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Report Highlights:

Table grape production is forecast to fall by 8.9 percent to 210,000 metric tons (MT) in marketing year (MY 2025/26). Seasonal conditions at the start of MY2025/26 table grape season have been generally favorable. Adequate cold chill hours supported strong bud burst, while drier and warmer-than-average temperatures helped keep disease pressures low. However, vine removals after the end of the previous season and forecasts of above-average rainfall during the early harvest period are tempering production and quality expectations. Anticipated lower fruit quality is expected to reduce the volume suitable for export, shifting a larger share toward the domestic market. Exports are projected to decline by 15.0 percent to 120,000 MT, while domestic consumption is forecast to rise moderately to 98,000 MT.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Early seasonal conditions in MY 2025/26 have been favorable for Australia's table grape crop. The dormancy period provided ample cold chill hours, resulting in strong bud burst. Since then, rainfall has been at or below average, and temperatures have been above average which have kept disease pressures low. However, industry sources report significant removal of older grape varieties, although higher yields from young vines are expected to offset much of this loss. In addition, above-average rainfall forecast for the early harvest period raises concerns over potential impacts on production and fruit quality.

As a result, production is forecast to decline to 210,000 MT in MY 2025/26, down from an estimated near-record 230,000 MT in MY 2024/25. Lower expected quality, combined with reduced output, has led to a forecast decline in exports to 120,000 MT, compared to an estimated 141,100 MT in the previous year—the third highest on record.

Shifts in global trade dynamics are also influencing Australian exports. China, Australia's largest market, has expanded domestic production, leading to lower import demand. At the same time, Australia's main competitors—Chile and Peru—have redirected more of their exports toward the U.S. market. This shift enabled Australia to surpass Chile in MY 2024/25 as the leading supplier of table grapes to China. Australia's proximity to China and reputation for high-quality fruit remain key advantages, although these are tempered by China's weakening demand.

Imports, almost exclusively from the United States, are relatively stable and forecast at 8,000 MT for MY 2025/26. These counter-seasonal imports support year-round supply for Australian consumers.

Domestic consumption is forecast to rise modestly to 98,000 MT in MY 2025/26, despite the 8.9 percent decline in production. The increase reflects expectations that above-average rainfall during the early harvest period, if realized, will reduce fruit quality and direct a greater share of the crop toward the domestic market.

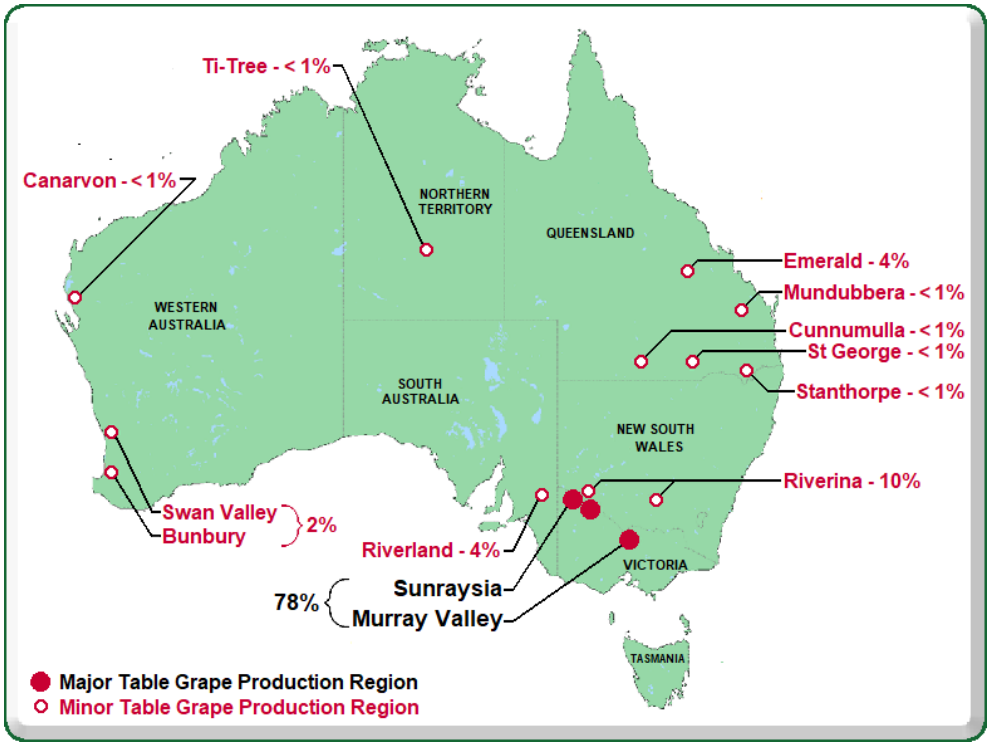
TABLE GRAPE

Overview

The majority of Australia's table grapes are produced in northern Victoria's Sunraysia and Murray Valley regions, which together account for around 78 percent of national production (see Figure 1). The Riverina region in southern New South Wales contributes an additional 10 percent. These areas are characterized by a temperate climate, free-draining sandy loam soils, and low annual rainfall of about 300 millimeters, most of which falls between May and October—outside the harvest period of November to May. Although winters are relatively mild, the vines receive sufficient cold chill hours to support bud burst.

Production in these regions is heavily dependent on irrigation to meet vine water requirements. The combination of favorable winter chill, low rainfall, and warmer temperatures from spring through autumn minimizes the risks of frost, humidity, and hail, while maximizing growth potential. Well-managed spray or drip irrigation systems and fertilizer programs further enhance yields and fruit quality.

