

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## **Austria**

**Post:** Vienna

### **First Hailstorm in 2010 Causes Damage on More than 6000 Hectares**

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

Grain and Feed

Oilseeds and Products

Wine

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**Report Highlights:**

The first hailstorm of this year caused over 2 million Euros in losses on more than 6,000 hectares of agricultural land in the Austrian province of Lower Austria. Hailstorms pose a large and increasing economic risk for Austrian agriculture. In 2009, 180,000 hectares of agricultural land were affected. From 2005 to 2009, notification of losses due to hailstorms increased threefold.

## **General Information:**

### **First Hailstorm in 2010 Causes Damage on More than 6000 Hectares**

During the week of May 16, severe thunderstorms including intense rain and hailstorms caused extensive damage in some districts of the Austrian province of Lower Austria. The most affected district is Gaenserndorf located in northeastern Lower Austria. The initial assessments by the Austrian hailstorm insurance company reported losses of more than 2 million Euros. In total, over 6,000 hectares of agricultural land are affected. The crops most severely damaged include grains, rapeseed, vegetables, and vineyards.

Hailstorms pose a large and increasing economic threat to Austrian agriculture. In 2009, 180,000 hectares of agricultural land were affected. This corresponds to 5.6 percent of Austria's entire agricultural production area. Losses in 2009 accounted for 100 million Euros. From 2005 to 2009, notification of losses due to hailstorms increased threefold.

Historically the eastern provinces of Austria are characterized by heavy rainfalls and wet conditions in May 2010. At this point it is too early to speculate about the possible impact on yields.