HORTGRO NEWS

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Honey Katoo Takes Top Honours at Agri's Got Talent 2026

Klapmuts – Patensie is a small town in the Gamtoos River Valley, in the Eastern Cape, renowned for its citrus production, yet in just two years it has produced two phenomenal divas. Honey Katoo (Endulini Fruit) won Agri's Got Talent 2026 with flawless vocal control, a powerful voice, and a pure, melodic tone that was a joy to listen to, despite strong competition from Clareece Vlotman (Wolfpack) of Wolseley and Lwandile Nantsi (Laastedrift) of Ceres. She follows in the footsteps of last year's winner, Jenedine Jantjies, who also hails from Patensie.

Read more here>>

If you missed the show... Watch Playlist here



Be Better Today Than Yesterday

If you ask Stephan why he became a pome-fruit farmer in the Elgin district, he answers quickly. “It’s hereditary, and it is what I love doing. I grew up with apples, but no one forced me into farming it. I am the third generation on this spot, but some of the Beukes clans have been around for six generations. My grandpa Sas Beukes acquired the original farm in 1948; my dad Josias took over from him in 1973, and over almost a decade, from 2010, he coached me into taking over as CEO of the business in 2019.

Read more here>>



The Circles of Life

Cedrico Rhode has had a remarkable journey so far, from a Koue Bokkeveld kid to regional manager of Agrimark, Breë River, with a Hortgro bursary helping him complete some of the circles that make up his life.
Cedrico's earliest memories are Lindeshof and Kromfontein, two adjoining Dutoit Agri farms in the Koue Bokkeveld. Born in Ceres. Lindeshof was his happy childhood home with his happy folks.

Read more here>>



Zonnehaven: Step-by-Step Towards Sustainability

Zonnehaven was established in 2023 as a grower-owned fruit exporter. Howbill Farming and Doornkraal Agri, are the major shareholders, with a third, Kalos Farming, owning a minority stake. These family-owned businesses have been operating in the Witzenberg region since 1861 and have a combined farm footprint of 28 000 hectares.

Read more here>>



Stone Fruit Forecast

The 2026/2027 export estimate points to a mixed stone-fruit season, with nectarine volumes expected to increase, peach and plum volumes projected to decline, and apricot volumes remaining relatively stable compared with the previous season. Hortgro will continue to monitor developments and keep the industry informed as the season progresses.

Read more here>>

For more information, contact Pieter-Steyn de Wet, **pieters@hortgro.co.za**



Student Site Visit

The Hortgro Mentor and Internship Programme offered participants a learning opportunity outside their usual internship placements. 35 interns took part in a guided visit to a wide range of sites, initiatives, and facilities.

Read more here>>



Critical Water Shortages | Irrigation Guidelines for Deciduous Fruit Trees

The principle is to conserve water during the cell division phase, from budding until 40 days after bloom in pome fruit or until the end of stone hardening in stone fruit. During these stages, the tree is less sensitive to water stress, and controlled water deficit does not significantly affect fruit size. Furthermore, these periods have lower evapotranspiration, reducing plant water demand.

Read more here>>



Lucentlands Interview: Anton and Jacques

A leadership change often raises questions about what will change, what will stay the same and where an organisation will go next. For Hortgro, the transition from outgoing Executive Director Anton Rabe to incoming CEO Jacques du Preez is being framed less as a reset and more as the next stage in a long process of adaptation.

Read more here>>

Watch interview here>>



Anton book: Ek Was Daar – The Roadmap of Anton Rabe

For more than three decades, Anton Rabe has been part of the story of South Africa's deciduous fruit industry — a journey shaped by change, challenge, opportunity and, perhaps most importantly, a willingness to step forward when there was no clear roadmap. In recognition of Anton's extraordinary journey, Hortgro commissioned a book about Anton.

Read Anton's book here>>



Hortgro Communications Pamphlet

Please take time to explore and familiarise yourself with what is on offer to get the most out of the communication programme developed for our producers.

Download Pamphlet here>>

Introducing the Pro-Hort Dashboard | Making Independent Cultivar Evaluation Data More Accessible

Hortgro and Provar are pleased to announce the launch of the new Pro-Hort Dashboard, a digital platform that makes independent cultivar evaluation data easier to access, explore, and compare.

Developed by Provar and funded by Hortgro, the Dashboard brings years of scientific evaluation work into a more accessible format, helping growers and industry stakeholders make better-informed cultivar decisions.

The platform officially launched at the Provar Information Day in September, where Provar Product Manager Miaan Kramer introduced the Dashboard and demonstrated how it translates complex evaluation data into practical, accessible information. With this Dashboard

Hortgro and Provar are committed to making independent horticultural research more accessible and valuable to the wider fruit industry.

Read the full article in Measured to learn more about the development of the Dashboard and its value to industry **here>>**

Measured. by Provar

Latest Publications



Fresh Quarterly - September Edition 2026



Heat Units, Temperature and Rainfall (Pome & Stone) – September 2026



Hortgro Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics | 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS



WEBINAR: REGULATING CROP PROTECTION PRODUCTS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH
17 November 2026 | 14:00–15:30 | MS Teams



Langkloof Seminaar en Boordstap
9 Desember 2026 | 08:00

→ HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

Timely Hints

- November 2026
- October 2026

Fresh Notes

- 231 | Restrictions on the Use of Plant Protection Products on Deciduous fruit for 2026/27 – Version 2
- 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

- September 2026

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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