Figure 1 – Australian Table Grape Production Areas



Source: Australian Table Grape Association Inc. / Horticulture Innovation Australia Ltd

Other notable production regions include parts of Queensland, the Northern Territory, and Western Australia. These areas reach higher temperatures earlier in the season, bringing forward their harvest. However, warmer winters produce lower cold chill periods, making them less than ideal production regions. These northern regions also have higher humidity levels, increasing the risks of pest and disease infestations, raising production costs. Despite this, grapes from these northern regions mature ahead of

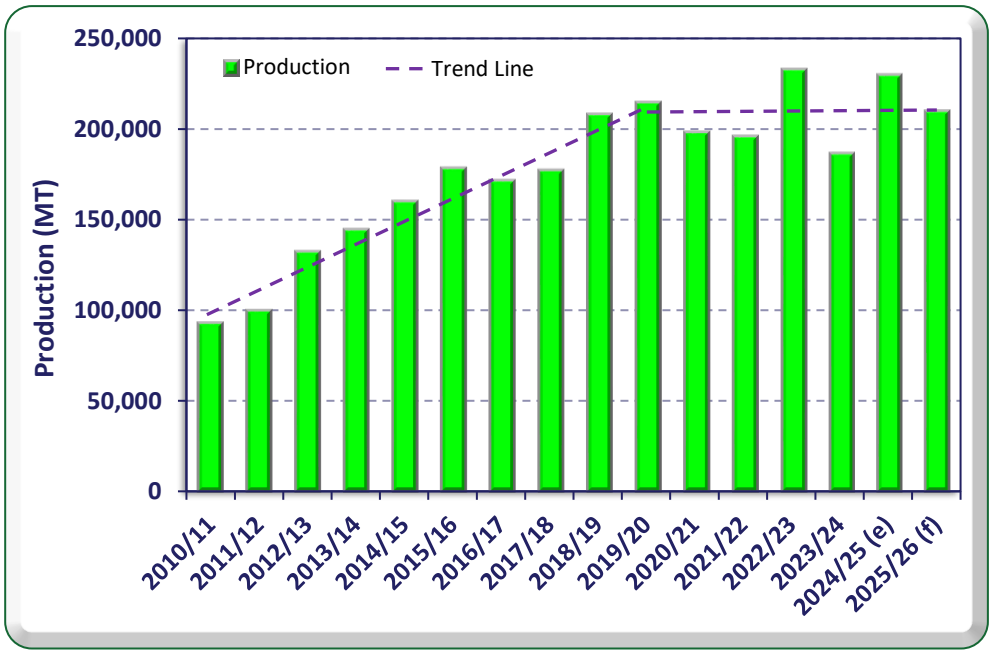
Victoria's main crop, extending supply primarily for the domestic market. Their production typically fills the gap between the decline of U.S. imports and the start of harvest in the southern regions.

Australia's table grape season begins in October in Ti-Tree (Northern Territory), followed by Emerald (Queensland) and Carnarvon (Western Australia) in early November. Production then shifts progressively south, with peak volumes harvested in February and March across the Riverina, Murray Valley, and Sunraysia—Australia's largest producing regions. Harvest in these areas continues until May. Smaller production areas, including Mareeba (far north Queensland) and Broome (Western Australia), extend supply into late June and July. However, these newer regions are still in early stages of development, and output remains small and inconsistent in both volume and quality, competing with imported grapes.

Over the past decade, the industry has expanded planted area and increasingly focused on proprietary and export-oriented varieties, reflecting strong demand from Asian markets such as China, Indonesia, South Korea, and the Philippines.

The sector experienced rapid growth from around 2010 until the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted the industry through labor shortages, higher input and shipping costs, and logistical challenges. Unfavorable weather—including above-average rainfall during spring and harvest in key production areas—further reduced yields and quality. These combined pressures slowed new plantings and led to flatter, more variable production in recent years (see Figure 2).

Figure 2 – Australian Table Grape Production Trend



Source: *Horticulture Innovation Australia, and FAS/Canberra estimate and forecast*
Note: *(e) = estimate, (f) = forecast*

Production

MY 2025/26 Production Forecast

Australia's table grape production is forecast at 210,000 MT in MY 2025/26, down from an estimated 230,000 MT in MY 2024/25. This is 23,000 MT (9.9 percent) below the record 233,000 MT achieved in MY 2022/23.

The major table grape growing regions have had favorable conditions so far, which have supported a good bud burst and below average rainfall (but adequate) and above average temperatures in recent months is supporting good vine vigor and low disease pressure. However, two key factors are expected to constrain production:

- Vine removals – Industry reports indicate significant removal of older varieties following last season, much of which has not been replanted.
- Rainfall risk – The Australian Bureau of Meteorology has forecast a high chance of above-average rainfall in the early harvest period, which could reduce harvestable volumes and affect fruit quality.

On this basis, FAS/Canberra has taken a more conservative position to the production forecast compared with the near record MY 2024/25 production season which had one of the best bud burst outcomes for many years and overall, slightly more favorable seasonal conditions.

