) is the leading export market for South African table grapes, accounting for about 86 percent of total table grape exports in MY 2025/26. This share increased from 76

percent in MY 2024/25. South Africa saw a sharp decline in table grape exports to the United States in MY 2025/26 (see Figure 3). Exports dropped by 86 percent from MY 2024/25 record levels after an import duty on South African table grapes in the United States took effect in April 2025. As exports to the United States declined, these volumes were redirected to the EU market. South Africa exported to the United States from approximately the first week of December 2025 through the first week of March 2026.

Figure 3: South African Exports of Table Grapes to the United States



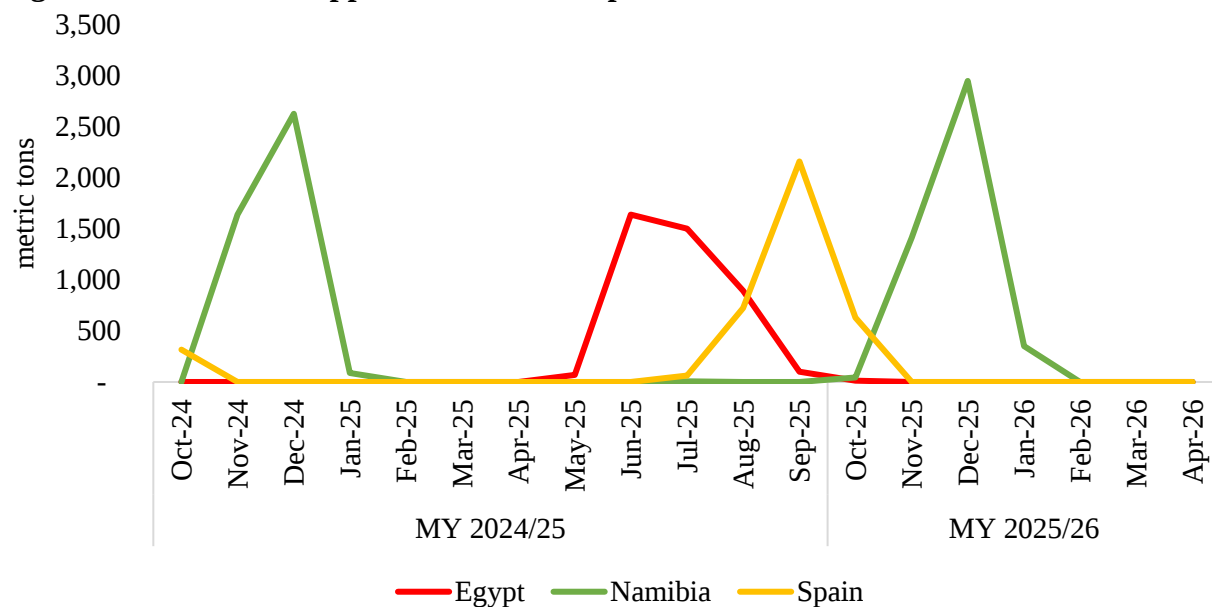
Source: FAS Pretoria using Trade Data Monitor, LLC.

South Africa primarily exports to the United States white seedless grapes such as Sweet Globe and Autumn Crisp; red seedless grapes such as Sweet Celebration; and black seedless grapes such as Sable Seedless.

Imports

South Africa is a net exporter of table grapes. Imports primarily fill off-season demand from approximately June through early December. Namibia, Egypt, and Spain are the primary suppliers (see Figure 4), with both Namibian and Spanish grapes entering the market duty-free. The Namibian table grape season starts a few weeks earlier than South Africa's, and exports are mainly between October and December. For the remainder of MY 2025/26, imports are expected to come from Egypt between June and August 2026, followed by imports from Spain between August and October 2026.

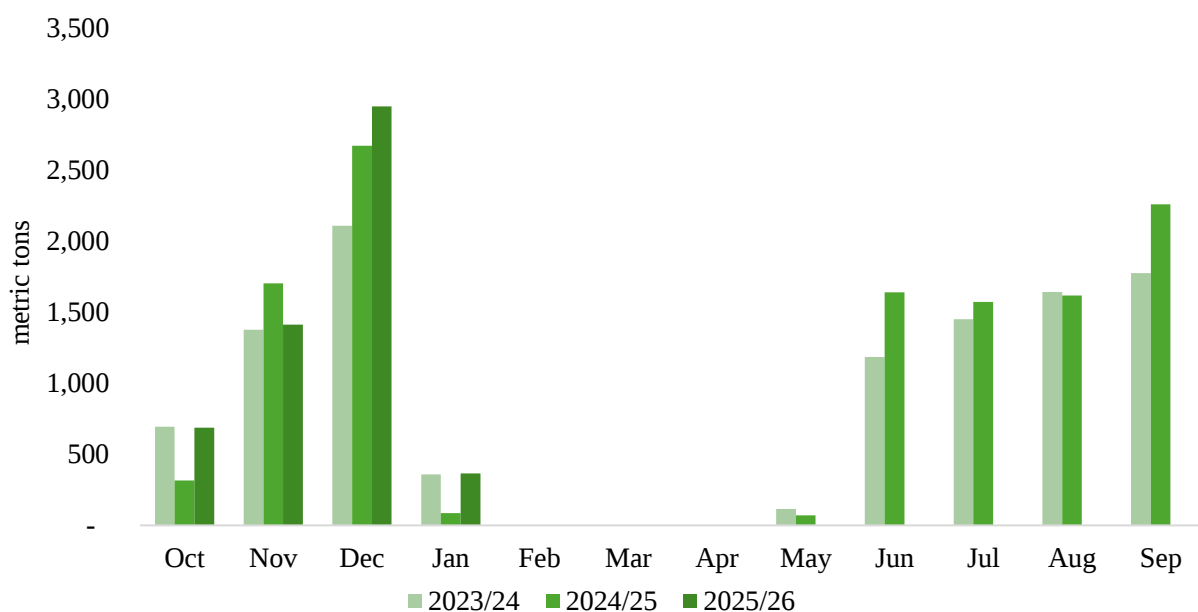
Figure 4: Off-Season Suppliers of Table Grapes in South Africa: MY 2024/25



