



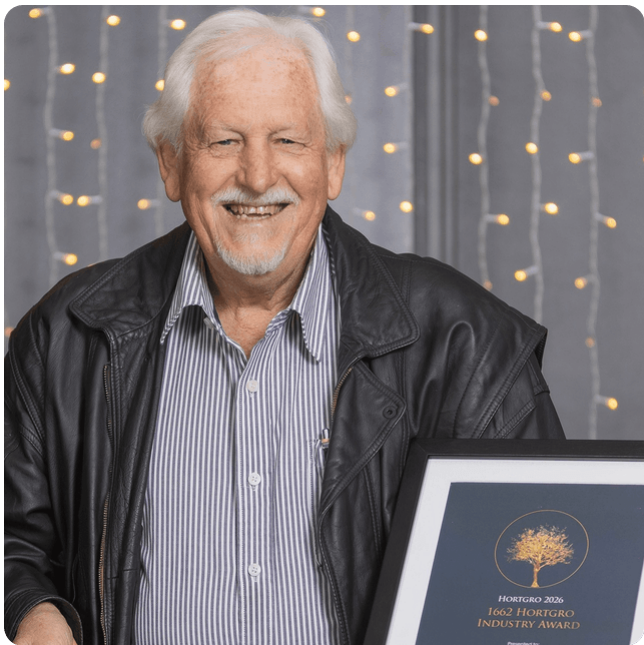
Anton Rabe is our Frontrunner 2026

After 38 years of dedicated service to the South African Deciduous Fruit Industry, including his leadership as Executive Director of Hortgro, Anton Rabe has made an exceptional and lasting contribution to the industry's growth, resilience, and future. His career represents an extraordinary commitment to the people, businesses, communities and value chains that collectively make South Africa's deciduous fruit sector one of the country's most important agricultural industries.

[Read more here>>](#)

[Watch a video about Anton here](#)

And find the press release about the **[Hortgro Awards 2026 here](#)**



“Meneer Steenvrugte”, Gielie Bester, vereer met die 1662 Bedryfstoeckenning

Gielie Bester se jarelange bydrae tot die steenvrugbedryf spreek opsigself boekdele. Gielie het 'n passie en toewyding vir die steenvrugbedryf en het oor die jare nooit erkenning gesoek nie. Hy was nog altyd nederig soos die steenvrugbedryf. Die meeste van die steenvrugprodusente het al van sy kundigheid en ondervinding gebruik gemaak. Gielie is tans een van die langsdienende en lojale mense in die Sagtevrugtebedryf.

[Lees meer hier>>](#)



Lindi Benić receives Hortgro Chairman's Award 2026

The Hortgro Chairman's Award honours individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the deciduous fruit industry – either through long-term service or outstanding achievement in their fields. Lindi is a worthy recipient of this award on both counts, having started her sojourn with the then Deciduous Fruit Producers Trust and now Hortgro in September 1999, some 27 years ago, and excelling in her service to the industry.

[Read more about Lindi>>](#)



Steven Versfeld from Achtertuin Farm wins inaugural Hortgro Footprint Award 2026

Steven has a deep-seated, long-term personal commitment to environmental stewardship that goes far beyond baseline compliance and shows how an independent producer can drive transformative sustainability. From as early as 1996, when he joined his father in the farming operation, they began moving away from conventional agricultural practices toward biological farming. [Watch a video about Achtertuin here.](#)

[Read more here>>](#)



Elke Crouch receives coveted Daan Strydom Science and Technology Award 2026

Elke has devoted more than two decades to postharvest physiology, teaching, applied research, and industry service, with a particular focus on the quality, storability, and market performance of apples and pears. Her career is a compelling example of science serving industry: rigorous, practical and consistently directed at solving problems that matter to producers, packhouses, exporters and consumers.

