

FRESH NOTES

A TECHNICAL UPDATE PUBLISHED BY HORTGRO SCIENCE



PACKHOUSE
ACTION GROUP

Fresh Notes feedback of a Packhouse Action Group (PAG) meeting held in March 2025

Contact details are listed at the bottom of the Fresh Notes

Web Pages: PAG/Pome and Stone Protocols: Contact Elise-Marie Steenkamp

DOWNLOADS | Period 1 Nov 2024 – 1 Mar 2025:

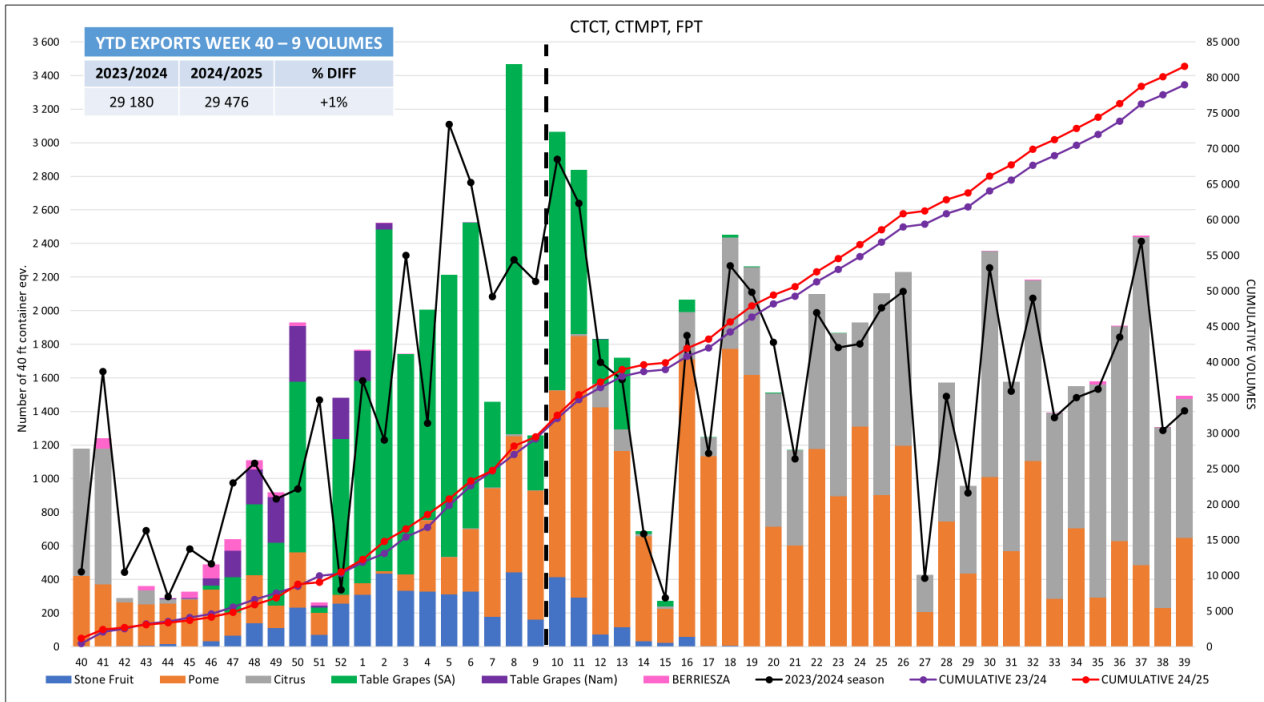
○ Container Checklist	1398
○ PAG Water Project Benchmark Result – Phase 5	1335
○ 'Quo Vadis' – Long-Term CA storage regimes of Cripps' Pink	1321
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○ CA Manual revised	1019

Update on Logistics Chain Efficiencies Contact: Jacques du Preez

It was reported that all fruit kind inspected volumes passed for export had declined by 5% year to date, weeks 40-8, and that the volumes were decreasing weekly. Wind delays, except for February, were lower this season. Operational challenges were faced in Cape Town, though equipment performance has improved despite setbacks. The arrival of new rubber tyre gantries and the refurbishing of existing STS cranes are part of a recovery plan to clear backlogs. An incentive scheme for productivity has also been implemented, which should yield positive results.

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Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

Contact: Nitasha Baijnath-Pillay

PAG - ESG Work Group will focus on:

- Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) compliance & risks,
- Environmental sustainability (including resource efficiency),
- Plastics and Packaging waste,
- Water resources and quality,
- Climate change response and mitigation – including foot printing.

