

Pome and Stone Fruit Industry Short Course



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Course Information

19-21 & 26-28 August 2025

This six-day short course is designed to provide an understanding of the horticultural processes of tree growth and development, scientific irrigation management, nutrition and the execution of good soil health and soil science practices.

The goal being the production of high tonnages of top-quality fruit, harvest maturity and the post-harvest handling of fruit is discussed.

Knowledge of production fundamentals, combined with practical guidance during the field day, will skill producers and practitioners in producing high yielding sustainable orchards.

Presentations will be supported by notes as well as an imported text book:

Fundamentals of Temperate Zone Tree Fruit Production, Edited by J. Tromp, AD Webster & SJ Wertheim.

Registration fees are R 23,100 per person and include a set of course notes, the textbook, conference fees & stationery, lunches, refreshments and the field day.

Interested participants are requested to register with payment by 8 August 2025 (registration form and map to venue attached).



Dr Nigel Cook
Horticulturist



Blue North Team
Fruitlook



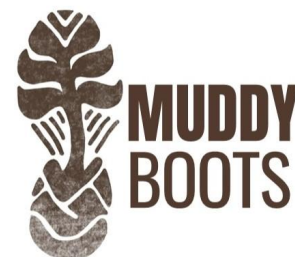
The Experico Team
Post-harvest



Dr Ian Crouch
Post-harvest



Karen vd Westhuizen
Irrigation Scientist



JORIKA CRONJE
KONSULTASIE



Jorika Cronje
Soil Scientist



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19 August 2025

- 08:00 Dormancy and branching
- 10:30 Tea / Coffee
- 11:00 Growth and bearing habits
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Balancing vegetative and reproductive growth
- 15:30 Tea / Coffee
- 16:00 Rootstocks and inter-stems
- 17:00 Adjourned

20 August 2025

- 08:00 Flowering, pollination, fruit set
- 09:30 Fruit growth & development, thinning and fruit size
- 10:30 Tea / Coffee
- 11:00 Light interception and distribution
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Pruning
- 15:30 Tea / Coffee
- 16:00 Training systems
- 17:00 Adjourned

21 August 2025

- Soil science & soil health -

- 08:00 Basics of rooting
- 08:30 Soil rooting limitations
- 09:00 Basics of soil preparation
- 10:15 Ridges and terraces
- 10:30 Tea / Coffee
- 11:00 Drainage of soils
- 11:30 The importance of soil surveying
- 12:00 Nutrition
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Tree Water Use Efficiency
- 14:30 Mulches & Soil health
- 15:30 Tea / Coffee
- 16:00 Drought management
- 17:00 Adjourned

26 August 2025

- Irrigation -

- 08:00 Irrigating responsibly & water use efficiency.
Evaporation and evapotranspiration.
Factors affecting water uptake by trees.
Soil water holding capacity and movement of water through soil.
Water stress and quantification/monitoring thereof.
Irrigation strategies as required by phenological stages.
- 10:30 Tea / Coffee
- 11:00 Crop factor, application, and calculation.
Irrigation scheduling.
Physical evaluation of soil moisture.
Installation of soil moisture probes & interpretation of graphs.
Irrigation systems & maintenance.
Irrigation during drought and heat waves.
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Fruitlook Training Session
- 15:30 Tea / Coffee
- 16:00 Fruitlook Training Session
- 17:00 Adjourned

27 August 2025

- Post-harvest -

- 08:00 Fruit development and ripening
- 11:00 Tea / Coffee
- 11:30 Fruit quality and maturity indices
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Post-harvest fruit handling
- 15:00 Tea / Coffee
- 15:30 Post-harvest diseases and management
- 17:00 Adjourned

28 August 2025 (FIELD DAY)

- 08:00 Visits to farms
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Visits to farms
- 16:00 Handing out of certificates & closing function



Registration Form

Please return by 08 August 2025

Fee: R23,100 (15% VAT included)

FIRST NAME & SURNAME	CELL NUMBER	R
1.		
2.		
3.		
TOTAL (incl. 15% VAT)		R

NAME OF FARM / BUSINESS

VAT NUMBER

POSTAL ADDRESS

OFFICE TEL NO.

E-MAIL (FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT)

E-MAIL (PERSON ATTENDING)

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

BANK PAYMENT

Prophyta (Pty) Ltd.

