
VAMF 2025/26 Crop Production Forecast – Raisins

Fourth Estimate – 13 March 2026

Current Production Outlook

The expected raisin production for the 2025/26 season **remains estimated at 86,500 tons**, approximately 14% below the initial projection.

Although rainfall occurred during the past two weeks, the anticipated intake volume remains unchanged from the third estimate. However, the rainfall is expected to influence the quality profile and composition of raisins produced during this period. Raisins that were still on drying facilities, as well as grapes that had not yet been harvested and which were exposed to rain, may show some variation in quality characteristics.

In addition, the composition of raisin types produced over the past two to three weeks has shifted, with a higher proportion of Thompsons and SA Sultanas being produced and less Golden Raisins.

The expected average yield remains unchanged at 6.3 tons per hectare.

It is also important to note that during the same period in the 2025 season, significantly more rain were experienced. According to the current weather forecasts, similar rainfall patterns are not expected this season. This may contribute to a more favourable outlook towards the latter part of the season.

Producers are advised to ensure that post-harvest reactive and preventative spraying for Downy and Powdery Mildew is carried out, as disease pressure is currently very high. The post-harvest period is critically important for the accumulation of carbohydrate reserves in the vine, which support the following season's growth and production. If these reserves are not accumulated sufficiently, the next crop may be negatively affected.

Regional Production Forecast

- Northern Cape: 66,442 tons (76.8%)
- Western Cape: 15,058 tons (17.4%)
- Namibia: 2,000 tons (2.3%)
- Other: 3,000 tons (3.5%)
 - 2,300 tons – Northern Cape
 - 700 tons – Western Cape

“Other” includes table grape berries and experimental cultivars.

Production Estimates Timeline

- First Estimate (1 December 2025): 100,495 tons
- Second Estimate (15 January 2026): 97,420 tons
- Third Estimate (13 February 2026): 86,500 tons
- Fourth Estimate (13 March 2026): 86,500 tons



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- Final Reconciliation (30 June 2026): Final verified production figure

The fourth estimate represents the final crop estimate for the 2025/26 season. The final reconciliation and verification of production figures will take place in June 2026.

For more information contact Stefan Jordaan – stefanj@vamf.co.za or Abraham Vermeulen – abrahamv@vamf.co.za.