The following decisions were made:

- The name ESG should be kept for now and included as a discipline on the PAG agenda.
- The ESG WG should include Social and governance aspects and environmental issues (packaging waste and compliance). Specific experts and packhouses should be invited to address these issues, including emissions from the farm level, when reporting on ESG work.
- The WG is an advisory group, but members who can drive implementation, such as GreenCape, Blue North wrt benchmarking, SIZA and Packhouses, can be invited to the WG to submit projects for funding consideration.

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iv) PAG was developed with a very specific focus on pome fruit

Loading of Reefer Containers Contact: Johan Strydom

The document has been updated and can be found in the Pome protocols:

<https://www.hortgro.co.za/wp-content/uploads/docs/2025/01/Loading-of-Reefer-containers-Oct24.pdf>

Packhouse Water and Energy Management Projects Contact: Dianca Yssel / Eddie Vienings

Blue North water project phase 7 report can be viewed at:

[Microsoft Word - PAG Water Project Benchmarks Phase 7](#)

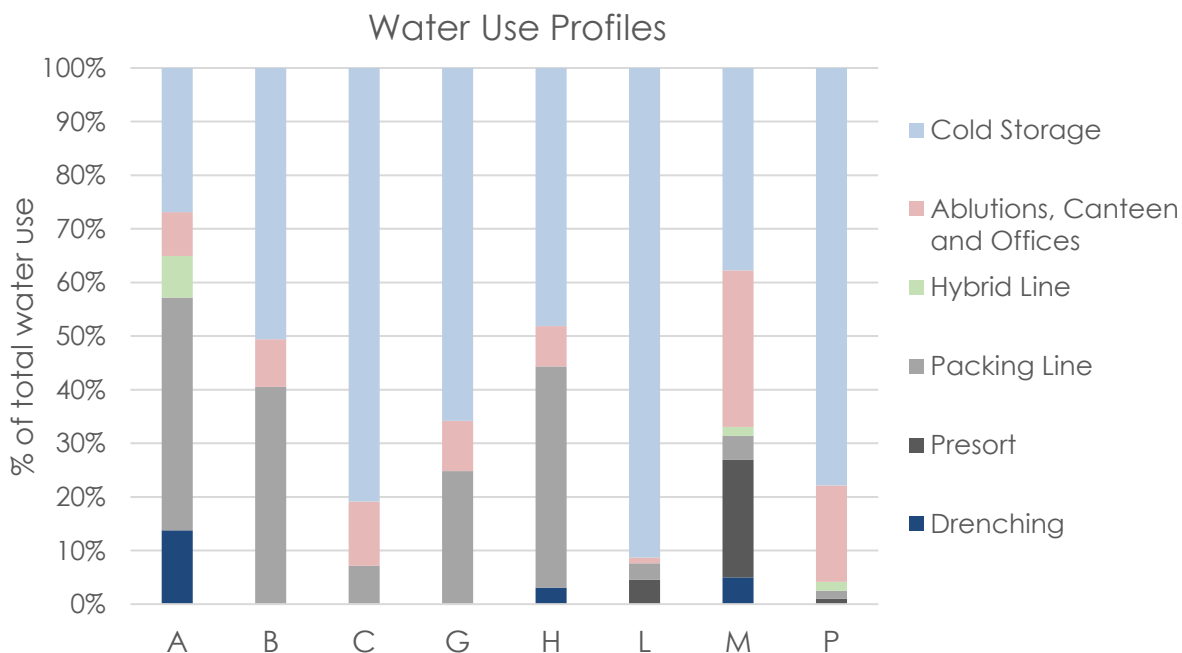


Figure 1: Water use profiles of the packhouses

There is a significant variation in the water use profiles of participating packhouses. This could be attributed to:

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- A lack of metering (thus estimations).
- Water allocation – i.e., where totals are metered, but individual areas of use are not.
- Lack of, or errors in, water consumption records.
- The use of different types of flume technology.
- The application of different water recycling technologies.

Market Access Feedback

Contact: Jacques du Preez / Lindi Benic

Mexico

Hortgro received DALRRD confirmation that the same inspector as last season would be here from 14 Apr – 20 Jun.

Taiwan

A report and an invitation for the Taiwanese authorities to visit shortly have been finalised. South Africa remains suspended from apple exports.

Thailand

Market access for apples has been granted, with the first containers already *en route*.

Philippines

The Philippine authorities are expected to visit the site as soon as they obtain confirmation. Potential market access is expected in 2026.

PAG Disciplines and Coordinators

Please contact the relevant person below if you have any queries regarding the PAG.

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Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) | Nitasha Baijnath-Pillay (nitasha@hortgro.co.za)

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