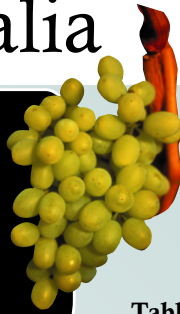


Table Grape Industry

in Central Australia

Four varieties of tablegrapes are grown commercially in the Northern Territory: Menindee Seedless, Thompson Seedless, Flame Seedless, and Red Globe.



The production of tablegrapes at Ti Tree, 190 kms north of Alice Springs, is the second largest horticultural industry in the Northern Territory.

Table grapes were first planted in Central Australia in 1974, at Ti Tree Farms. Since then this industry has grown significantly. In 1996 the Northern Territory tablegrape industry was valued at \$6.1million. This increased to \$20.5million in 2001.

The marketing advantage for table grape production in Central Australia is early maturing, high quality fruit.

Harvesting usually begins in late October with the majority of the harvest completed by late December, and Red Globe by mid January.

The fruit is packaged in the field, cooled immediately and loaded for the Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Tasmanian markets the following day. Some fruit is exported to the Pacific Islands and South East Asia.



Other advantages for grape farming in the Ti Tree region:

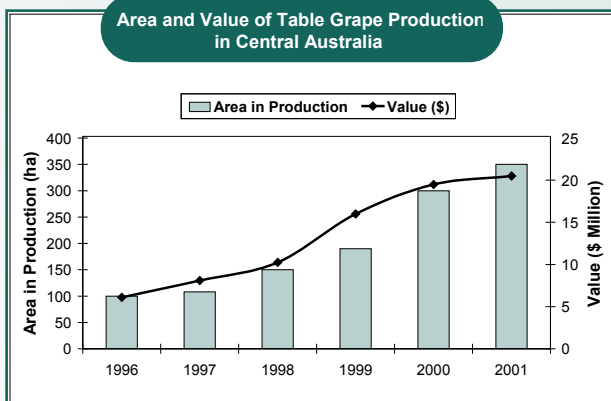
- Rainfall averages 153mm per year, with most rain falling in October and November.
- There are vast areas of land with red, sandy soils suitable for commercial horticultural production overlaying subartesian aquifers.
- Improved water-use efficiencies using drip irrigation systems.
- Horticultural production areas in Central Australia are relatively pest free. Ti Tree area is a fruit fly free zone
- Central Australian summer temperatures can range between the high 30's to the mid 40's. In winter, temperatures at the Ti Tree Farms can drop to around 1°C, and in the Pine Hill area, temperatures can drop to -5°C.

The Northern Territory Table Grape Producers Association was formed to represent local growers' interests. The group works closely with the Ti Tree Water Advisory Committee, Australian Table Grape Association, NT Horticulture Advisory Committee, Aboriginal organisations (CentreFarm), the community and government.

The Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development's Horticulture Division works closely with the table grape industry on a range of research and development projects. These include:

- The use of dormancy breaking agents
- Monitoring and setting plant nutrition standards
- Irrigation scheduling and crop water management
- Evaluation of scion/rootstock combinations
- A comparison of V trellis to Sloping T trellis for table grape production
- Evaluation of a range of horticultural crops for commercial production including dates, stone fruit, citrus, asparagus etc.

Area and Value of Table Grape Production in Central Australia



All information displayed on this poster was accurate at the time of printing