[Read more here>>](#)



Peter Dall's long-term dedication to industry transformation recognised

In 1998, shortly after deregulation, Peter Dall, then Chairperson of the Deciduous Fruit Producers' Trust, and Anton Rabe developed a Declaration of Intent to drive industry transformation. Looking back almost 30 years later, it is difficult to overstate the significance of this initiative. For his commitment, Peter Dall received the Hortgro Transformation Award 2026. [Watch an interview with Peter here.](#)

[Read more here>>](#)



Dynamic duo win Izithelo Media Award 2026

Dynamic duo Dewald Kirsten and Louise Brodie started Lucentlands in 2019. Dewald is the wizard behind the camera, and Louise is the journalist and industry expert. What could go wrong? Well, it seems...nothing. Over the years, both individually and as a team, they have accumulated several awards, and now they can add Izithelo. Lucentlands Media is being awarded specifically for their podcasts and the impact they had on the South African pome and stone fruit industry.

[Read more here>>](#)



Jaco Wolmarans wen Hortgro-fotokompetisie 2026

Met meer as 260 foto's wat ontvang is, was dit geen maklike taak om 'n wenner te kies nie. Drie onafhanklike beoordelaars van verskillende mediasektore is aangestel om die inskrywings te beoordeel en die foto te kies wat die bedryf se gees en wese die beste vasgevang het.

Na noukeurige oorweging is Jaco Wolmarans se foto, getiteld "Take your pick", as die algehele wenner van die R10 000-kontantprys aangewys.

[Lees meer hier>>](#)



South African Cherries Gain Market Access to China

After years of behind-the-scenes work, South Africa's cherry industry has secured market access to China, giving local growers a foothold in the world's largest cherry-importing market at the moment the industry has the volumes to use it. The announcement comes as South African cherry production has climbed 54% over the past two seasons, from 3,300 tonnes in 2024/25 to a projected 5,100 tonnes in 2025/26.

[Read more here>>](#)



Cherry AGM 2026

The South African cherry industry recently came together to discuss critical issues. Find recordings about industry matters here:

[Find Playlist here>>](#)



Hortgro Awards 2026 Gala Highlights and Award Winners

Celebrating excellence, innovation and outstanding contributions across the South African fruit industry. Discover the highlights and winners from the Hortgro Awards 2026.

[Find Playlist here>>](#)

Help equip the next generation of fruit industry leaders!

Hortgro is looking for spare or pre-loved laptops to donate to interns in the Hortgro Mentorship Programme.

For these young professionals, access to a reliable laptop can make a meaningful difference to their ability to learn, connect, research and contribute to the pome and stone fruit industries. If your company has a laptop that is no longer in use but still in good working condition, please consider donating it. A device sitting unused in a cupboard could become an important tool in developing the future of our industry.

Let's invest in our young people and give them the tools they need to contribute to the greater good of the South African pome and stone fruit industry.

Have a laptop to donate? Please get in touch with Elouise van Zyl at Hortgro:
learn@hortgro.co.za

Tiaan Combrink , Mentorship Programme and Hortgro Bursary alumnus, is one of the many success stories of this programme. [Read more here](#)

Latest Publications



[Fresh Quarterly - September Edition 2026](#)



[Heat Units, Temperature and Rainfall \(Pome & Stone\) – Mid August 2026](#)



[Hortgro Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics | 2025](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

2026: Agri's Got Talent & Hortgro Footprint Webinar



Agri's Got Talent 2026

AGT Finals: 16 October 2026 at Rusticana, Klapmuts.

Book your tickets now: [Click here for more](#)

HORTGRO footprint

Moderator:
Nitasha Bajjnath-Pillay



Manager: Resource Management
and sustainability
HORTGRO

Wednesday 28 October 12:00 -12:45

webinar:
Changing Weather Patterns:
Preparing the Deciduous
Fruit Industry for Climate Risk

Prof Stephanie Midgley



Senior Scientist:
Climate Change
Western Cape
Department of Agriculture

Prof Guy Midgley



Chief Academic Director:
School for Climate Studies.
Stellenbosch University
School for Climate Studies

Dr Peter Johnston



Independent Applied
Climatologist

Hortgro Footprint Webinar

Changing Weather Patterns: Preparing the Deciduous Fruit Industry for Climate Risk

Register [here](#) before: 28 October 2026

→ HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

Timely Hints

- [October 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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