



THE WOMEN OF LAASTEDRIF

In any given set-up, organisation, team or business, different threads connect all the right dots, making it work splendidly. At the farm Laastedrif, at the top of Bo-Swaarmoed in the Witzenberg District, one of these threads was woven by a group of exceptional women. By Gerrit Rautenbach

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SOUTH AFRICAN CHERRIES ARE GOING PLACES

Although South Africa's cherry exports are relatively small (0,1% in 2024) compared to Chile's (49% in 2024), the industry has grown by leaps and bounds. In 2012, South Africa had 185 hectares of cherry plantings, and by 2024, 819 hectares were recorded.

[Read here>>](#)



SOUTH AFRICA WELCOMES CHERRY SEASON: INSIDE THIS YEAR'S FRESH, FUN & FLAVOUR-PACKED CAMPAIGN

Cherry season has officially begun in South Africa — bringing one of the most colourful, tastiest marketing campaigns of the year. With cherries available for only a brief period, the industry is going all out to inspire excitement, boost demand, and invite consumers to celebrate the season in delightful new ways.

[Read here>>](#)

CHANGING OF THE GUARD WITHIN THE FRUIT SOUTH AFRICA BOARD

Key leadership changes at Fruit SA this year marked a notable change of the guard in the organisation. Collectively, these changes underscore Fruit SA's unwavering focus on strengthening its leadership and strategic vision for the local fruit industry.

[Download Press Release here](#)



FOCUS ON FRUIT WORKERS DEVELOPMENT TRUST

The Fruit Workers’ Development Trust (FWDT) is a 100% BEE entity, as defined by the BEE Codes of Good Practice. The purpose of the Trust is to address the social conditions of agri-workers on pome- and stone-fruit farms.

[Read here>>](#)

PROVAR ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Provar is pleased to announce the appointment of Tristan Dorfling as Chief Executive Officer, effective 20 November 2025. This marks an important milestone in the organisation’s development as it strengthens its long-term strategic direction, operational focus and scientific capabilities.

[Read here>>](#)



ANDREW HACKING SPEAKS FRUIT FLY MANAGEMENT

Andrew Hacking shares key insights on effective Fruit Fly management, highlighting practical strategies and important considerations for growers.

[Watch Reel here>>](#)

AGBIZ PRESENTS TO THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE ON THE RESPONSIBLE USE OF AGRICULTURAL REMEDIES

Following earlier presentations to the portfolio committee on agricultural remedies, calls were made to ban specific remedies. In August this year, Agbiz requested an opportunity to also present to the portfolio committee. The request was granted in November, and on 25 November, Annelize Crosby, on behalf of Agbiz and assisted by several industry role players, engaged with the portfolio committee members on the importance of agricultural remedies, their responsible use, and their regulation.

[Read more here](#)

Upcoming events



Langkloof, 2 December 2025



**Hortgro Tegniese Simposium,
25 - 29 Mei 2026**

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Plans vs Surprises

As we approach the end of 2025 and the tempo of the 2025/6-season picks up, one can only contemplate what 2026 will bring.

No doubt there will be new challenges and unforeseen surprises. But we can only focus on those things under our control and plan and execute as best we can. The climate is unpredictable, and at the time of writing, we have experienced the worst wind delays in the Port of Cape Town in recent memory. Winds exceeding 100 km/h were the norm rather than the exception in recent weeks.

Hopefully, the wind has also blown itself out, and we can look forward to better logistics and productivity in our ports, also given new equipment (among others, 28 new RTGs that can operate at higher wind speeds) that has been and/or will be commissioned in the coming months. This, linked to a greater focus on export reefers and continued accommodation of trucks, prioritisation of export reefers, plug-in points and the use of the Belcon inland terminal during periods of strong wind, should improve productivity in the coming months.

The apparent lack of urgency in the start-up after wind delays, linked to malfunctioning systems, is, however, a serious concern given the undertakings from Transnet management and the expected impact of new equipment commissioned in recent months.

In my view, some form of private sector participation in the port is absolutely essential, and we will continue to push for such a dispensation.

We do expect good crops, which will put our logistics under pressure during the peak season. A focus on basics and ensuring that planned operations and procedures are executed as best as possible is a non-negotiable and will be key to a successful export season.

Another “surprise” was the latest haphazard, mostly illogical (my interpretation) amendment to US tariffs. It is reasoned that the changes are due to counter-seasonal products, yet stone fruit, table grapes, and soft citrus are nowhere on the list.

We are following up on this and have appealed to the US trade office and have also asked our exporters to engage with their US importers to echo our appeal, given the rationale and context in this regard. We can only hope that sanity and common sense will prevail as we see reports of rising food prices and inflation in the US in the aftermath of the Trump tariff regime.

Until next time

Anton

Failing to plan is planning to fail – Benjamin Franklin

"Don't take life too seriously, you will never get out of it alive" - Elbert Hubbard



→ HORTGRO UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Langkloof Seminaar en Boordstap**, 2 Desember 2025
- **Hortgro Tegnieuse Simposium met Kern- en Steenvrug-Velddae**, 25 - 29 Mei 2026

→ HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

- **Timely Hints**
 - [December 2025](#)
- **Fresh Notes**
 - [227 | Feedback of a Packhouse Action Group \(PAG\) meeting held in November 2025](#)
 - [226 | Restrictions on PPP \(October 2025\)](#)

- [225 | Feedback of a Packhouse Action Group \(PAG\) meeting held in July 2025](#)
- [224 | Restricted Agricultural Remedies \(July 2025\)](#)
- **Hortgro News**
 - [All previous issues](#)
- **Fruit South Africa**
 - [Transformation Summary](#)
- **Fresh Quarterly**
 - [October/Okttober Issue 31](#)

HORTGRO SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PLATFORMS

- **Hortgro Science Research Library.** Find it [here](#).
- **Hortgro Science Climate Change App.** Find it [here](#).
- **Post-harvest Website.** Find it [here](#).
- **Phyto Application.** Find it [here](#).
- **PSHB.** Find it [here](#).
- **Fresh Quarterly.** Find it [here](#).

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- 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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