

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Australia

**Post:** Canberra

### Progress on Opening Western Australian Market to CA Table Grapes

**Report Categories:**

Fresh Fruit

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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**Report Highlights:**

The process to further expand the Australian market to table grapes from California took another step forward with the release of a Biosecurity Advice on March 29, 2013 by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry. This Advice announced the release of a draft non-regulated analysis of existing policy to consider extending market access for California table grapes into Western Australia which recommends that the importation of fresh table grapes for human consumption into Western Australia be permitted subject to the same quarantine conditions that apply for Californian table grapes exported to the rest of Australia.

Stakeholders have until May 9, 2013 to provide written comment on the draft report.

The process to further expand the Australian market to table grapes from California took another step forward with the release of a Biosecurity Advice (No: 2013/06), on March 29, 2013 by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (DAFF). This Advice announced the release of a draft non-regulated analysis of existing policy to consider extending market access for California table grapes into Western Australia. The draft analysis recommends that the importation of fresh table grapes for human consumption into Western Australia from California be permitted subject to the same quarantine conditions that apply for Californian table grapes exported to the rest of Australia.

**Stakeholders have until May 9, 2013 to provide written comment on the draft report.** The full draft report and information about the risk analysis process are available at: [http://www.daff.gov.au/ba/reviews/current-plant/table\\_grapes\\_cal-wa/ba2013-06-draft-non-reg-californian-tablegrapes](http://www.daff.gov.au/ba/reviews/current-plant/table_grapes_cal-wa/ba2013-06-draft-non-reg-californian-tablegrapes).

Fresh table grapes from California are currently prohibited from entering Western Australia but have been imported into the other Australian states and territories since 2002. In conducting this analysis, DAFF has taken into consideration import conditions already established for the import of fresh table grapes from California into other Australian states and territories.

Under the current policy for the importation of Californian table grapes to other Australian states and territories, biosecurity measures are used to manage the risk of 36 pests to a very low level in order to achieve Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP).

The biosecurity measures used for the importation of Californian table grapes to the rest of Australia include:

- Pest management measures:
  - Fumigation treatment with SO<sup>2</sup>CO<sup>2</sup> for the management of grapevine phylloxera as well as three spiders.
  - Fumigation treatment with SO<sup>2</sup>CO<sup>2</sup> followed by cold disinfestation treatment for the management of spotted wing drosophila.
  - Visual inspection and remedial action (if there is a detection) for the management of grape erineum mite, hornbeam spider mite, willamette mite, pacific mite, consperse stink bug, glassy-winged sharpshooter, vine mealybug, grape mealybug, navel orangeworm, orange tortrix, grape leafroller, salt marsh moth, western grapevine skeletoniser, omnivorous leafroller, bean thrips, grape thrips, *Frankliniella minuta*, Californian citrus thrips and western flower thrips.
  - Area freedom or non-host status for the management of grape curculio, grape looper, grape root worm, grape berry moth, McDaniel spider mite, avocado thrips, European grapevine moth, black rot, angular leaf spot, rust and angular leaf scorch and Mediterranean fruit fly.
- Supporting operational maintenance systems and verification of phytosanitary status.

In addition to the quarantine pests included in the current Californian table grape policy, the draft report identifies 14 additional pests of potential quarantine concern to Western Australia. The pest risk assessment found only one of these potential quarantine pests, the harlequin ladybird (*Harmonia axyridis*), did not achieve Australia's ALOP.

To manage the risks associated with the importation of fresh table grapes from California to Western Australia the draft report proposes to continue the measures in the current policy. The draft report also proposes to add the harlequin ladybird to the list of species to be managed by visual inspection and remedial action (if detected) for the importation of Californian table grapes to Western Australia.

Regarding the current policy for imports to other Australian states and territories, the draft report does not propose to change any of the conditions relating to existing pests.

Comments on the draft non-regulated analysis of existing policy must be submitted by May 9, 2013 to:

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