Source: FAS Pretoria using Trade Data Monitor, LLC. data

FAS Pretoria revises MY 2025/26 imports slightly upwards by 1,000 MT to 12,000 MT as year-to-date imports are 13 percent higher compared to the same period in MY 2024/25. Therefore, imports are estimated to increase by one percent from MY 2024/25, based on a slight increase in demand, especially during the off-season between June and December. FAS Pretoria maintains MY 2024/25 and MY 2023/24 table grape import based on finalized trade data.

Figure 5: South Africa's Table Grape Imports



Source: FAS Pretoria using Trade Data Monitor, LLC. data

Figure 6: Imported Table Grapes Sold in South African Retailers



Imported Candy Heart Grapes 500g

R 59.99

Source: Woolworths and Checkers websites

The exchange rate (as of July 1, 2026) is 16.4150 South African Rand (ZAR) to one U.S. dollar (USD).



Red Globe Grapes 500g
R49.99

The United States does not have market access for table grapes into South Africa. If access were granted, exports would be subject to a four percent customs duty, as shown in Table 1. U.S. exports to South Africa would likely concentrate between July and November, competing with imports from Spain at a time when South Africa is out of season.

Table 1: Tariff Rates, Grapes Fresh

Heading Subheading	Article Description	Rate of Duty					
		General	EU/UK	EFTA	SADC	Mercosur	AfCFTA
0806.10	Grapes, fresh	4%	Free	4%	Free	4%	1.6%

Source: SARS (Updated June 22, 2026)

Table 2: Production, Supply and Distribution of Table Grapes

Grapes, Fresh Table Market Year Begins South Africa	2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
	Oct 2023		Oct 2024		Oct 2025	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HA)	19488	19488	19404	19404	19390	19390
Area Harvested (HA)	17368	17368	17400	17400	17400	17400
Commercial Production (MT)	363000	363000	381000	381000	385000	385000
Non-Comm. Production (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production (MT)	363000	363000	381000	381000	385000	385000
Imports (MT)	10700	10700	11900	11900	10000	12000
Total Supply (MT)	373700	373700	392900	392900	395000	397000
Fresh Dom. Consumption (MT)	40900	40900	41100	41100	40000	44600
Exports (MT)	332800	332800	351800	351800	355000	352400
Withdrawal From Market (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (MT)	373700	373700	392900	392900	395000	397000
(HA) ,(MT)						
OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: PSD Online Advanced Query						

MY 2026/27 Table Grape Production and Export Update***Flooding in Table Grape Producing Regions***

South Africa's Western Cape Province experienced heavy rains in May 2026, causing flooding across the Berg River, Hex River, and Olifants River table grape producing regions (See FAS Pretoria report; [Peak-Season Flooding Threatens South Africa's Citrus Exports](#)). The Western Cape account for 61 percent of area planted under table grapes in South Africa. FAS Pretoria contacts report that the floods damaged vineyards, netting, trellising systems, and irrigation infrastructure.

The table grape industry appears to be consolidating, with area planted peaking at 21,800 hectares in MY 2018/19 and declining to an estimated 19,390 hectares in MY 2025/26. Flooding in MY 2025/26 and other logistical disruptions will likely constrain expansion in area planted for MY 2026/27. However, rainfall-boosted dam levels and newer, higher-yielding varieties are expected to support production growth in MY 2026/27.

Industry is currently working with government to restore farming operations. Because the season had already concluded at the time of the flooding, restoring farms for post-harvest activities will support yield and quality for MY 2026/27.

Market Access

South Africa concluded an [export protocol](#) for table grapes to Korea, and the market officially opened on January 23, 2026. FAS Pretoria therefore expects South Africa to ship its first table grape consignment to this market in MY 2026/27. The United States exports table grapes to South Korea between July and November when South Africa is out of season. South Africa is therefore likely to compete with other Southern Hemisphere exporters such as Australia, Chile, and Peru in that market, given their similar export windows.

Attachments:

No Attachments.