



## **SAAGA INDUSTRY TREE CENSUS – 2023**

**31 May 2023**

This document reports on information gathered during Subtrop's 2023 census of avocado plantings in South Africa. Information was received from 317 SAAGA members (273 commercial growers & 44 emerging growers) and thirteen entities that are not SAAGA members. Full information (hectares planted to various cultivars, tree age and tree spacing) was received from 172 entities making up 13 057 ha. The remaining 101 entities only provided the total hectares planted to avocados (6 034 ha) and did not provide details of cultivars etc.

Total avocado plantings in South Africa accounted for by this census are 19 091 hectares (ha). Plantings in Swaziland account for a further 90 ha. Additionally, ±409 ha are estimated to be unaccounted for from smallholdings, communal farming initiatives and other producers who are not members of SAAGA. Therefore, the 2023 official industry estimate for avocado plantings is 19 500 ha.

### **Provincial and regional distribution of avocado plantings**

Avocado production occurs in five of South Africa's provinces. The hectares per province, and per production region are summarised in figures 1 and 2. Limpopo represents 54% of the SA industry (10 168ha). Letaba, which is situated in Limpopo, is the largest production region in South Africa with 45% (8 601 ha) of total plantings. Mpumalanga has 22% (4 075 ha) of SA plantings of which 14% (2 589 ha) are situated in the Nelspruit/White River area. KwaZulu-Natal makes up 18% of the industry (3 625 ha). The Western Cape and Eastern Cape each represent 5% (1013 ha) and 1% (210 ha) of the total plantings respectively.

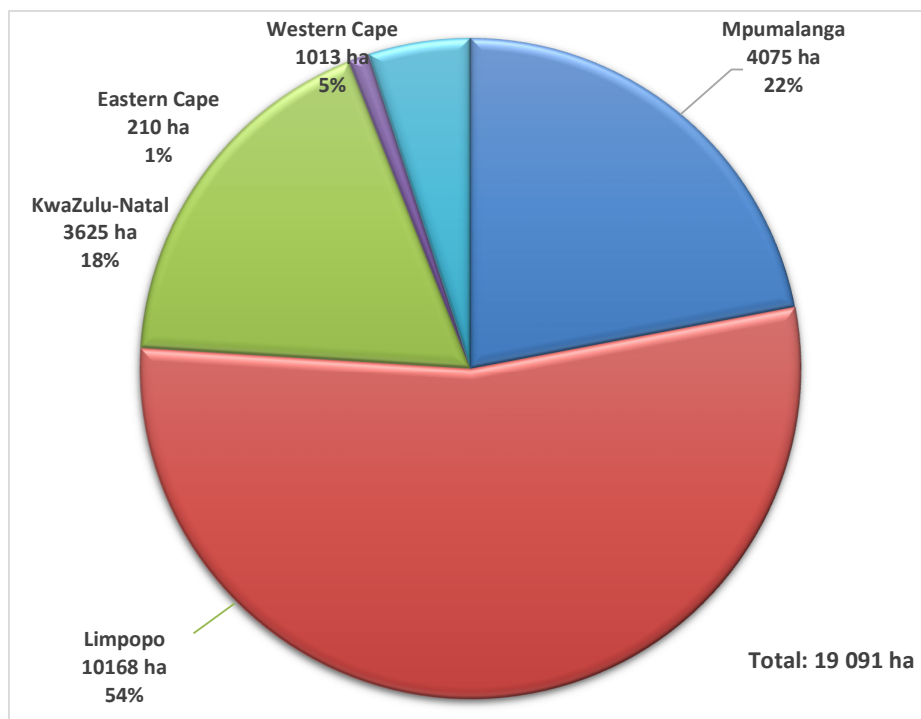


Figure 1: Provincial breakdown of avocado hectares in South Africa.