Nedbank Somerset Mall, Branch code: 11414500

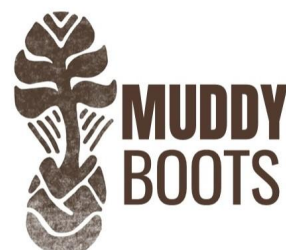
Current account number: 1043615253

PROOF OF PAYMENT

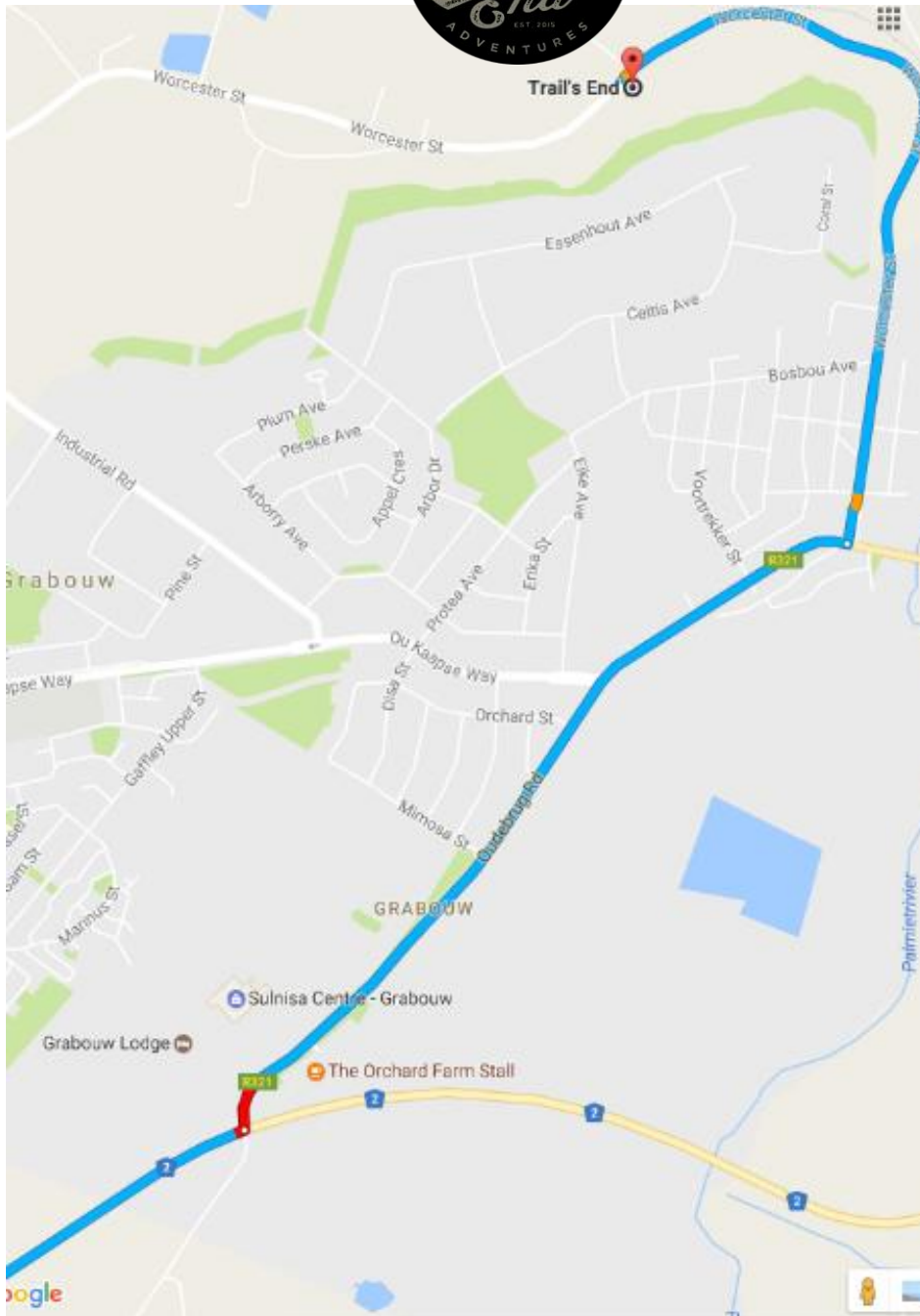
Use Participant's Name as reference on payment.

Please email proof of deposit together with registration form.

Email. info@prophyta.co.za



Directions Accommodation Suggestions



GPS coordinates:

S 34.142195 E19.017879

Directions to Trails-End:

Head south on Sir Lowry's Pass / N2

Turn left onto Oudebrug Road / R321

Turn Left onto Worcester Street

Follow Worcester Street

Trails-End will be on the left
(use second entrance)

Accommodation suggestions

Trails-End Bike Inn

Tel. 021 859 5193 | www.trailsend.bike

Elgin Country Lodge

Tel. 066 007 4978 | www.elgincountrylodge.co.za

South Hill Guest House

Tel. 021 844 0888 | www.southhill.co.za



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