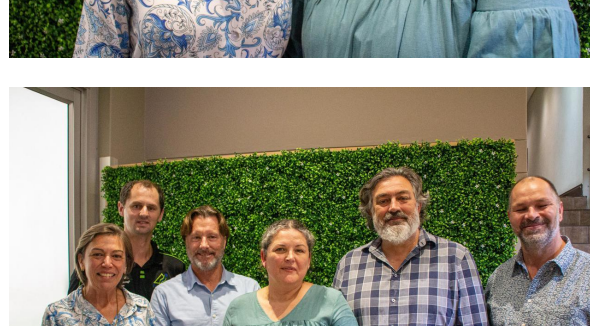




Laura Alderman retires

Laura Alderman steps down in December but her contribution to dormancy research will help pome- and stone-fruit growers negotiate climate change for many years to come. Hortgro wishes her well and appreciates the many years of research and hard work for our industry. Read more [here](#).

Hortgro Science Researcher Thank-You Breakfast



Hortgro Science hosted its annual researcher thank-you breakfast to commemorate contributions to growing and developing knowledge within the industry at the end of November.

Awards were given to Esme Louw and Laura Alderman for best final report in crop production. Rinus Knoetze was awarded best final report in crop protection, and Daniel Viljoen received best final report in the post-harvest category.

Jannick Nieuwoudt was awarded best fourth-year student.

Nigel Cook received best TAC member in crop production, Nico Ferreira was awarded best TAC member in crop protection and Henk Griessel was awarded best TAC member in post-harvest.

A special tribute, delivered by Dr Esme Louw, was given to Laura Alderman on her retirement.

Captions

Top left: Laura Alderman and Esme Louw.

Top right: Laura Alderman, Daniel Viljoen, Stephen Rabe, Esme Louw, Rinus Knoetze and Wiehann Steyn.

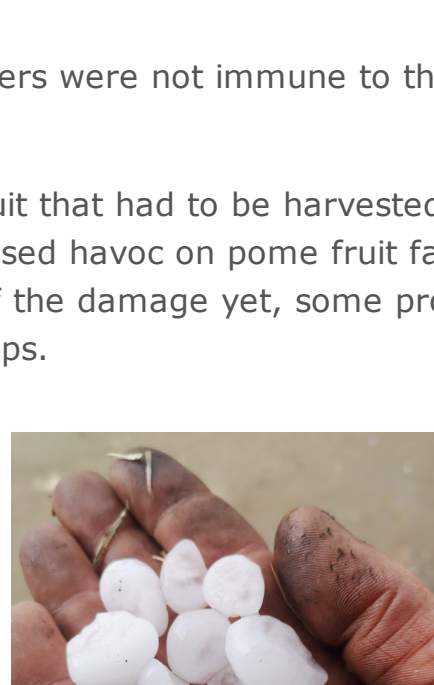
Bottom left: Nico Ferreira, Stephen Rabe, Henk Griessel and Wiehann Steyn.

Bottom right: Jannick Nieuwoudt.

Rain welcome, but severe weather damages fruit crops

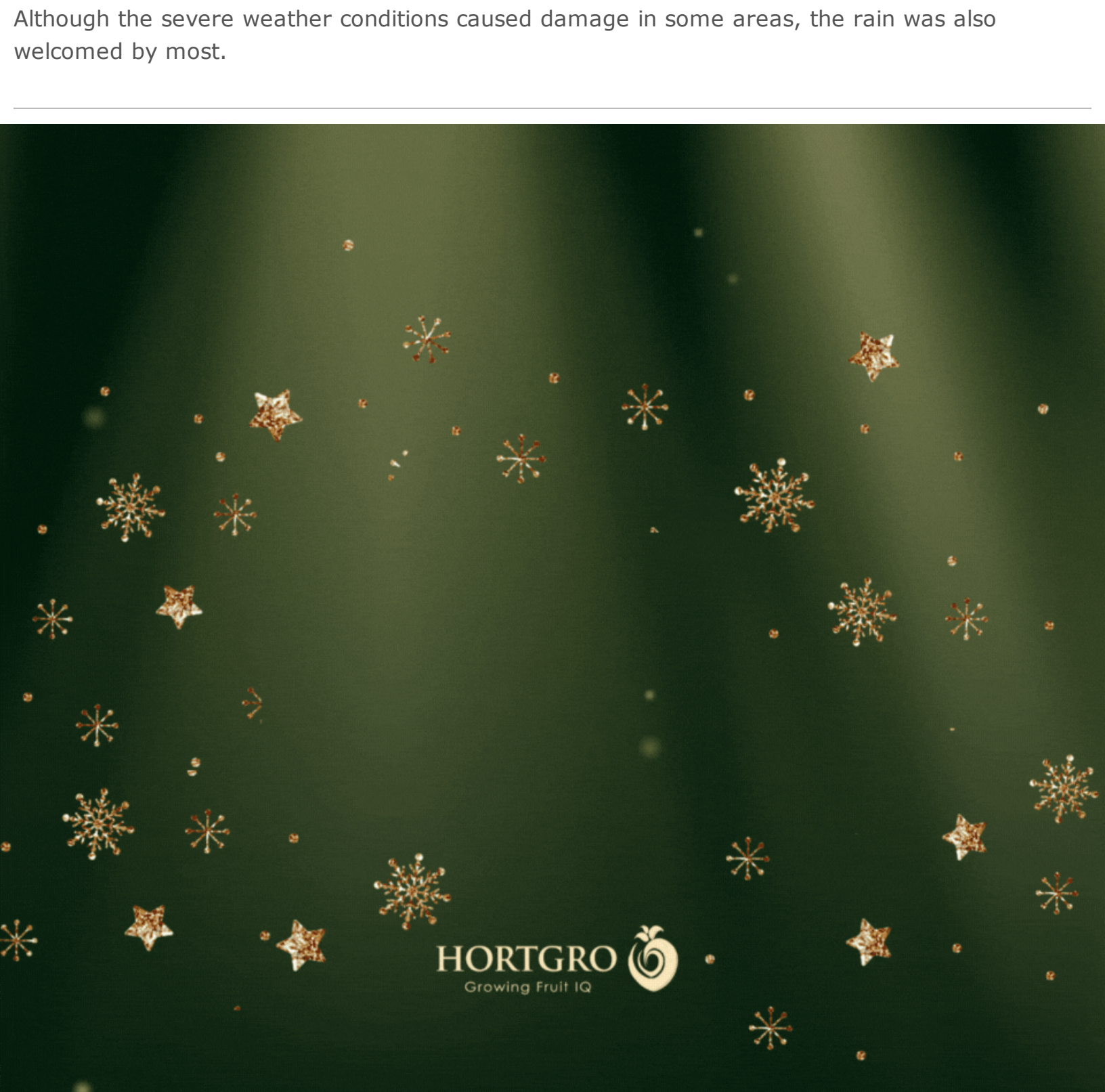
Western Cape deciduous fruit farmers were not immune to the severe weather conditions over the past week.