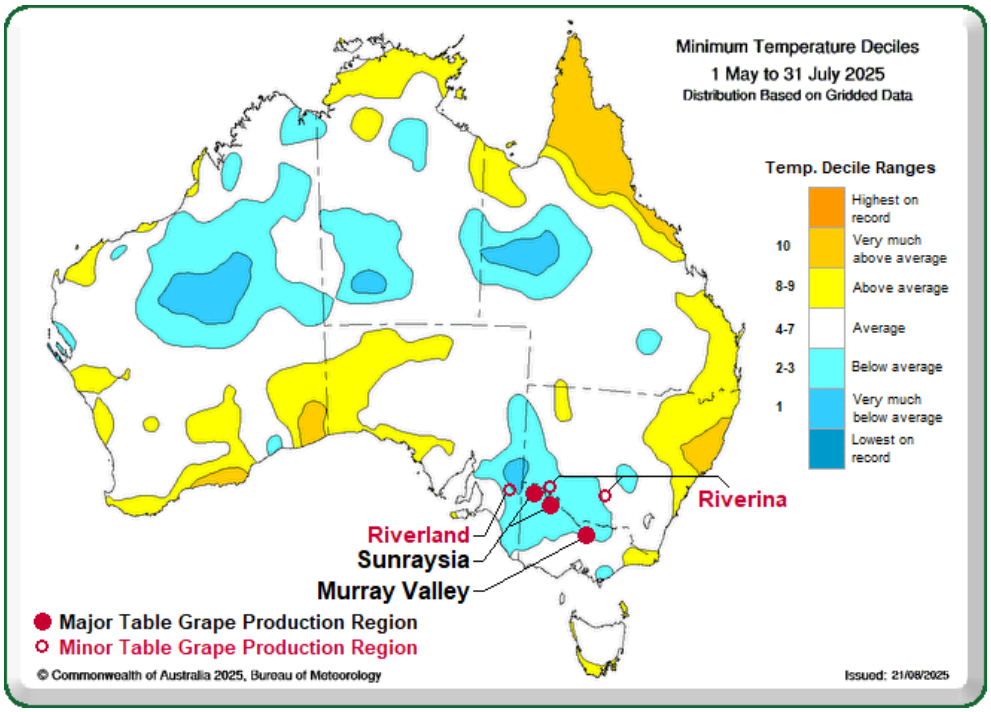
Dormancy and Bud Burst

From May to July 2025, minimum temperatures in major growing regions were below average (see Figure 3), providing ample cold chill hours and contributing to a strong bud burst. Industry sources report this season's bud burst was very good, though not as exceptional as in MY 2024/25, when conditions produced one of the best outcomes in many years.

Following the winter dormancy period and ample accumulation of cold chill hours, was a period of above-average maximum temperatures (see Figure 4) in the lead-up to and during the bud burst phase in September 2025. The average minimum temperatures during the same period were around average. These conditions suggest a substantial potential crop load. Production potential will ultimately depend on outcomes during flowering and fruit set in late October 2025.

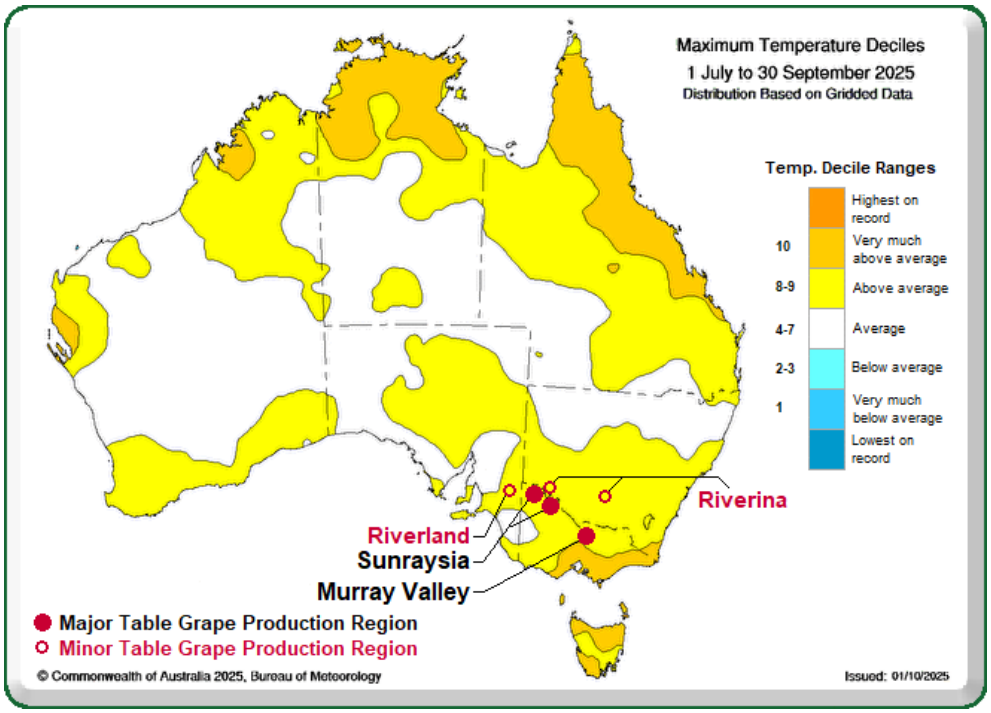
Some growers reported bud burst was delayed by about two weeks this season, though the cause is unclear. Typically, delays are associated with low soil/air temperatures or insufficient chilling—conditions not present this year.

Figure 3 – Australian Minimum Temperature Deciles – May to July 2025



Source: Australian Bureau of Meteorology / Australian Table Grape Association Inc.

Figure 4 – Australian Maximum Temperature Deciles – July to September 2025

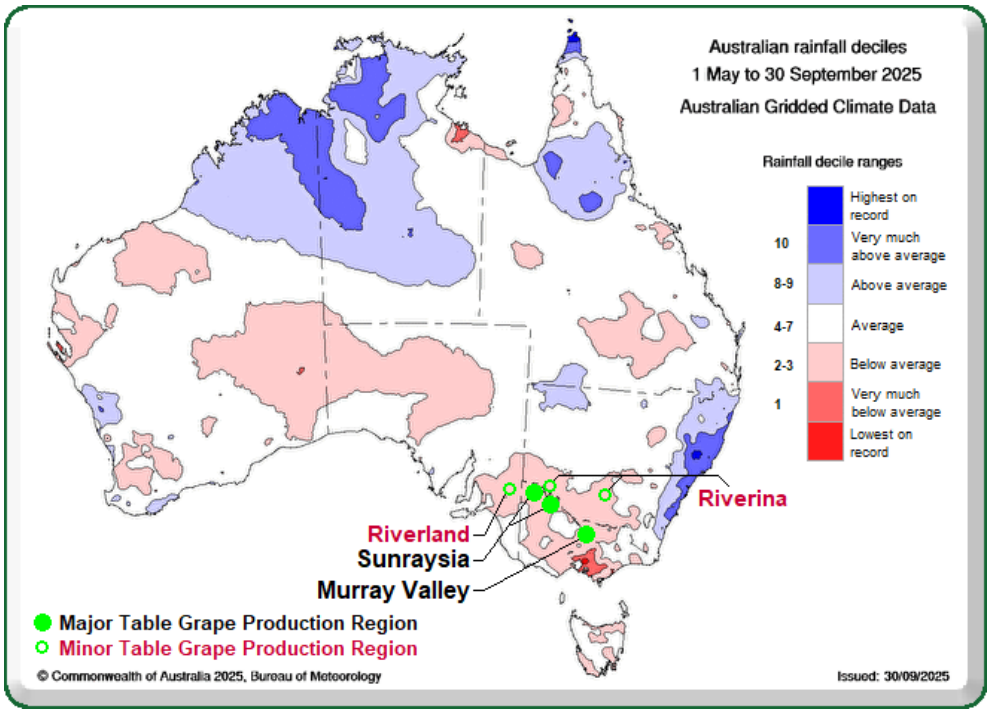


Source: Australian Bureau of Meteorology / Australian Table Grape Association Inc.

