Chapter 1

Introduction

Chapter Contents

Welcome to Grape Forecaster

Thank you for choosing **Grape Forecaster**

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Program registration instructions are on page 8.

Program Installation instructions are on page 12.

Acknowledgments

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Many people have contributed to the Grape Forecaster program before Fairport took over the role of commercialising it.
Some of the people involved are listed here:

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Thank you all
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Registering your copy of Grape Forecaster

When you first install the program, you will be requested to enter your trading name, address and other details. Please take the time to fill in all of the fields on this screen. If you have an e-mail address, please enter that too. The program requires this information before it can operate. The program will also need a customer serial number entered into it before it is completely "unlocked".

Although you need a serial number to "unlock" Grape Forecaster, you will be able to run the program 20 times. After the 20th run, you will still be able to print a registration form and unlock your program but you no longer are able gain access to the program proper.

A special program registration form must be printed from the program. This form has on it a 15 character product number, which Fairport Farm Software will use to generate your customer unlock number. You can only obtain access to registration form when you start the program, so if you are using the program and then decide to register, you will need to exit then re-start **Grape Forecaster** to print the form.

By registering **Grape Forecaster** you will help us to keep you informed and you will be entitled to the following benefits:

- Information on upgrades or revisions to **Grape Forecaster**
- Six months free support and software upgrades.
- The quarterly Fairport Newsletter.

About this manual

This user's manual for **Grape Forecaster** is a comprehensive guide that contains all of the procedures you need to operate the program efficiently and effectively.
The program has "on-line" help which can be accessed by pressing the F1 function key while operating **Grape Forecaster**. You will find that the on-line help is more comprehensive than the manual and is updated regularly by the Fairport team. Current updates of the help file can be obtained from our web site or with a program update.

Symbols and conventions used in this manual

Program menu items are written in ***Bold Italics*** and if we are referring to a sub-menu item or a sub-sub-menu item, we write it thus … ***Main menu item/Sub-menu item/Sub-sub-menu item.***

How can we help you get the best from Grape Forecaster?

Fairport Farm Software has the following support strategy. For the first six months you have free access to Fairport's 1800 help line. Thereafter you will be invited to pay a fee for this service. The fee also entitles you to Fairport Club membership, which has other benefits like automatic software updates.
Before you call either Fairport or your dealer, check in the printed material that comes with the program for answers to your questions. Use the index table and the table of contents to locate

the area in the manual most likely to cover the problem. You should also check the on-line help system in the program for possible clues. Access this everywhere with F1. If the answer can't be found your next step is to contact Fairport or the dealer who sold you the program.

Fairport Farm Software offers a back-up help service to all dealers. If they can't solve your problem, they will contact Fairport Farm Software and we will do our best to help you as soon as possible. When using this service please bear in mind that the more information you can give us, the more able we will be to answer the problem. If at all possible a fax is preferable to a phone call. A fax will give us "hard copy" of your query and we can then prepare a written response.

Fairport Farm Software can be contacted on the Internet... our e-mail address : support@fairport.com.au

We also have a web site ... http://www.fairport.com.au

The program error trapping system

The program has an error trapping system to catch any program errors that may have missed our testing processes.

If you should ever see the error trapping system-warning message you will see that you are given a range of choices.

In general it is advisable to select "Abort".

A file is maintained behind the scenes and the information that is contained in this file is very handy to us when attempting to locate and fix the problem. So, please take a moment to print the error messages, where you have to option to "Print Fax" should you see one on your screen. You can then either fax or post the printout to Fairport Farm Software and we will act on the problem as quickly as possible. Error messages can also be attached to an e-mail.

What you need to run Grape Forecaster

Grape Forecaster will work with most IBM and compatible computers available today. Although in theory **Grape Forecaster** will operate on any IBM PC that is capable of running Microsoft Windows® 95, 98 XP or NT, it does require a reasonably powerful computer to run well... but, as a general rule of thumb, if your

computer is able to run Microsoft Windows® XP, it is powerful
enough to run **Grape Forecaster**.

The minimum requirements are :

- A computer with one hard disk a CD ROM drive or one floppy
  disk drive and 640k of RAM, 64 megabytes of Upper memory
  and the Windows 95 operating system.
- Screen type : a SVGA screen or better is recommended
  operating at a resolution of 800 X 600 or better.
- Printer requirements: **Grape Forecaster** will print out on any
  printer supported by Windows.

Data file compatibility

The data files used by this program are 100% Microsoft Access
compatible. The text output files created by this program are in
ASCII text format. Any word processing program can edit them.
Most reports can also be created as spreadsheet files in the "CSV"
format. These files can be read into Microsoft Excel. For other
spreadsheet programs, check your spreadsheet software for details.

Program operating speed

This program is a true "relational" database system and the
operation involves a lot of disk reading and writing. The speed of
operation will depend greatly upon the speed of your hardware (ie.
the "clock" speed of your processor and the disk drive access
speed). As the data files grow in size, the time needed to access
that data will increase. This should be more obvious in reporting
than in other areas of program operation.

This is a fact of life in large database systems. Much effort has
been and will continue to be devoted to reducing the processing
time throughout the program wherever possible.

Grape Forecaster will run much faster on more modern
computers especially those which have extra memory installed.

Installing Grape Forecaster

Once you place your Fairport CD in your CD-Rom drive, the CD
browser screen and menu for installing all Fairport software
programs will automatically appear. Choose to install Grape
Forecaster via this menu system. If the CD "autostart" system
should fail for some reason, do this,

1. Click on **Start** select **Run**.
2. Type   **(CD Drive Letter):\GF\SETUP.EXE**   in the **Open** box, (eg
   D:\GF\setup.exe
3. Click   "**OK**"

The installation procedure creates the folder called Grapes in the
Fairport folder in the Program Files folder (Eg. C:\Program
Files\Fairport\Grapes) on your hard disk, then copies the files into
that folder. The program files will then be "unpacked" - a process
which may take several minutes.

Where to from here?

The next chapter describes how to get Grape Forecaster setup.
There is a list of five or six tasks that you must do before your yield
estimate sampling tasks can be set up.