Early reports indicate that stone fruit that had to be harvested this week are likely to be lost in totality and in some areas, hail caused havoc on pome fruit farms. Although it has not been possible to determine the extent of the damage yet, some producers indicated that the wind and hail had had an impact on their crops.



On Sunday, the South African Weather Service (SAWS) issued a level five weather alert for hail and thunderstorms. The SAWS warned that damage to infrastructure, settlements, property, vehicles, communication disruption and loss of agricultural production is possible. This situation is likely to continue for the rest of this week (week 50).

Although the severe weather conditions caused damage in some areas, the rain was also welcomed by most.



A very Merry Christmas to all our producers, stakeholders and partners! Thank you for your continued support.

→ INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

[Stone fruit postharvest app](#).

E-mail info@hortgro.co.za for more information.

→ HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

[Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics](#)

Hortgro Stone: [Timely Hints/Tydige Wenke \(January edition available end of December\)](#)

Fresh Notes: [FN 201 PAG Feedback Nov 2022](#)

Fruit South Africa [Transformation Summary](#)

Transformation Times: [September 2022 Issue](#)

→ HORTGRO YOUTUBE

Vind ons videobiblioteek vol bedryfsinligting [hier](#).

PLUS: 36 Boordopleiding video's nou beskikbaar in [AFRIKAANS](#), [XHOSA](#) en [ENGELS](#)

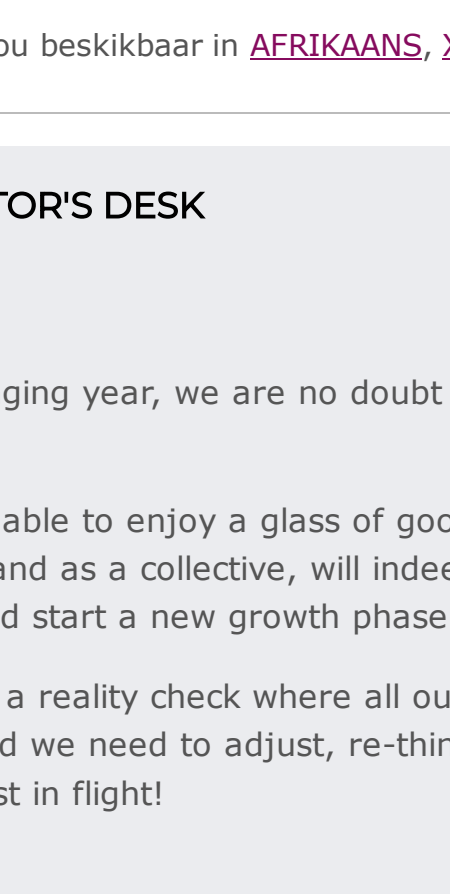
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Let's re-fill our glas(es)

At the end of an extremely challenging year, we are no doubt all looking for somewhat of a break and a reprieve.

My wish is that we will not only be able to enjoy a glass of good wine or bubbly over the Festive period, but that we as individuals and as a collective, will indeed be able to look forward to a 2023 where we can consolidate and start a new growth phase in our industry.

We are experiencing somewhat of a reality check where all our assumptions and projections have been thrown out of the window and we need to adjust, re-think and re-build. A case of designing and building a new aeroplane whilst in flight!



Reality checks (plural) it no doubt is. But I also believe that the Festive period and outlook to 2023 also provides us an opportunity to reflect on the proverbial glass not only half full or half empty, but that the glass can indeed also be **RE-FILLED!**

It is my hope and prayer that our industry, our country and the global community at large will be blessed with a reprieve, some sort of a return to whatever the new normal would be now that the world population has reached the 8 billion people mark.

Enjoy the festive period responsibly! May we all experience joy and happiness with our loved ones, families, and friends. May the (few) high points of 2022, be overshadowed by the low points of 2023. Let's continue to fill and re-fill our real and proverbial glasses and let's seize the opportunities that is out there.

Stay safe. All the best. And a Merry and Blessed festive period to all.

Until next time

Anton

In a world that is changing quickly, the only strategy that is guaranteed to fail is not taking risks.

Mark Zuckerberg

If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door. Milton Berle

Don't wait for the right opportunity: Create it. George Bernard Shaw



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