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Sunbeam Foods

2026 Dried Vine Fruit Crop Report

January 15, 2026



2026 Dried Vine Fruit Crop

- The Spring 2025 vine bud burst was later than the previous crop establishment timing and the crop development was steady due to the cooler than normal Spring and early Summer temperatures
- Growers received good irrigation water allocations and water use has been high due to minimal rain fall
- Predictions of a dry Summer and Autumn (2026) are gaining momentum and the river catchments and dam storage levels are lower than 2025
- Growers who have had to supplement their water allocations with temporary water purchases, are paying 80% more than in 2025
- The drier conditions have meant that there is a very low disease pressure rating
- The total dried vine fruit crop will increase again this year above 2025, by 10%
- The new planting in 2022 and 2023 are coming into full bearing, these are mainly early maturing Sultana types
- Additional plantings in 2024 and 2025 will increase the volume of fruit available from 2027
- Excessive temperatures for 5 days in mid-January (exceeding 40 degrees C) accelerated the requirement for water applications and caused a small amount of sunburn damage in some varieties
- Currently the maturity is running 7-10 days behind last years crop
- The overall quality of the fruit should be very good

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Sultanas

- Sultanas are showing a good average crop, while the other Sultana type grapes are showing very good crops
- Sultana types are Sugra39, Selma Pete, Sunglo and the newly released variety, Murray Bold. Most of these are early maturing and all are high yielding
- The berry size is good and while there has been some sunburn experienced, the damage is not significant
- The disease pressure is minimal
- Maturity is slightly behind and harvest will commence around the 10-14th February

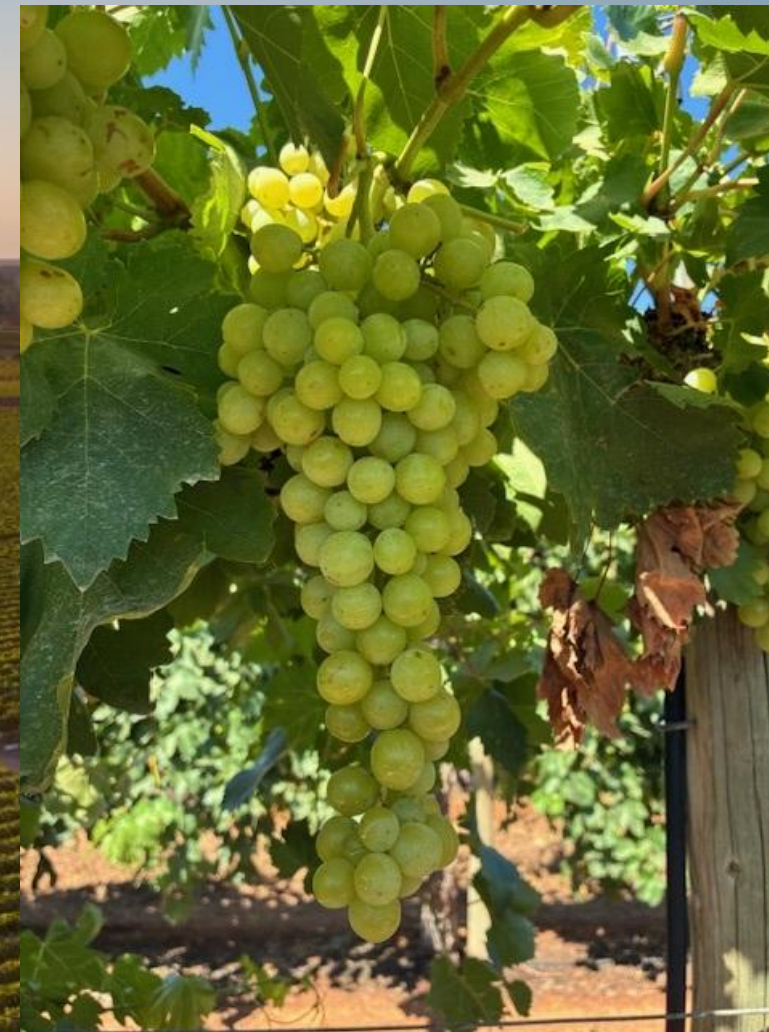


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Sunmuscats

- Sunmuscat is a very consistent high yielding variety that has set another good crop
- A very consistent colour produced with a subtle Muscat flavour. The berries are slightly larger than sultanas and are plump and juicy
- Although this is a later season variety, the fruit dries quickly due to the open, loose bunch structure
- There is very little disease pressure, and the crop is good quality
- Harvest will commence from 1st – 10th March



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Currants

- The Carina Currant crop is good, and volumes will be consistent with previous seasons
- The development is good and there is very little disease present
- The quality produced year on year is excellent, producing a rich deep purple fruit
- The fruit is colouring up well and berry size is good
- The harvest will commence from the 20th February

