



Investing in the Future of Horticulture

Hortgro's 2026 Bursary Function celebrates the young people shaping the industry's next chapter

There is a particular kind of optimism that runs through South African agriculture — the belief that no matter how hard a season has been, a better one is always on its way. That spirit was on full display at Hortgro's recent Bursary Function, held at STIAS in Stellenbosch, where the industry organisation marked its ongoing investment in the young students, scientists, and researchers who will carry the deciduous fruit industry forward.

[Read here>>](#)



Women in Agriculture: Danell du Toit

August is Women's Month. **Danell du Toit** is MD of the De Keur Group and Vice-Chairperson of Hortgro Pome. She spoke to Jenny Underhill about the values she acquired in childhood, her unexpected career path, and her take on women in agriculture.

[Read here>>](#)



Women in Agriculture: Georgina Hewitt

Georgie Hewitt is a director of Verdun and Vice-Chairperson of Hortgro Stone. She tells her story and why she decided to join the family business, and her experience of being a woman in agriculture.

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SIZA Does Matter

The 10-year conference of The Sustainability Initiative of South Africa (SIZA) took place on 19 August at Ashanti, near Paarl. SIZA's *raison d'être* is to cultivate ethical and environmentally sustainable trade practices across a wide range of agricultural commodities. **Calla du Toit**, and **Mariette Kotze** were among the participants who answered tough questions.

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SIZA - From compliance to competitive advantage

Georgie Hewitt shared her thoughts on *"How to shift from compliance to competitive advantage and what we must do next"* at the recent SIZA Conference in Paarl.

[Read here>>](#)



After 25 Years, Tru-Cape's Henk Griessel Steps Back — But Not Away

At the end of July 2026, **Henk Griessel** officially retired from Tru-Cape Fruit Marketing after 25 years of service — a career that has left an indelible mark on South Africa's deciduous fruit industry.

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Seasonal Labour, a Strategic Risk

Hortgro recently submitted a report of industry workforce challenges to the national Department of Agriculture, following consultation with pome and stone fruit producers across the country's major production regions. The message from growers was consistent: the availability of a reliable seasonal workforce is no longer just an operational detail; it's a strategic risk to the industry's future.

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Invasive Tree Management Builds Water Security

Liz Metcalfe from Living Lands explains why controlled burning is necessary to restore the Wabooms River catchment, which feeds the Joubertina Dam in the Langkloof; thereby securing water.

[Read here>>](#)



Pollination in the spotlight

It is that time of year when pollinators work hard to ensure a successful production season. **Dr Nanike Esterhuizen**, Hortgro Science Crop Protection Applied Researcher, shares answers to questions she regularly receives about pollination.

[Read here>>](#)

Principles of Integrated Pest Management

A Southern African Perspective



Free book: Principles of IPM

The book, Principles of Integrated Pest Management: A Southern African Perspective, partly sponsored by Hortgro, has now been published with open access.

[You can view the book on the CABI Digital Library here](#)



Agbiz's Fact Sheet and Position Paper on the National Water Amendment Bill

To support evidence-based advocacy with members, policymakers, and the media, please find the documents below. The Position Paper provides detailed evidence and analysis, while the Fact Sheet offers a concise summary for quick reference and advocacy engagements. For enquiries, please contact Sakhile Vanqa at sakhile@agbiz.co.za.

[Download Position Paper Pdf here>>](#)

[Download Fact Sheet Pdf here>>](#)



B. Dorsalis levy approved

In an ongoing effort to manage FruitFly the latest levy application has been approved. Find information [here](#) and [here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

2026: HORTGRO Awards & Agri's Got Talent



Hortgro Awards 2026 | 11 September 2026



Agri's Got Talent 2026

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

A TIME TO GO

The saying “a time to come and a time to go” was phrased by King Solomon. The same applies to the use of similar pairs as indicated below from Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 (Prediker 3 – sien onder) in the Bible.

For me it is time to go and make way for the next generation. And I have no regrets, and it certainly is a time for new beginnings, to build, to laugh, even time to dance. And to embrace a new era with new enthusiasm, new ideas and a new way of doing, but continue to stick to the knitting.

I have been incredibly blessed over the past +37 years and have experienced many highs and lows of the DFI's journey from the regulated era to today. As they say of the army (those of us who experienced it), you are glad you experienced it, but you don't want to repeat the exercise. Similar sentiments here!

As reported previously, the Hortgro succession committee undertook an intensive process to appoint Hortgro's new CEO, Jacques du Preez, who officially took over the reins on August 1. This process began a few years ago with the phasing out of old hands such as Louis van Zyl and Hugh Campbell. I am merely next!

There will no doubt be changes in the Hortgro management and personnel structure in the coming weeks and months, which will be communicated with stakeholders as things develop. I am confident and comfortable knowing that Hortgro is in good hands. I expect them to do things differently, not more of the same, while remaining focused and finding their own way to face the challenges our sector faces daily. This is required to ensure that the entity remains relevant, focused and efficient in its services to its primary members.

I have absolute faith that Jacques, the new management team and the respective boards will take Hortgro to the next level in the way they see fit. I will quietly stand in the wings to support and give advice if, when and where it is asked.

Goodbye for now.
Anton

Prediker 3 vers 1-8:

1. Elke ding het sy vaste tyd, elke ding in hierdie wêreld het sy tyd:
2. daar is 'n tyd om gebore te word, 'n tyd om te sterwe, 'n tyd om te plant, 'n tyd om plante uit te trek,
3. 'n tyd om 'n lewe te neem, 'n tyd om 'n lewe te red, 'n tyd om af te breek, 'n tyd om te bou,
4. 'n tyd om te huil, 'n tyd om te lag, 'n tyd om te treur, 'n tyd om van blydschap te dans,
5. 'n tyd om klippe weg te gooi, 'n tyd om hulle bymekaar te maak, 'n tyd om te omhels, 'n tyd om weg te bly van omhelsing af,
6. 'n tyd om aan te skaf, 'n tyd om te laat wegraak, 'n tyd om te spaar, 'n tyd om weg te gooi,
7. 'n tyd om te skeur, 'n tyd om toe te werk, 'n tyd om stil te bly, 'n tyd om te praat,
8. 'n tyd om lief te hê, 'n tyd om te haat, 'n tyd vir oorlog, 'n tyd vir vrede.

→ HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

Timely Hints

- [September 2026](#)
- [August 2026](#)
- [July 2026](#)
- [June 2026](#)
- [February 2026](#)

Fresh Notes

- [229 | Critical water shortages Irrigation Guidelines for Deciduous Fruit Trees](#)

- [228 | Restrictions on the Use of Plant Protection Products on Deciduous fruit for 2025/26](#)

Hortgro News

- [All previous issues](#)

Fruit South Africa

- [Transformation Summary](#)

Fresh Quarterly

- [June 2026 Issue 33](#)
- [March 2026 Issue 32](#)
- [December 2025 Issue 31](#)
- [September 2025 Issue 30](#)

New Roots

- [New-Roots Volume | July 2026](#)

→ 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](#).

→ INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

- All of Hortgro's online platforms in one place, [click 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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