Disease Pressure and Rainfall

Growers report that so far there has been low disease pressure, similar to the previous season, which can be attributed to below-average rainfall since the start of the dormancy period (see Figure 5). Reduced rainfall has meant more sunshine, drier conditions, and fewer days conducive to fungal development.

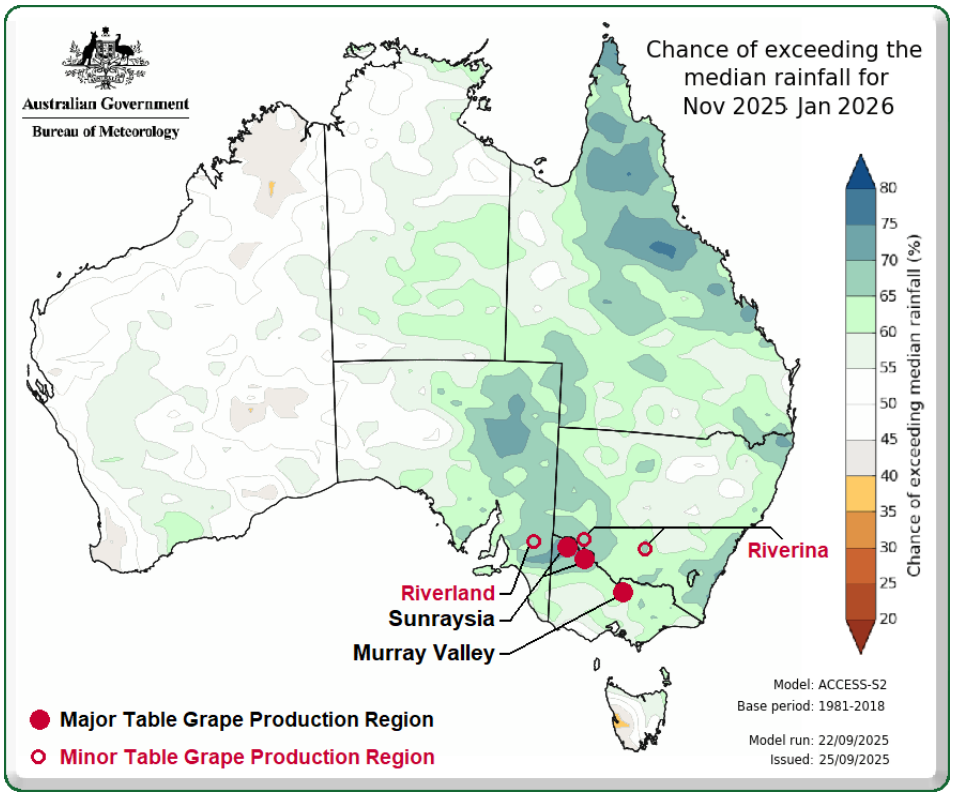
Figure 5 – Australian Rainfall Deciles – May to September 2025



Source: Australian Bureau of Meteorology / Australian Table Grape Association Inc.

Looking ahead, growers are concerned about the Bureau of Meteorology's forecast for above-average rainfall between November 2025 and January 2026 (see Figure 6). Excessive rainfall could increase the risk of fungal infestations, soil moisture issues, and harvest disruptions. Growers have less control over fruit development and quality when wetter-than-usual conditions prevail. If rains are followed by sunny conditions, however, risks may be mitigated.

Figure 6 - Australia Rainfall Forecast – November 2025 to January 2026



Source: Australian Bureau of Meteorology / Australian Table Grape Association Inc.

Table Grape Area

There is no official data on vineyard plantings by age or variety from industry bodies such as the Australian Table Grape Association, Horticulture Innovation Australia, or the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Nevertheless, industry sources indicate that after MY 2024/25, significant areas of older varieties (primarily Thompson Seedless and Crimson Seedless) were removed and not replanted. While some of these lost areas will be partially offset by young vines reaching maturity, the reduction is expected to affect overall production in MY 2025/26 and have greater implications in subsequent years.

Irrigation Water Availability

Water availability and price are also important production factors. In the Murray Valley, Sunraysia, and Riverland regions, the Dartmouth and Hume dams are the primary irrigation sources. As of August 2025, storage levels were 67 percent and 51 percent of capacity, respectively—well below 94 percent and 73 percent recorded a year earlier. In the Riverina, the Blowering and Burrinjuck dams were at 59 percent and 57 percent capacity, compared with 85 percent and 82 percent the year before.

This lower availability has driven the price of tradable water to about AU$250 (US$165) per million liters in October 2025—more than double that of the previous year. Although high, these prices remain manageable for horticultural producers. Table grape growers are expected to secure sufficient volumes,

as summer crop producers (particularly rice and cotton) often reduce plantings and sell water entitlements when prices rise.