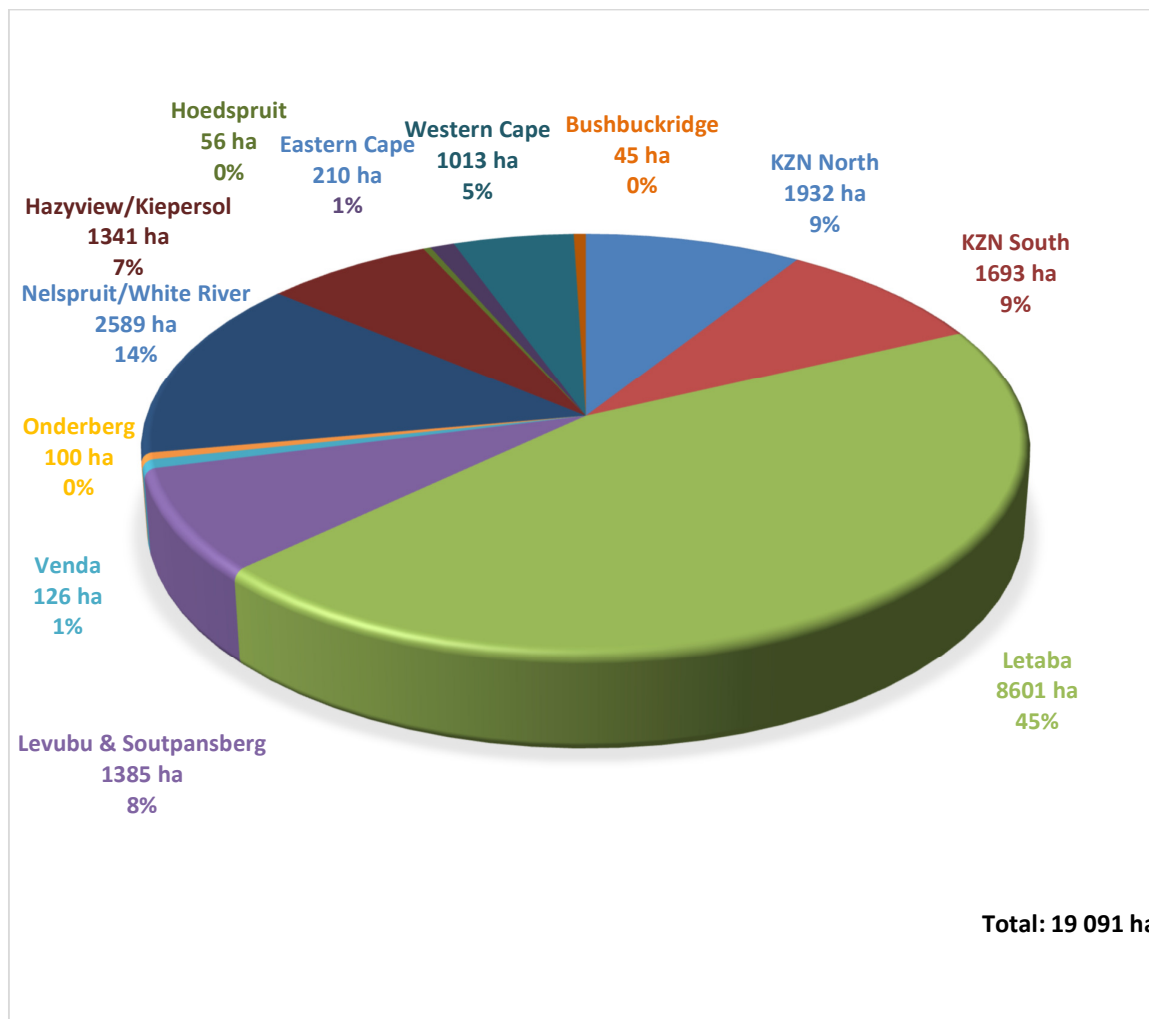


Figure 2: Regional breakdown of avocado hectares in South Africa.

## Cultivars

Cultivar distribution per province and region is presented in Figure 3 and Table 1.

