

# SUBTROP BULLETIN

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## INDUSTRY NEWS

- Global Overview: Avocados – [Fresh Plaza](#)
- Avocado world mourns the loss of Maluma visionary – [Fresh Plaza](#)
- Westfalia achieves carbon milestone - [Fruitnet](#)
- Locally grown avocados are coming – [Business Insider](#)
- Global Overview: Mangoes – [Fresh Plaza](#)
- Stable mango yields: timing is everything – [Farmer's Weekly](#)
- Mangoes used for fruit leather – [Fresh Plaza](#)
- Transnet is a "threat to RSA citrus industry" - [Fruitnet](#)



## TECHNICAL

### Orchard management in October

#### Avocado

- **Calcium (Ca) and Potassium (K) are the most important nutrients because of their crucial involvement in the cell division process.**

Can be applied as Calcium nitrate ( $\text{CaNO}_3$ ) and Potassium sulphate ( $\text{KSO}_4$ ) fertilisers. Do not apply too much Nitrogen (N); this will result in excessive vegetative growth and fruit weaning i.e. do not apply  $\text{CaNO}_3$  and MAP simultaneously.

- **Once the summer foliage has hardened off and rooting follows, treat trees for Phytophthora root rot.**

Phosphonate applications most effective when roots are actively growing.

Apply additional MAP at 15 g/m<sup>2</sup> canopy area to very sick trees to give the roots extra phosphate.

- **Make sure fungicides are applied on time against Cercospora.**

Spray 'Fuerte' fruit when pigeon-egg size and spray all fruits in the orchard before they are larger than 40 mm in diameter.

As the fruit grows rapidly in the early summer months, make sure to spray consecutively after every 30 days.

- **Water essential during cell division (mainly just after fruit set) and cell enlargement.**

Keep irrigation intervals short and regular so that soil is not drenched but organic matter cover under trees remains moist.

Organic matter can store much more water than soil and also contains microorganisms antagonize root pathogens.

Recommended tensiometer readings for October are -10 – -30 kPa (Shallow), and -20 – -40 kPa (Deep).

- *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

- **Take soil and leaf samples biannually for fertilizer recommendations.**

Use 7-month-old mature, hardened-off leaves, but not after a significant rainstorm of more than 50mm; wait at least 2 weeks then.

Take soil samples from the same trees as leaf samples. Use the same trees every year.

- **Thrips:** Monitor citrus thrips on fruit from set to golf ball size. Use bee-friendly chemicals, e.g. Fipronil @ 7.5 – 10ml / 100L water.

- **Fruit fly:** Monitor population and spray accordingly. Use products like GF 120 NF.

- **Mango scale:** Monitor 10 trees/ha for scale crawlers

- **Anthraxnose / Soft brown rot:**

Use e.g. Copper oxychloride products @ 250 - 300 g/100L water together with a wetting agent. Apply first spray 2 weeks after fruit set, repeat every 3 weeks.

Alternatively: spray Azoxystrobin on marble-size fruit with a concentration of 40ml / 100L water and medium cover spray of 800-1000 L water/ha.

- **Bacterial blackspot:**

Use e.g. Copper Sulphate / mancozeb @ 200g / 100L water.

Spray preventatively: Apply a minimum of 2 sprays at 60-day intervals, starting in early September. Spray until point of run-off and ensure that inside growth is also thoroughly covered.

Citrole 100 can be added for better wetting and spreading at a rate of 250ml / 100L water.

- **Irrigation** is important especially early in October in dry years.

#### Litchi

- **Fruit flies:**

Monitor year-round using ECO FRUITFLY BAIT GF-120 or GF-120 NF in M3 bait station. Apply GF-120 at 20-100 ml/ 400 ml or 1-1.2 L/ 19-29 L of water at a rate of 60 ml or 20 - 30 L spray mixture per tree. Use mixture within 12 hours.

- Adequate **fertilization** limits stress and ensures flower formation and good fruit set. Recommended 20% of annual N &K.

Apply Ca for shelf life and to prevent cracking. Apply six weeks after flower set and follow up after two weeks.

Apply 30% of N&K 2 weeks before end of harvest. Remember to take soil and leaf samples beginning of October and November as well as pH of soil from healthy trees.



SALGA SAMOA

- **Floral and Foliar Sprays:**

Recommended application: Zn, B, Cu, Mn on first male flower.

Optional applications of cytokines and  $KNO_3$  (2%) on female flowers.

Apply auxin MAXIM® Triclopyr 3, 5, 6 TPA (Pyridyloxy compound); it stimulates cell division and enhances cell enlargement. MAXIM will reduce fruit drop and improve fruit set mass.

Applying MKP (1 – 2%) during November and beginning of December will improve taste and colour. Apply at 8 – 10g per fruit or 1 week after MAXIM.

Apply N only at the beginning of fruit growth.

Apply 2%  $CaNO_3$  in October and beginning of November, 6 weeks after female flower and follow up after 2 weeks. Ca improves fruit shelf life and prevents cracking.

- **Irrigation:**

Flower growth and fruit set uses a lot of energy. Steadily increase irrigation to limit stress and enhance good fruit set and development continuously.

*Disclaimer: Any recommendation contained within this bulletin has been compiled with information currently available and in good faith, but with the express condition that SUBTROP accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage resulting directly or indirectly from the use thereof.*

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