Summary of MY 2025/26 Outlook

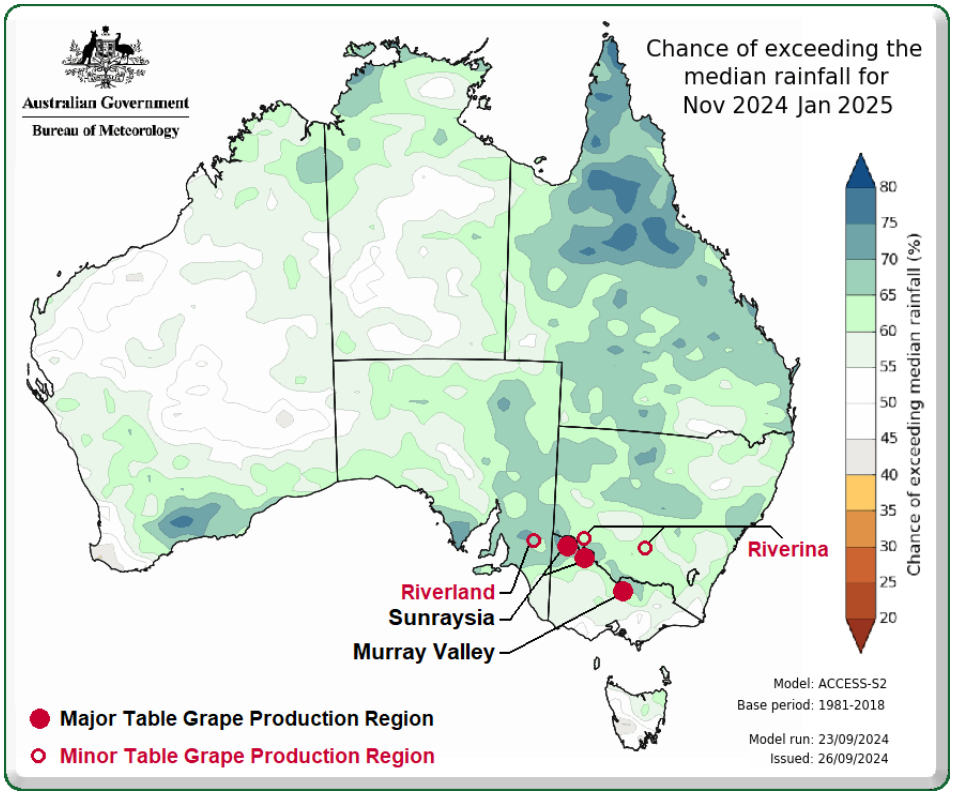
Overall table grape growers have had a positive early start to their production season for MY 2025/26, albeit not quite as strong as the exceptional conditions in the prior year. Reduced vineyard area and the potential impacts of the anticipated above average rainfall during harvest, warrants the lower forecast production of 210,000 MT compared to the 230,000 MT estimate for MY 2024/25.

MY 2024/25 Production Estimate

FAS/Canberra's production estimate for MY 2024/25 remains unchanged from the previous forecast (12 months prior) of 230,000 MT. After a very positive start to the season with an excellent bud break and warm dry conditions resulting in low disease pressure, conditions remained favorable. Although forecasts had suggested above-average rainfall from November 2024 to January 2025 (see Figure 7), actual rainfall was above average only in November—before the main harvest. From December through May, rainfall was at or below average, supporting favorable harvest conditions.

Industry sources indicate that the main drawback for MY 2024/25 was that there were periods of excessive heat, which affected grape quality.

Figure 7 - Australia Rainfall Forecast – November 2024 to January 2025



Source: Australian Bureau of Meteorology / Australian Table Grape Association Inc.

Consumption

MY 2025/26 Consumption Forecast

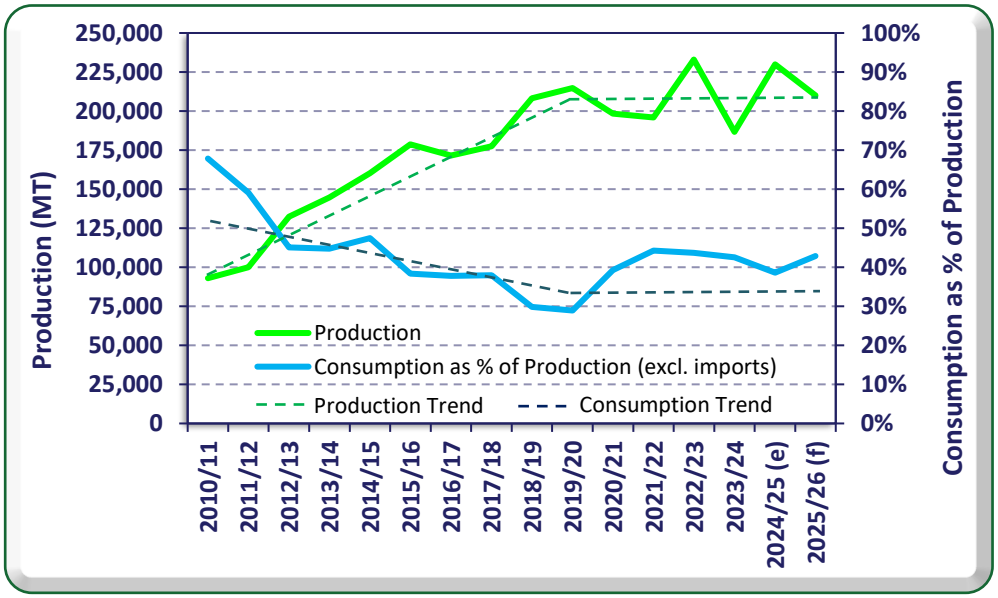
FAS/Canberra forecasts table grape consumption to rise modestly to 98,000 MT in MY 2025/26, compared with a downward-revised estimate of 96,600 MT for MY 2024/25. This increase comes despite an expected 8.9 percent decline in production. The rise in domestic availability is linked to two factors: weakening import demand from China and the likelihood of above-average rainfall during the early harvest period, which, if realized, would reduce the share of high-quality grapes available for export and channel more fruit toward the domestic market.

In Australia, domestic grapes are available mainly from December to May, while imported grapes—almost exclusively from the United States—supply the market from July to November.

Broadly, as production has increased over time, domestic consumption has also trended upward. However, over the last five years production growth has flattened. A somewhat similar trend has occurred in relation to consumption. As production increased, consumption as a proportion of production declined and over the last five years this has broadly flattened (see Figure 8). The relationship between production and consumption is not tight, as seasonal conditions strongly influence fruit quality. In seasons with high-quality crops, a larger share of grapes is exported, limiting domestic availability. Conversely, in seasons where fruit quality is below average, more grapes are redirected to the domestic market.

For MY 2025/26, the forecast of above-average rainfall during the early harvest raises expectations that grape quality may be compromised, increasing the proportion of fruit sold domestically.