Hass-type cultivars represent 65.39% of national plantings. 'Hass' is the most planted avocado cultivar in South Africa (50.56% of industry). 'Maluma Hass' is the second most planted Hass-type (7.62% of industry).

Greenskin cultivars represent 34.61% of national plantings. 'Fuerte' is the most-planted greenskin cultivar and second most planted cultivar overall. 'Pinkerton' and 'Ryan' plantings represent 7.80% and 4.99% of the industry total respectively.

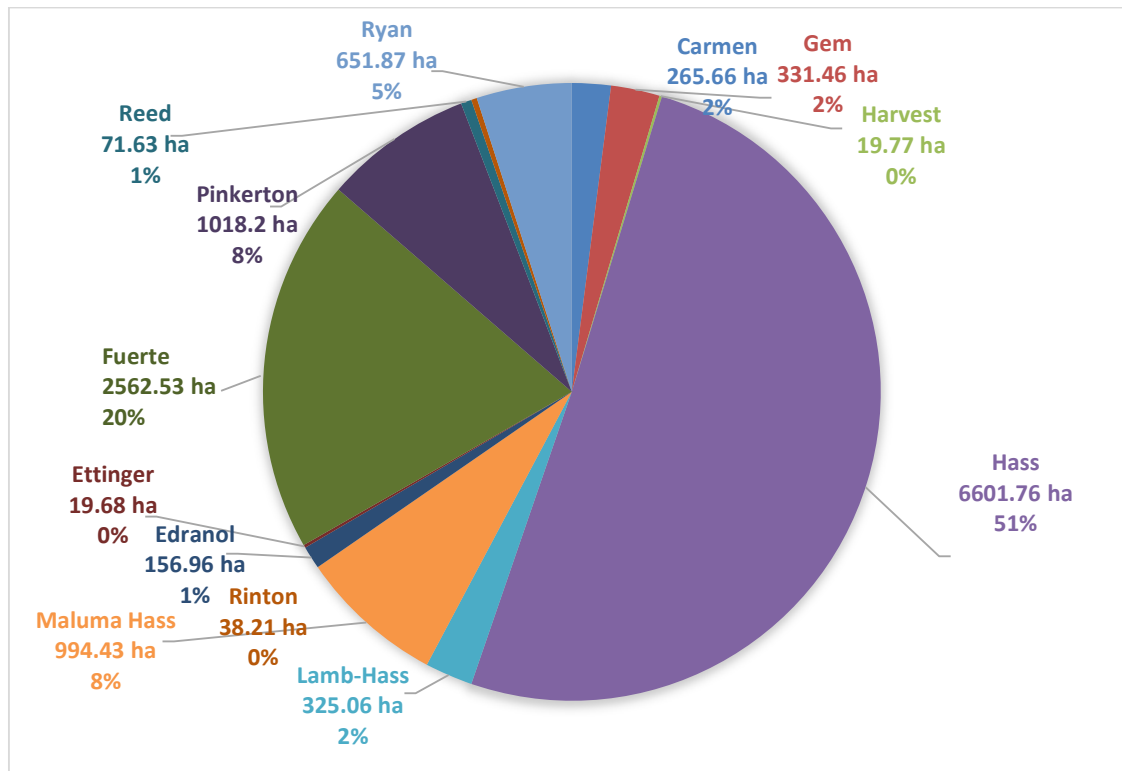


Figure 3. Avocado cultivar distribution in across all production regions in South Africa. Note: This information is not representative of the whole industry. Cultivar information was only provided by 172 growers, accounting for 13 057 ha. A further 101 growers, accounting for 6 034 ha only provided their total hectares with no cultivar information.

Table 1. Avocado plantings in South Africa by cultivar and province (ha, % of province, % of total plantings). Note: This information is not representative of the whole industry. Cultivar information was only provided by 172 growers, accounting for 13 057 ha. A further 101 growers, accounting for 6 034 ha only provided their total hectares with no cultivar information.

