

WEATHER // BUSHFIRE & HAIL // Q&A // AUSTRALIA

Protecting vine and orchard growers from bushfire and hail damage

During growing season, bushfire and hail can be devastating for vine and orchard growers, quickly impacting a grower's yield.

Liberty Specialty Markets (Liberty) offers a bespoke Bushfire and Hail policy for vine and orchard growers that blends both parametric and traditional insurance principles. Innovative satellite technology is used to calculate bushfire impact and physical inspection to assess hail damage.

Globally, Liberty is an experienced agri-insurer and reinsurer with specialised teams in Paris and Australia. Liberty offers a broad suite of weather products to help protect a wide range of Australian businesses from adverse earnings due to severe weather events.

What crops can be covered?

Liberty is able to consider vineyards, nuts, olives, citrus, stone fruit and any perennial crop grown by a tree or vine.

How a fire loss is calculated?



Bushfire presents a major peril for vineyards and orchards. Liberty is developing innovative solutions using new technologies, combined with machine learning algorithms and various data sources, to cover bushfire risks. We monitor fire risk by satellite imagery delivered by NASA Landsat, which provides us with a 30-metre resolution. Our processing technique enables us to develop an index that reflects the burnt surface post event.

Once the smoke has dispersed, we process images before and after the event to calculate the damaged areas. We calculate the financial losses based on the burnt area values defined at a pre-agreed and precise scale.

How a vine hail loss is calculated?



Liberty's hail cover relies on a traditional indemnity approach for vine cover only. We appoint loss adjusters who visit the client's property to calculate the percentage loss of yield between potential yield and harvested yield, less the deductible, and then apply this to the declared value of the impacted blocks.



Hail loss example

Total hectares insured: 80 hectares

20 hectares have been damaged by hail with the following details for this block:

Grape agreed value	\$15,000 per hectare
Block size	20 hectares
Block excess	20%
Block value	\$300,000

After the loss adjuster visits the Insured they calculate the following change in yield resulting from the hail damage:

Potential yield	7 tonnes per hectare
Actual yield	3 tonnes per hectare
Yield reduction	57.143%
Loss percentage	37.143%

(being 57.143% minus the block excess 20%)

Hail Loss: Loss percentage x grape agreed value x block size
37.143% x \$15,000 x 20 = \$111,429

The overall policy sublimit for hail is \$300,000, so the final hail loss remains at \$111,429.

What is the minimum premium?

Our minimum premium is \$10,000 plus GST and stamp duty.

What do we need to supply to get a quote?

In order for Liberty to quote we need the following information:

- ▶ the location of each property (including GPS co-ordinates)
- ▶ variety details for each block where possible
- ▶ value per hectare for both the vines / tree and also the grapes / fruit.

Global reach. Financial strength. Local authority.

Distinct, complex and constantly evolving – every business is as unique as their insurance needs.

To confidently progress in the face of risk and uncertainty requires a level of security you can only achieve through working with specialists.

Liberty Specialty Markets offers a breadth of world-class insurance and reinsurance services to brokers and insured clients. We bring value and solutions to more than 26,000 of Asia Pacific's most significant business and government organisations – helping protect what they earn, build and own.

We're part of the global Liberty Mutual Group, a Fortune 100 company that's been in business since 1912 with a Standard and Poor's 'A' rating.

 [View our office locations](#)

 [Follow](#)

Connect and join the Liberty conversation

 [Meet our Liberty weather team](#)

Liberty is not authorised to provide financial product advice. The information in this document does not take into account your objectives, financial situation or needs. Always consider the applicable policy wording and other relevant documents before deciding to acquire a financial product. This information is current as at May 2025. Liberty means Liberty Specialty Markets, a trading name of Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, Australia Branch (ABN 61 086 083 605; AFSL No. 530842 (for claims handling and settling services only)) incorporated in Massachusetts, USA (the liability of members is limited); Liberty Specialty Markets Hong Kong Limited (UBI 66395065); Liberty Specialty Markets Singapore Pte Limited (UEN 201538069C); and Liberty Specialty Markets Singapore Pte Limited, Labuan Branch (Company No. LF12903), a licensed insurer under the Labuan Financial Services and Securities Act 2010 (Licence No. IS2016162).