Figure 8 – Australian Table Grape Production and Consumption Trend



Source: *PSD Online / FAS/Canberra*
Note: *(e) = estimate, (f) = forecast*

MY 2024/25 Consumption Estimate

FAS/Canberra has revised down its estimate of MY 2024/25 table grape consumption to 96,600 MT, compared with the prior forecast of 103,000 MT. Seasonal conditions during harvest were better than anticipated, resulting in higher fruit quality. This encouraged a greater share of the crop to be exported, reducing domestic availability.

A comparison with MY 2022/23 illustrates the impact of seasonal quality differences. While total production was similar in both years, exports were substantially lower, and domestic consumption reached a record level in MY 2022/23 (see Table 1). The higher domestic consumption that year reflected poor seasonal conditions, which reduced fruit quality and diverted more grapes to the domestic market.

Table 1 – Production, Exports and Consumption – MY 2022/23 v's MY 2024/25

	MY 2022/23	MY 2024/25 (e)
Production (MT)	233,000	230,000
Exports (MT)	131,200	141,100
Consumption (MT)	108,000	96,600

Source: *PSD Online / FAS/Canberra*
Note: *(e) = estimate*

Trade

Exports

MY 2025/26 Export Forecast

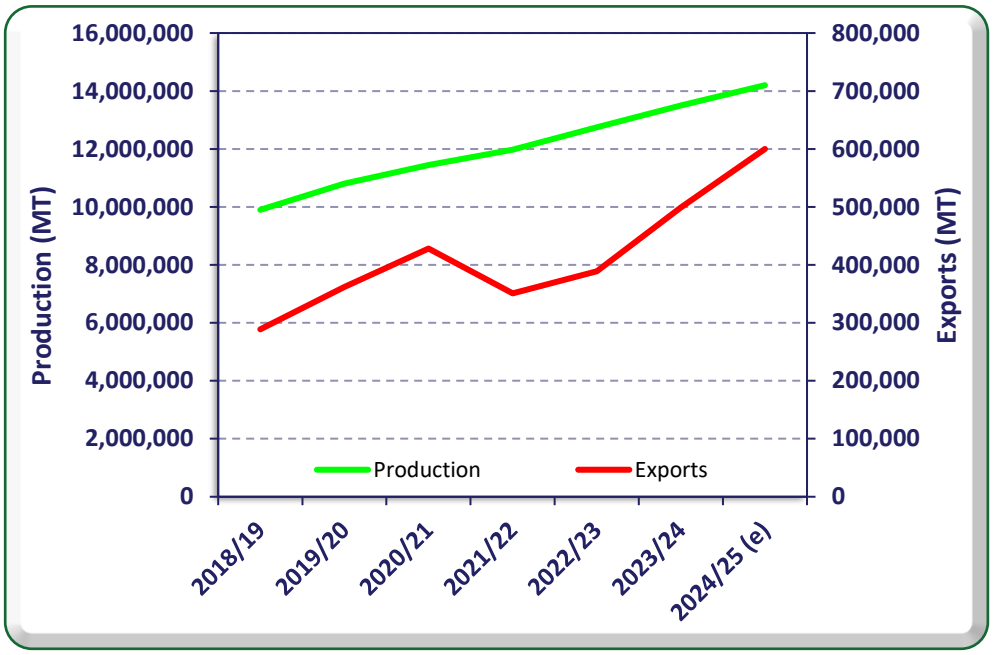
Australia's table grape exports in MY 2025/26 are forecast at 120,000 MT, a 15 percent decline from the upward-revised estimate of 141,100 MT in MY 2024/25—the third-highest level on record. Although production in MY 2025/26 is expected to be comparable to the two peak export years, quality concerns weigh on the forecast. While the production season has begun positively, with strong bud burst and low disease pressure, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology anticipates above-average rainfall during the early harvest period. If realized, this would reduce the volume of export-quality grapes.

Despite evolving global trade dynamics, demand for Australian table grapes is expected to remain firm in MY 2025/26.

Australia's two highest export volumes were achieved in MY 2018/19 and MY 2019/20, with production similar to that for the forecast year. In those years, fruit quality and market demand—particularly from China—were exceptionally strong, resulting in a higher proportion of grapes being allocated for export which reduced domestic availability.

Australia mainly exports to Asian markets, with China as the dominant destination. However, since Australia's record table grape export years, China's table grape production has expanded by 43 percent, while its imports have fallen by 52 percent (see Figure 9).

Figure 9 – China Table Grape Production and Export Trend



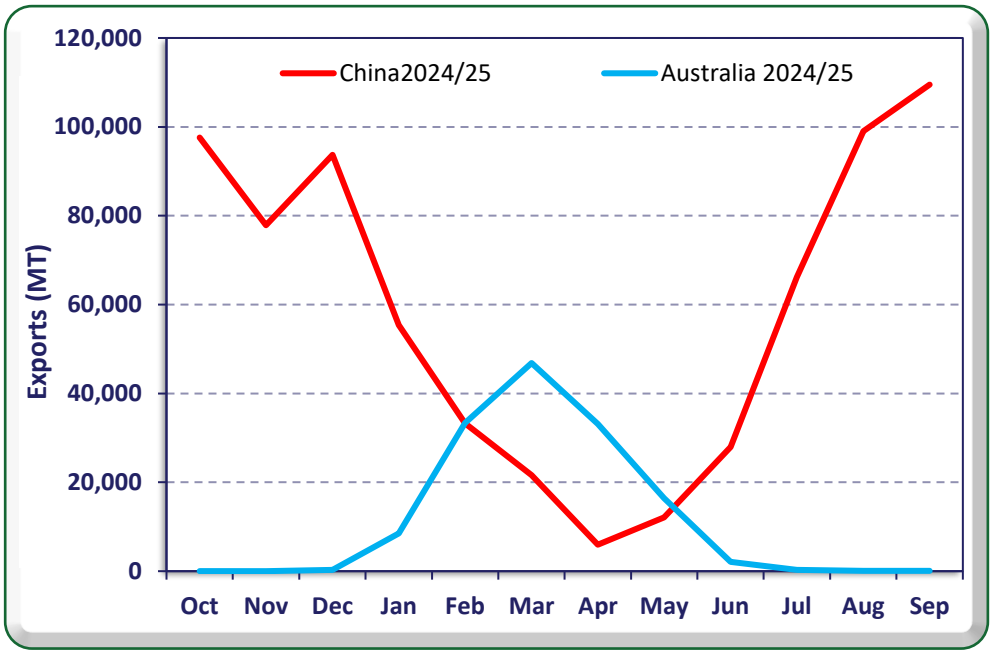
Source: *Trade Data Monitor*
Note: *(e) = estimate*

Although Chinese and Australian production is counter-seasonal, China's investments in cold storage have enabled it to extend both domestic and export marketing nearly year-round, creating more direct competition. For Australia, the critical window is January to March (see Figure 10), when export volumes ramp up.

