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Encouraging outlook for the stone fruit season

Growers are positive about the crop for the 2024/2025 export season. Early indications are that overall volumes will increase compared to last year. This comes after a challenging 2023/2024 season that included extreme weather events (storms, fog, strong winds in the Port of Cape Town) and continued logistical disruptions at the port. Read more [here](#).



Negotiating future food production safely

As early as 2500 BC, Sumerian farmers used sulphur to control insects and mites on their crops, illustrating the long history of chemical use in agriculture. **From June 2024, the phasing out of agricultural remedies has entered a new phase.** Did you know that it is illegal to apply a pesticide in any manner that is not stated on the product label? If you are buying a pesticide product, it remains your responsibility to apply the product strictly according to label directions, regardless of whether or not you received advice or recommendations for use from a designated person. **CropLife shares here** several important pamphlets, posters and guidelines regarding safe crop production. *(Photograph of a Painted Reed Frog recently found in an apple orchard, Elgin Valley, by Dihan Blom.)*

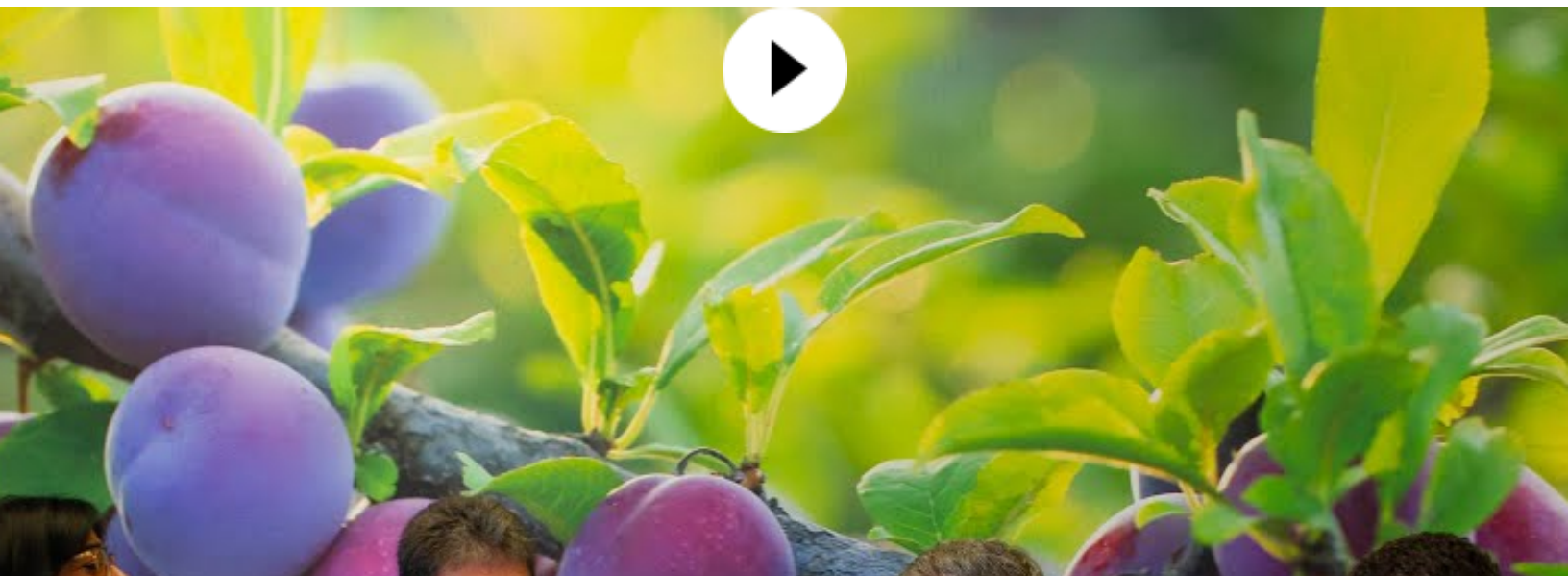


Hortgro and the Climate Change Bill

In a world with a constantly changing environmental and socio-economic landscape, it is challenging for South African deciduous fruit producers to farm competitively and sustainably, but not impossible. Read more **here**. Agbiz interviewed Pieter van Niekerk, from AgriCarbon, titled Demystifying Carbon Credits: A Game-Changer or Just Hot Air? Read it **here**.

Hortgro Footprint Webinar | Soil Health

Hortgro's natural resource and sustainability division launched its first webinar, soil health. This is the first in the new series. The next webinar on 4 December will address 'green financing'. If you want specific topics addressed in this series, contact **Nitasha Baijnath-Pillay**.





Changes at Hortgro Science

Dr Minette Karsten is the new Crop Protection Programme Manager at Hortgro Science. She takes over from Matthew Addison.

Matthew started his career with the inception of integrated pest management in South African orchards. Read about Matthew [here](#).

Read about Minette [here](#).