	Limpopo			Mpumalanga			KwaZul-Natal			Western Cape			Eastern Cape			Total Industry (ha)	Total Industry %
	Area (ha)	Province %	Industry %	Area (ha)	Province %	Industry %	Area (ha)	Province %	Industry %	Area (ha)	Province %	Industry %	Area (ha)	Province %	Industry %		
Hass-type (Subtotal)	4622.84	100%	24.34%	1985.1	94%	9.83%	1582.04	100%	8.33%	239.9	100%	1.26%	145.21	100%	0.76%	8575.14	65.65%
Carmen	233.40	5%	1.23%	30.41	1.53%	0.16%	1.85	0%	0.01%							265.66	2.03%
Gem	171.78	4%	0.90%	3.4	0.17%	0.02%	71.24	5%	0.38%				85.04	59%	0.45%	331.46	2.54%
Harvest							19.77	1%	0.10%							19.77	0.15%
Hass	3160.99	68%	16.64%	1758.3	88.57%	9.26%	1453.93	92%	7.66%	205.41	86%	1.08%	60.17	41%	0.32%	6638.76	50.83%
Lamb-Hass	136.50	3%	0.72%	118.78			35.25	2%	0.19%	34.53	14%	0.18%				325.06	2.49%
Maluma-Hass	920.17	20%	4.85%	74.26	3.74%	0.39%										994.43	7.61%
Greenskins (Subtotal)	2652.17	100%	11.81%	1319.18	100%	6.95%	512.93	100%	2.43%	2.00	100%	0.01%	0.00	0%	0.00	4486.28	34.35%
Edranol	32.50	1%	0.17%	104.93	7.95%	0.55%	18.26	4%	0.10%							155.69	1.19%
Ettinger	16.83	1%	0.09%	2.85	0.22%	0.02%										19.68	0.15%
Fuerte	1809.16	68%	9.53%	504.07	38.21%	2.65%	215.77	42%	1.14%	2.00	100%	0.01%				2531.00	19.38%
Pinkerton	328.59	12%	1.73%	508.26	38.53%	2.68%	181.35	35%	0.95%							1018.20	7.80%
Reed	53.50	2%	0.28%	2.35	0.18%	0.01%	15.78	3%	0.08%							71.63	0.55%
Rinton	2.74	0%	0.01%	4.20	0.32%	0.02%	31.27	6%	0.16%							38.21	0.29%
Ryan	408.85	15%	2.15%	192.52	14.59%	1.01%	50.50	10%	0.27%							651.87	4.99%
Grand Total	7275.01	100%	36.15%	3304.29	100%	16.77%	2094.97	100%	10.77%	241.94	1.00	1.27%	145.21	100%	0.76%	13061.42	100.00%

### Tree age

The age distribution of avocado plantings in South Africa is shown in Figure 4. Orchards with unknown planting dates and plantings that were established before 1970, have been excluded from this figure.