Industry sources note that China typically retains higher-quality grapes for its domestic market while exporting lower-grade fruit. This is because China's exports between November and April are drawn from cold storage, quality and retail shelf life are reduced. In contrast, Australia exports only its best-quality grapes, positioning them in different market segments despite the competition.

Reports from FAS/Beijing and Australian industry sources also indicate that China's rapid expansion in grape production has led to lower domestic prices, driving rationalization, particularly in southern provinces with higher production costs. More specialized varieties such as Sunshine Muscat which tend to be grown under cover or greenhouses are being removed and farmers are turning to alternate agriculture crops. As China's industry matures, production is expected to stabilize or perhaps decline somewhat, easing competitive pressure in Asian markets.

Figure 10 – Australia and China Exports MY 2024/25



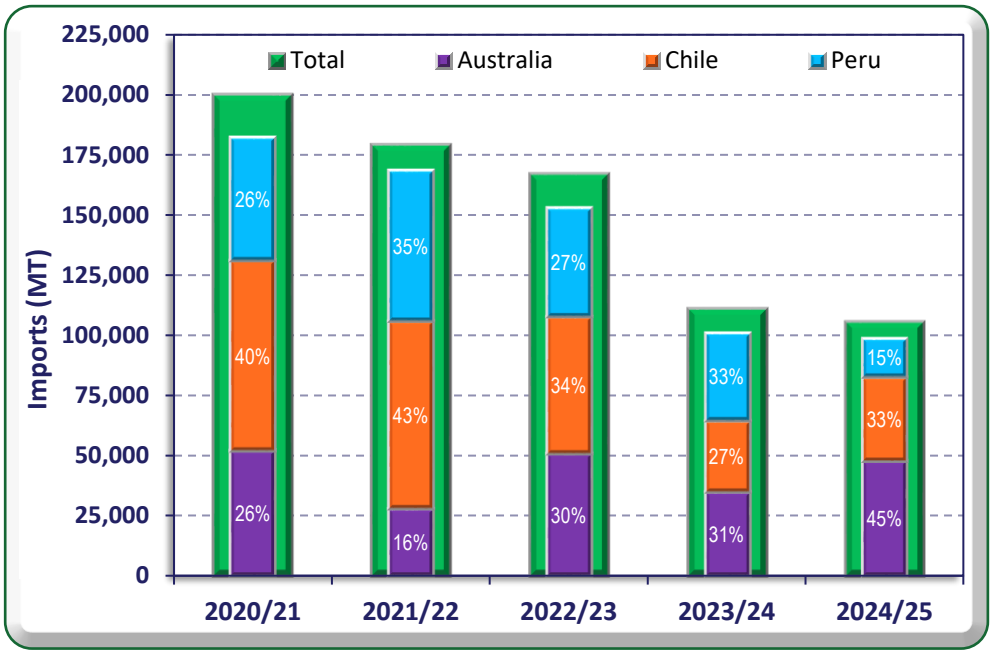
Source: *Trade Data Monitor*
Note: *August and September are estimates based on past seasonality trends*

A further shift in global trade dynamics emerged in MY 2024/25, when three Chilean growing regions gained expanded access to the U.S. market. This redirected a larger share of Chilean exports away from China and toward the United States, benefiting Australia's position in China. With China's imports declining and Chile rebalancing trade flows, Australia became the largest supplier of table grapes to China (see Figure 11). This trend is expected to continue in MY 2025/26 despite Australia's lower overall export forecast.

Similar to Chile, Peru—another major supplier to China—has also shifted its focus toward the United States. U.S. tariffs on Chilean and Peruvian table grapes, introduced in April 2025 as part of "Liberation Day," are set at the baseline 10 percent and are not expected to significantly impact U.S. demand in MY 2025/26.

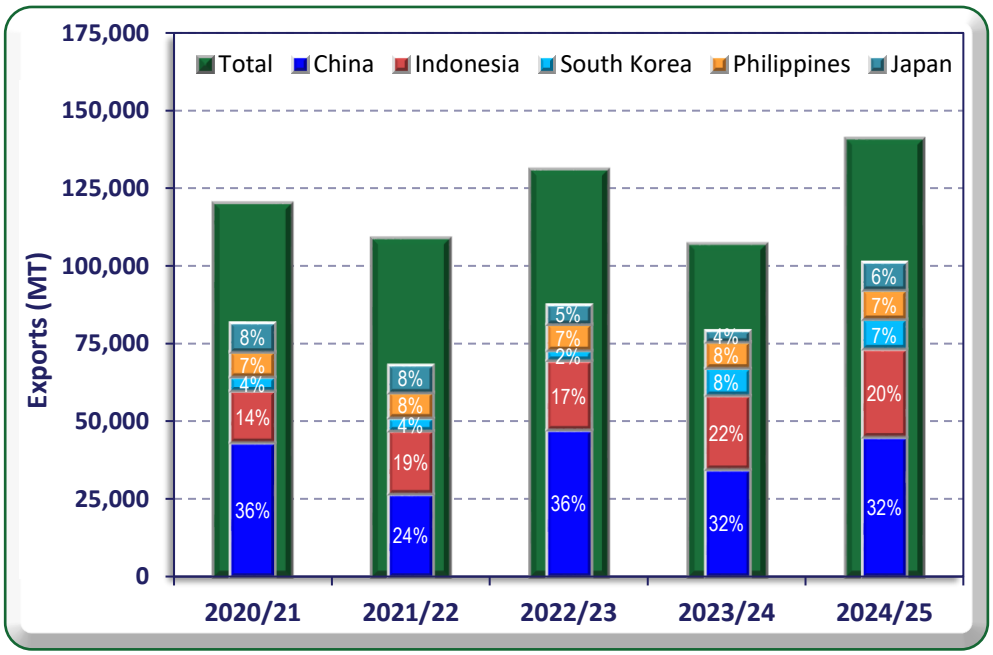
Australia exports table grapes to about 35 markets, with the top five destinations accounting for around 70 percent of trade (see Figure 12). While China remains the largest market, exports to Indonesia have grown steadily and now represent nearly 20 percent of the total. South Korea, the Philippines, and Japan are also key destinations.

