

# SUBTROP BULLETIN

VOLUME 5

December 2020



Dear SAAGA, SAMGA and SALGA members

With the new season in full swing and the conclusion of three Board meetings in October and November, there are many newsworthy announcements to share. We hope you will enjoy the fifth instalment of our Subtrop Bulletin and wish you a safe and blessed Christmas and festive season.

- Sincerely, the Subtrop team

## INDUSTRY NEWS

- SAAGA's video on Sustainable Avocado Production in SA: [Watch here](#)
- Chilean avocado industry welcomes UN study concluding it is sustainable – [Freshfruitportal](#)
- Avocados more popular despite Covid - [Freshplaza](#)
- Australia: Non-invasive testing of dry matter in mango with F-750 meter - [Freshplaza](#)

## PROMOTIONS

### Avocado publicity

- Pandemic challenges:
  - [Letaba Herald](#)
  - [Freshplaza](#)
  - [Vegetables and Fruit](#)
- Health & diabetes
  - [Netwerk24/Paarl Post](#)
  - [Zululand Observer](#)
  - [Longevity Live](#)
  - [Horizon](#)
  - [Benoni City Times](#)

### ...follow iloveavocadoSA for the latest local marketing initiatives

- [@iloveavocadoSA](#)
- [instagram.com/iloveavossa](#)

### Mango publicity

- Heita My Friends
  - Taxi rank magazine
  - Distributed free of charge
  - 40 000 Gauteng commuters
  - December issue to be distributed from 27 November
  - February issue to be distributed early February 2021



### ...follow SAMangoes for the latest local marketing initiatives

- [@SAMangoes](#)
- [instagram.com/mangoessa](#)



## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### SALGA Board Meeting held 21 October 2020

- **EU Feedback**
  - Former SAAGA Overseas Technical Officer, Richard Nelson to provide an overview of the quality of litchis from South Africa and other origins on the Rungis Market in Paris during December 2020 and January 2021.
  - Aim is to provide information to enable exporters to develop marketing strategies to ensure that South African litchis remain competitive.
  - Similar work carried out by Richard in the previous season showed that SA litchis are generally not as well coloured as litchis from other origins.
  - Trials on fruit coatings in conjunction with other means of preserving fruit quality e.g. modified atmosphere bags, to continue this season.
- **Revision of SALGA constitution**
  - SALGA board requested Subtrop to review the SALGA constitution
    - to ensure that proper corporate governance measures are in place
    - that the constitution is legally robust
  - This exercise has been extended to include the constitutions of SAAGA, SAMGA and Subtrop.

### SAMGA Board Meeting held 14 October 2020

- **Levies**
  - SAMGA levies to remain unchanged for the 2020/2021 season.
- **Local market information**
  - Daily mango volume and price information on the major National Fresh Produce Markets to be sent to members via WhatsApp during the season to enable growers to make better marketing decisions.
- **Local market inspections**
  - SAMGA entered into an agreement with Prokon to pay inspection fees of members during the current season.
  - SAMGA members will not be invoiced by Prokon for local market inspections.
  - Prokon to provide general quality reports which will be circulated by SAMGA to all members.
  - Feedback on specific fruit quality issues to be communicated by Prokon directly to affected members.
- **Post-harvest**
  - As of 4 September 2020, prochloraz can no longer be used on mangoes destined for the EU and UK.
  - Trials in the past season showed that fludioxonil is a viable alternative.
  - Trials of alternatives to continue in the current season.
- **Marketing**
  - SAMGA expanded its local market promotions campaign to include activities in print and digital media, a TV insert on SABC 3's Expresso breakfast show, and activities with hawkers.
  - This is in addition to the SAMGA Facebook and Instagram pages which were revived in the last season.