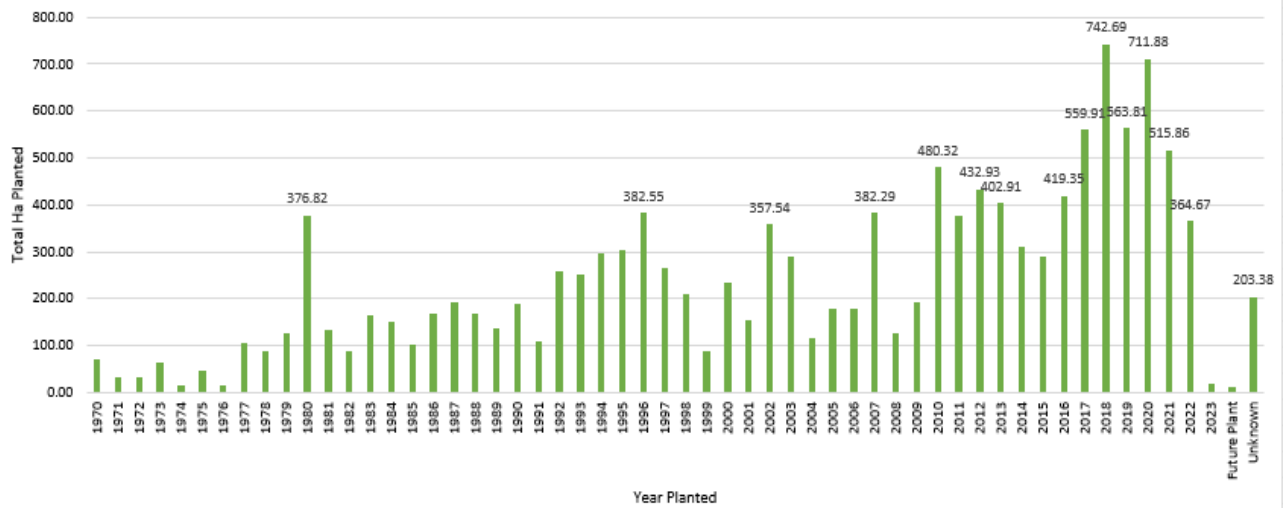


Figure 4. Age distribution of avocado trees in South Africa by planting date. Note: This information is not representative of the whole industry. Tree age information was only provided by 172 growers, accounting for 13 057 ha. A further 101 growers, accounting for 6 034 ha only provided their total hectares with no tree age information.

### Increase in plantings since 2021

In the 2021 census, total plantings in South Africa stood at 15 439 ha. An additional 3 652 ha were recorded in the 2023 census. Some orchards in the Eastern Cape were removed and replaced with other crops. Changes in area planted per province are shown in Figure 5.

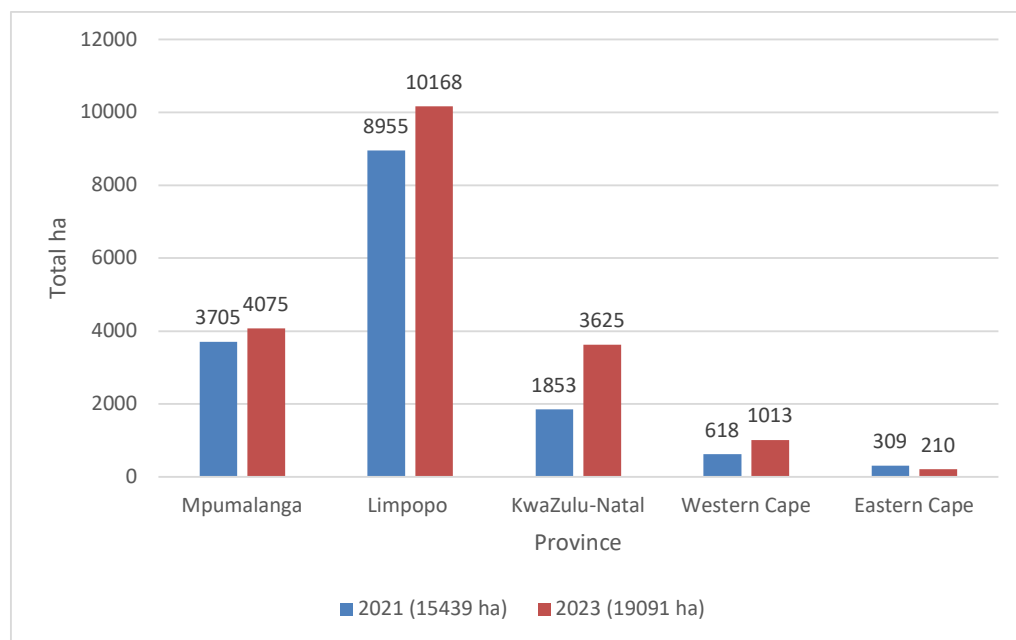


Figure 5. Avocado plantings per province 2021 vs 2023.