Figure 11 – China's Fresh Table Grape Imports – Oct to Jul MY 2020/21 to 2024/25



Source: *Trade Data Monitor*
Note: *2024/25 = 10 months from October 2024 to July 2025*
Past August and September imports are negligible

Figure 12 – Table Grape Export Destinations – Oct to Jul MY 2020/21 to 2024/25



Source: *Australia Bureau of Statistics*
Note: *Past August and September exports are negligible*

MY 2024/25 Export Estimate

Exports for MY 2024/25 are estimated at 141,100 MT, revised upward from the prior forecast of 135,000 MT, due to better than anticipated fruit quality. Almost all exports occur between January and June (see Figure 13). Trade results for the first 11 months of the marketing year therefore represent a near-final result.

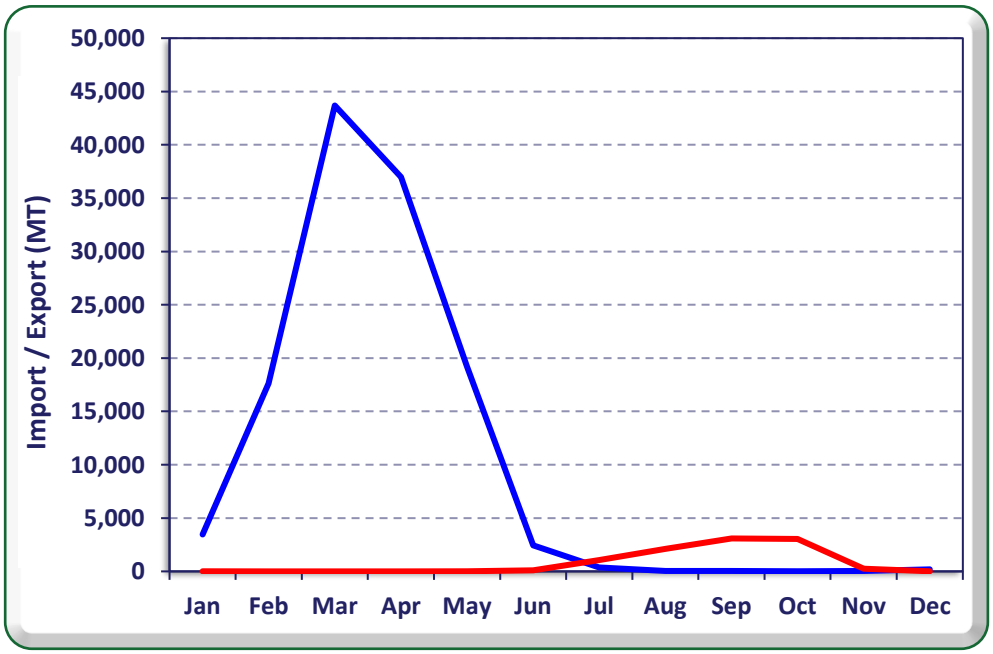
Imports

MY 2025/26 Import Forecast

FAS/Canberra forecasts Australia's table grape imports to increase modestly to 8,000 MT in MY 2025/26, up from an estimated 7,700 MT in the prior year. Imports have been relatively stable, with MY 2023/24 also recording 7,700 MT.

Almost all table grape imports come from the United States, primarily from California. These shipments are largely counter-seasonal, arriving between July and October (see Figure 13), and therefore do not directly compete with domestic production. Historically, some imports arrived in November, but shipments are now largely completed by October, reflecting the earlier emergence of domestic supply from northern Australian producers.

Figure 13 – 5 Year Average Australian Import and Export Seasonality



Source: Australian Statistics Bureau

MY 2024/25 Import Estimate

FAS/Canberra has slightly revised down the MY 2024/25 import estimate to 7,700 MT from the previous forecast of 8,000 MT. This revision is based on trade outcomes from the first 11 months of the marketing year, which recorded 4,740 MT—essentially unchanged from the same period in the prior year. Full-year imports for MY 2024/25 are therefore expected to match the 7,700 MT recorded in MY 2023/24.

Industry sources report that the overall quality of imported grapes in MY 2024/25 has been very good, attracting strong consumer demand. This supports the likelihood of a robust import month in September 2025, which has now become the peak month for U.S. table grape arrivals.

Table 2 - Production, Supply, and Distribution of Table Grapes

Grapes, Fresh Table	2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
Market Year Begins	Oct 2023		Oct 2024		Oct 2025	
Australia	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HA)	14000	14000	14000	14000	0	14000
Area Harvested (HA)	14000	14000	14000	14000	0	14000
Commercial Production (MT)	195000	186600	230000	230000	0	210000
Non-Comm. Production (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production (MT)	195000	186600	230000	230000	0	210000
Imports (MT)	6000	7700	8000	7700	0	8000
Total Supply (MT)	201000	194300	238000	237700	0	218000
Fresh Dom. Consumption (MT)	93700	87100	103000	96600	0	98000
Exports (MT)	107300	107200	135000	141100	0	120000
Withdrawal From Market (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (MT)	201000	194300	238000	237700	0	218000
(HA) ,(MT)						
OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: PSD Online Advanced Query						

Attachments:

No Attachments