### SAAGA Board Meeting held 5 November 2020

- **Market Access**
  - Fruit SA contracted a consultant, Mr. Feng, in China to assist with market access matters. One of his focus areas is to fast track access for SA avocados. He was previously a government employee involved in plant quarantine measures associated with imports and exports and is able to work with officials in the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) which processes market access applications.
- **Chemicals & MRLs**
  - The European Food Safety Authority recommended that the EU MRL for **phosphonic acid** in avocados be increased from 50 ppm to 70 ppm. The MRL increase is highly likely to realise. Research data has been submitted to the South African Registrar of Act 36 to raise the SA MRL from 50 ppm to 75 ppm.
  - Subtrop submitted an urgent request to the Registrar of Act 36 for an emergency registration of alternative control agents **for control sucking bug complex**, as registered chemicals previously available can no longer be used on fruit destined for the EU due to resistance from retailers, and these chemicals no longer being allowed in the EU.
- **World Avocado Congress**
  - The SAAGA Board discussed the possibility of making a bid to host the World Avocado Congress in 2027.
    - Such a bid to be made at the World Congress in New Zealand in 2023.
    - It would be feasible to host the event in partnership with a suitable event management company.
    - Proposal to be tabled at the SAAGA AGM in February 2021 for members' approval.
    - South Africa hosted the first World Avocado Congress in 1987.



## TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES

### Emerging grower's registration portal

- Subtrop launched a registration portal for emerging growers on 1 December 2020.
  - Portal will be used to capture missing information on emerging growers, and open doors for better communication in the industry.
  - Process will help locate growers and which commodities they are producing.
  - An updated database is needed:
    - To plan, prioritise and provide services to the relevant growers.
    - To reduce resource wastage and eliminate poor service delivery.
    - To identify growers for various industry initiatives and support.
  - Growers benefit from registering by receiving necessary support and more regular communication.
  - This is a once-off process where information is collected through a registration portal form.
    - Registration is free
    - Forms are available from [stephen@subtrop.co.za](mailto:stephen@subtrop.co.za) or [info@subtrop.co.za](mailto:info@subtrop.co.za)



## TECHNICAL

### Oriental fruit fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*)

- Oriental fruit fly is a pest in avocado, mango and litchi orchards.
- Several baits, lures and traps are registered for control. To know what can be used, you should be aware of what the **status of the pest** is in your area:
  - Limpopo: Present in all district municipalities
  - Mpumalanga
    - Absent in Gert Sibande district municipality
    - Present in other district municipalities
  - KwaZulu-Natal
    - Absent in the following district municipalities: Amajuba, uMgungundlovu, uMzinyathi, uThukela and Zululand
    - Present in other district municipalities
  - Eastern **Cape**: Absent in all district municipalities
  - Western **Cape**: Absent in all district municipalities
- **In areas where the pest is present**
  - Option 1: Place Chempac Bucket Traps with Chempac ME Lure and a Vapona (dichlorvos) strip each at a frequency of 1 trap / 5 ha.
  - Option 2: Place Lynfield Traps with Invader-Lure™ and a Vapona (dichlorvos) strip each at a frequency of 1 trap / 25 ha.
  - For both types of traps, hang traps at a height of 1.5 m above ground in the canopy of a tree on the shady, south-eastern side.
  - Trapping should continue throughout the year.
  - If 1 or more Oriental fruit flies are recorded in a trap in a week then control measures should be intensified.
- **In areas where the pest is absent**
  - Option 1: Place Chempac Bucket Traps with a Chempac ME Lure and a Vapona (dichlorvos) strip each at a frequency of 1 trap / 100 ha with at least 1 trap per PUC
  - Option 2: Place Lynfield Traps with an Invader-Lure™ and a Vapona (dichlorvos) strip each at a frequency of 1 trap / 10 000 ha with at least 1 trap per PUC.
  - For both types of traps, hang traps at a height of 1.5 m above ground in the canopy of a tree on the shady, south-eastern side.
  - Place traps in areas where infestation is likely to occur e.g. dumps where fruit waste is discarded or human dwelling places. If a tree is not available for a trap to be hung in, set up and use a pole.
  - Trapping should continue throughout the year.
  - If 1 or more Oriental fruit flies are recorded in a trap in a week then control measures should be initiated.
- **Control**
  - Bait the pest using GF-120 or M3 bait stations. Baiting should be done in combination with the placing of MAT (Male Annihilation Technique) blocks.
  - Control agents registered for control of the pest on avocados, mangoes and/or litchis should be used. These are listed in the MRLs and All Registered Chemicals lists (latest version November 2020) on the Technical Page of the Members Section.
- **Removal permits**
  - Required to transport or sell fruit from areas where the pest is present to areas where the pest is absent.
  - We recommend that you apply for a removal permit regardless of where your fruit is sold, as the possibility exists that a retailer may wish to transport the fruit to an area where the pest is absent.
  - Blank removal permits are on the SAAGA, SAMGA and SALGA websites on the Technical Page of the Members Section.
  - Completed removal permits as well as any accompanying documents should be sent to [RemovalPermits@dalrrd.gov.za](mailto:RemovalPermits@dalrrd.gov.za).



