

2.3 Chile's Food Production

TECHTREK

myNGconnect.com For a map of
Mediterranean climates and photos of agricultureMaps and
GraphsDigital
Library

Main Idea The mild climate in central Chile supports abundant agricultural exports.

Chile is a long, narrow country. It borders the Pacific Ocean and stretches more than 2,600 miles north and south. Central Chile enjoys a **temperate**, or mild, climate that supports an extensive agriculture industry.

Mediterranean Climates

The temperate climate along the coasts of southern Europe and northern Africa on the Mediterranean Sea is called a **Mediterranean climate**. This climate is defined by hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters. Mediterranean climates are found in southern Australia, southern and central California in the United States, southern South Africa, and central Chile.

One reason such widely scattered parts of the world have similar climates is because of latitude. Remember that latitude measures distance from the equator in degrees. Places with

Mediterranean climates have similar latitudes either north or south of the equator. Generally, these latitudes measure between 30°S–40°S or 30°N–40°N. In addition to similar latitudes, places with Mediterranean climates lie on western coasts and have similar precipitation patterns because of their coastal positions.

Chile's Agricultural Bounty

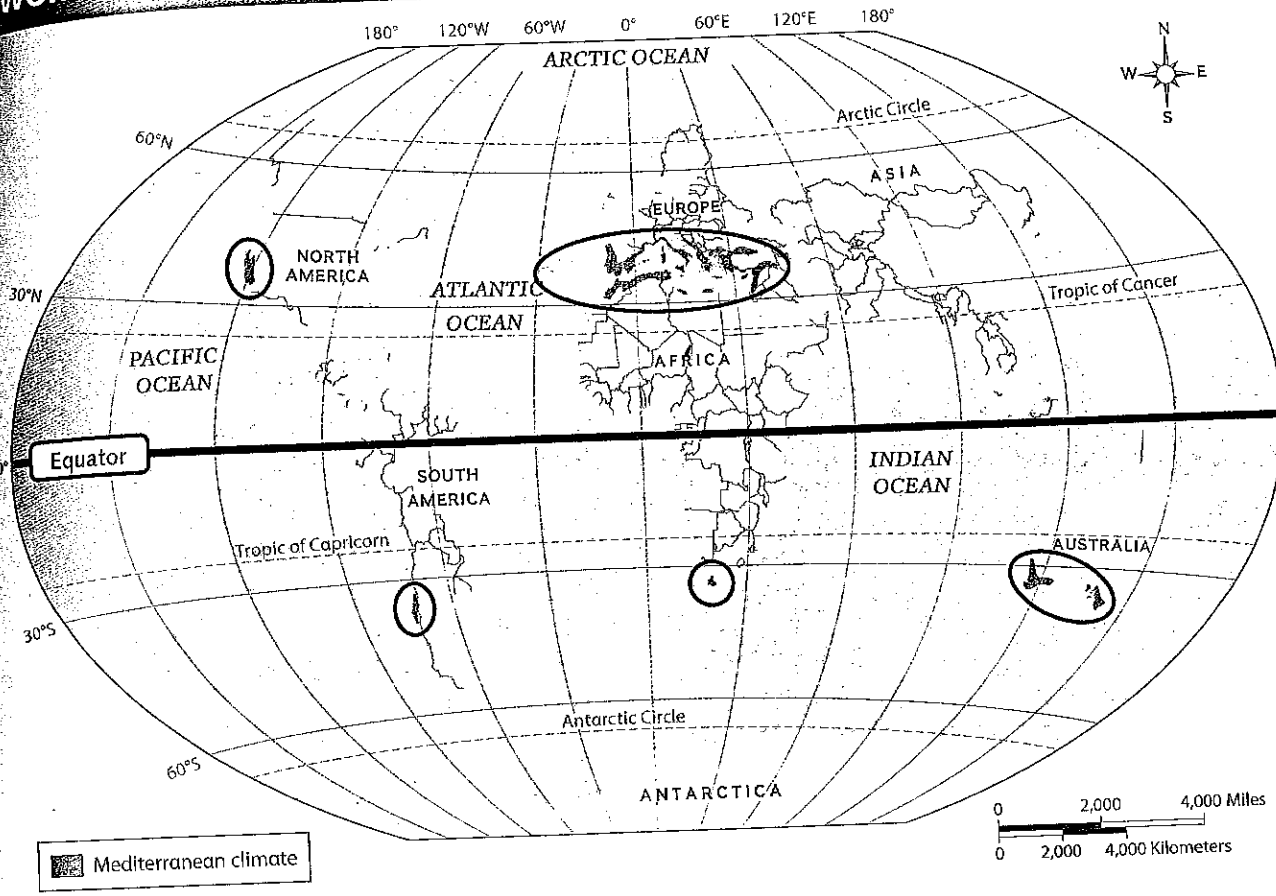
Because of Chile's location on the western coast of South America at nearly 30°S, farmers in central Chile can grow a rich mix of crops. Fruits such as grapes, peaches, and apples are grown for export in Chile's fertile valleys.

Two crops in particular show how Chile takes full advantage of its Mediterranean climate: grapes and olives. A thriving wine industry depends on the many varieties of grapes that grow in Chile's vineyards. Chile has also become a major exporter of olives and specialty

Critical Viewing Chile exports 40 percent of its fruit to the United States. What details in this photo tell you these peaches are imported from Chile?



WORLD MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATES



olive oils. Chilean wine and olive oil exports increased dramatically in the 1990s and early 2000s. Both wine and olive products are exports traditionally dominated by Mediterranean countries such as Italy, France, and Greece.

While agricultural production is a source of growth for Chile's economy, copper remains its most valuable export. The growth of agricultural exports since the late 1980s helped Chile **diversify**, or vary, its economy. Diverse economies depend on multiple industries—such as mining and agriculture—and tend to be stronger and more competitive.

Before You Move On

Summarize What main agricultural exports are supported by Chile's Mediterranean climate?

ONGOING ASSESSMENT

MAP LAB

- 1. Interpret Maps** Look at the grid on the map of Mediterranean climates. Which Mediterranean climates are located south of the equator? At what latitude do they lie?
- 2. Location** According to the map, where is the largest Mediterranean climate region located? Based on your reading, what might the weather be like during the winter months in that region?
- 3. Summarize** Summarize the characteristics of a Mediterranean climate. Use the chart below to organize your summary.

MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATES

1.	
2.	