Jong bedryfsleier | Dr. Gideon van Zyl

As mens luister na sy geskiedenis voel dit asof dr. Gideon van Zyl vir sy huidige posisie as gewasbeskermingspesialis by ProCrop bestem was. Hy het in Rawsonville grootgeword en sy pa was 'n gewasbeskermingverteenwoordiger by Bayer en later Nexus. Van Zyl junior se tipiese vakansiewerk was onkruidodertoedienings en saai van slakpille of graansaad – dis waar hy leer kalibreer het. Lees meer oor Gideon [hier](#).



The nitty gritty of empowerment deals

A recent enquiry regarding how empowerment transactions work, sparked this article. There are so many factors and variables to consider in response to this simple question and without getting into the nitty gritty one will not do it justice. Read article by **Mariette Kotze** [here](#).



New Roots volume VII

In the previous issues of New Roots, we began navigating the journey that is ahead and Hortgo's role in facilitating meaningful progress and impact. Read the latest transformation stories in New Roots [here](#).



Chester Fisch wins AGT 2024

It was not only Fisch's extraordinary vocal abilities that impressed, his dancing skills and showmanship all contributed to making Fisch a worthy winner of Agri's Got Talent 2024. Read more [here](#)



Fire season has started | Are you fire safe?

Runaway veld fires move through landscapes at an astonishing pace, destroying property, natural habitats, and sometimes costing lives. [Find here](#) a comprehensive blog post addressing insurance, the value of Fire Protection Associations, emergency numbers, and a link to Cape Nature's *Landowners Guide to Fire Management*.

Events

- Hortgro Stone Fruit Seminar and Orchard Walk, 12 November 2024. More info [here](#).
 - Onthou die datum | Hortgro Langkloof Seminaar, 28 November 2024. Vind meer inligting [hier](#). Registrasies open 4 November.
 - Save the date | Hortgro Footprint Webinar | Green Financing, 4 December 2024. More information closer to the time.
 - FREE: Cherry Festival, 8 November 2024, Ceres. For more information and to RSVP (necessary) contact: korkom@breede.co.za
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Responsible Use of Chemicals

For many years now, the agri sector has been targeted by individuals and groups relating to the use, or rather the alleged misuse, of agro chemicals. It has always been Hortgro's stance that only registered chemicals be used and then also strictly in accordance with the respective labels as registered which is based on scientifically proven results, breakdown curves, withholding periods and MRL's.

We know that over time some harmful actives to humans, animals, birds, insects and nature in general have slipped through the cracks and that the use and application of chemicals are sometimes not strictly adhered to.

Now, controls and registrations are very strictly adhered to, and the responsible use of chemicals is globally accepted. Misuse and/or use that is not aligned with labels, are unacceptable and inexcusable as it provides, and continues to provide, enough oxygen for activists, and in most cases very biased individuals and groups, to agitate against the use of any chemical.

Hortgro cannot, and will not, protect anybody that does not stick to the prescribed dosage and/or application method/s that chemicals are registered for. This includes the use of PPE/clothing and the regular testing of those working with chemicals. (Please note the guidelines/best practices as provided by CropLife elsewhere in this newsletter).

The fact of the matter is that we cannot produce crops without some chemicals being used. As the world population continue to expand - the world population is growing by over 200,000 people per day - we need to utilise science-based knowledge and new technologies to improve yields, quality of produce and reduce waste as far as possible.

According to the World Bank, the global population is expected to grow to 9.7 billion by 2050 and peak at nearly 10.4 billion in the mid-2080's. It will be a tall order for a shrinking producer base to keep up given that

an estimated 712 million people (in 2022), or almost 1 in 11 people globally who live in extreme poverty, and another 1,3 billion people (26% of the global population) living in moderate poverty. Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest rate of children living in extreme poverty; 40% in 2022.

So, we don't have a choice. We need crop protection and post-harvest chemicals, BUT we also must ensure compliance and responsible use thereof.

Instead of fighting the "mavericks" on both sides of the spectrum, let's rather take hands and ensure that chemical use and application are done strictly by the "book" and that those who provide the oxygen for undermining and attacks on the sector, are identified and isolated, and bear the consequences of their actions. Until next time.

Anton

While we are free to choose our actions, we are not free to choose the consequences of our actions —
Stephen R. Covey

It is not only what we do, but also what we do not do, for which we are accountable – Moliere

→ HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

- **Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics**
 - [Latest 2023 statistics](#)
 - [Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics booklet 2022](#)
- **Fresh Quarterly**
 - [Issue 26 Symposium Special Edition](#)
- **Timely Hints**
 - [November 2024](#)
- **Fresh Notes**
 - [214 Presence of spotted wing Drosophila & 215 MRL Notification](#)
- **New Roots**
 - [Volume 7 | October 2024](#)
- **Hortgro News**
 - [All previous issues](#)
- **Fruit South Africa** [Transformation Summary](#)

→ INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

- All of Hortgro's online platforms in one place, link [here](#)
- E-mail info@hortgro.co.za for more information

→ HORTGRO YOUTUBE

- Vind ons videobiblioteek vol bedryfsinligting [hier](#).
 - PLUS: 36 Boordopleiding video's nou beskikbaar in [AFRIKAANS](#), [XHOSA](#) en [ENGELS](#)
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