## Orchard management in December

### Avocado

- **Nutrition**
  - Fruit nutrient analyses are done in November
    - If the Nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>) levels in the fruit are too high, no N-based fertilisers should be applied further during the season. If there is a shortage, N<sub>2</sub> can be applied in small amounts over a long period.
    - Calcium (Ca) levels should be restored as soon as possible, especially in orchards bearing a heavy crop. Small fruits can still absorb Ca in December.
- **Pruning**
  - Water shoots, especially in 'Hass', must be removed.
  - Control the re-growth after winter pruning so that the tree does not compact.
- **Cercospora, Anthracnose and Black Spot**
  - Ensure your fungicide program is kept up to date.
  - Damaged fruit, e.g. after a hailstorm, are vulnerable to anthracnose and other types of fruit rot.
  - Black spot on 'Hass' and 'Pinkerton' can be controlled with one or two full-coverage copper sprays between December and February.
  - Infection occurs when temperatures are higher than 18°C and more than 20mm of rain is measured over two weeks.
- **Phytophthora**
  - Root diseases are difficult to prevent during the rainy season.
  - Adjust the irrigation scheduling to the rainfall patterns so that there is no over-irrigation.
  - Regularly monitor the soil with moisture meters or probes.
  - Mature trees need about 120 L of water per tree during December and January, depending on soil type and area.
- **Orchard sanitation**
  - Remove fallen fruits from the orchard floor.
  - Damaged fruits are more vulnerable to secondary pests such as fruit flies and false codling moth because the wounds facilitate egg laying and larval penetration.
  - More *management information is available on the SAAGA website under "[Technical info](#)" or the [Avocado Production Guide](#) app on your mobile device: [avoproductionguide.co.za](http://avoproductionguide.co.za)*

### Mango

- **Mango Blossom Malformation**
  - Start Lima 400 SL application in September when the first spring flush is evident.
  - Continue with application monthly in October, November and if possible December, depending on the "withholding period" as specified (50 days).
  - **Should not be used on fruit destined for export**
- **Fruit fly**
  - Monitor the fruit fly population and spray accordingly with registered products:
    - Apply GF120 NF as a band of coarse droplets every 7–14 days depending on population pressure.
    - Use M3 bait stations.
- **Bactrocera dorsalis**
  - Ensure that Methyl Eugenol traps are placed in areas where infestation is most likely.
  - Methyl Eugenol attracts male species of Bactrocera dorsalis and other members of the B. dorsalis complex fruit flies.
  - Traps should be hung 1.5 m high in the shade, the south-eastern side of trees and not more than 500 m apart.
  - Replace lures in traps every 6 - 8 weeks.
- **Removal permits:** Ensure that removal permits are in order before the season begins.
- **Mango weevil:** Orchard sanitation - Remove fruit that has fallen on the ground
- **Mango scale:** Monitor 10 trees/ha for scale crawlers
- **Nutrition**
  - Foliar sprays (B & Zn) - Foliar sprays on new flush
  - Nitrogen (N) - 50% N directly after harvest
  - Calcium (Ca) - Apply 45% Ca according to analysis
  - Magnesium (Mg) - 50% after harvest

### Litchi

- **Nutrition**
  - Early cultivars: apply 30% of annual N & K after harvest
  - Late cultivars: apply 30% of annual N & K two weeks prior to end of harvest
- **Fruit fly**
  - Monitor fruit fly numbers with traps & control with poison bait where necessary
- **Litchi Moth / False codling moth**
  - Monitor and control with registered products
- **Prune** immediately after harvest

