



SAAGA INDUSTRY TREE CENSUS – 2024

1 October 2024

This document reports on information gathered during Subtrop's 2024 census of avocado plantings in South Africa. Information was received from 347 SAAGA members (293 commercial growers & 54 emerging growers) and ten entities that are not SAAGA members. Full information (hectares planted to various cultivars, tree age and tree spacing) was received from 249 entities making up 16 856 ha. The remaining 108 entities only provided the total hectares planted to avocados (2 474 ha) and did not provide details of cultivars etc.

Total avocado plantings in South Africa accounted for by this census are 19 240 hectares (ha). Plantings in Swaziland account for a further 90 ha. Additionally, \pm 1000 ha are estimated to be unaccounted for from smallholdings, communal farming initiatives and other producers who are not members of SAAGA. Therefore, the 2024 official industry estimate for avocado plantings is \pm 20240 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 56% of the SA industry (10 743ha). Letaba, which is situated in Limpopo, is the largest production region in South Africa with 45% (8 601 ha) of total plantings. Mpumalanga has 20% (3 925 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 (3 429 ha). In the past year KwaZulu-Natal has seen big developments that are not yet accounted for, either these growers are not yet members or information is not yet fully updated. The Western Cape and Eastern Cape each represent 5% (972 ha) and 1% (171 ha) of the total plantings respectively. The same goes for the Western Cape, new developments have been noted but information has been limited. Although the official census is 972 ha, an unofficial estimate is closer to 1200 ha.

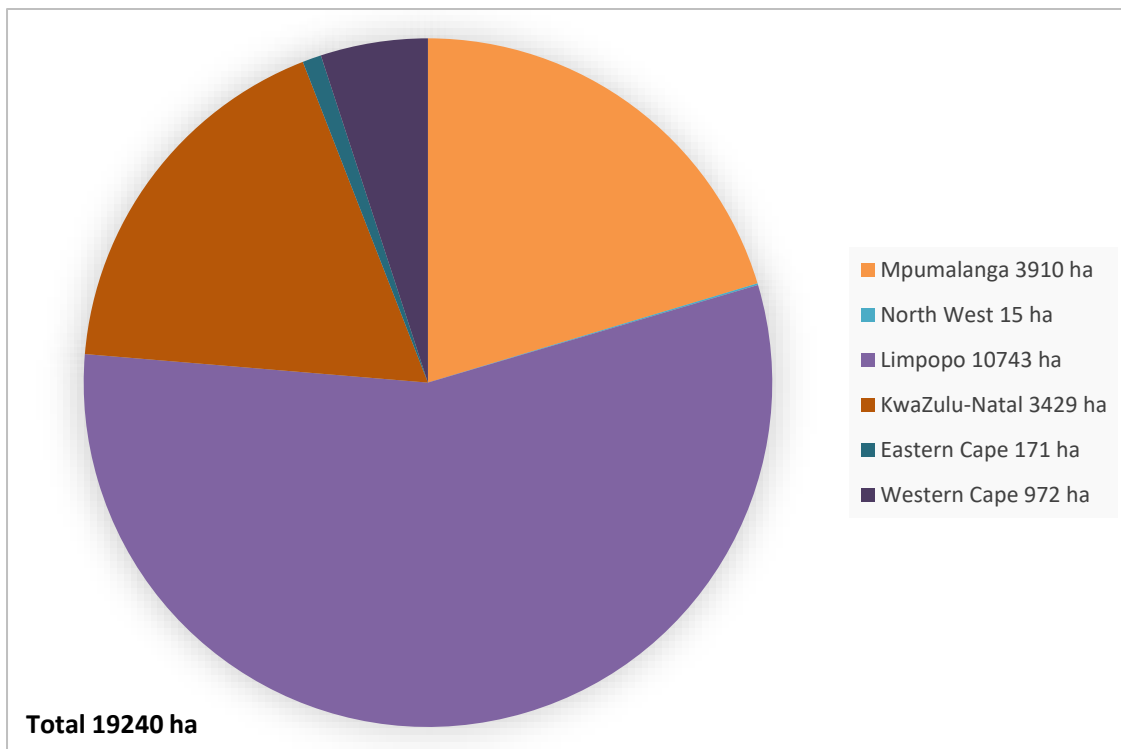


Figure 1: Provincial breakdown of avocado hectares in South Africa.

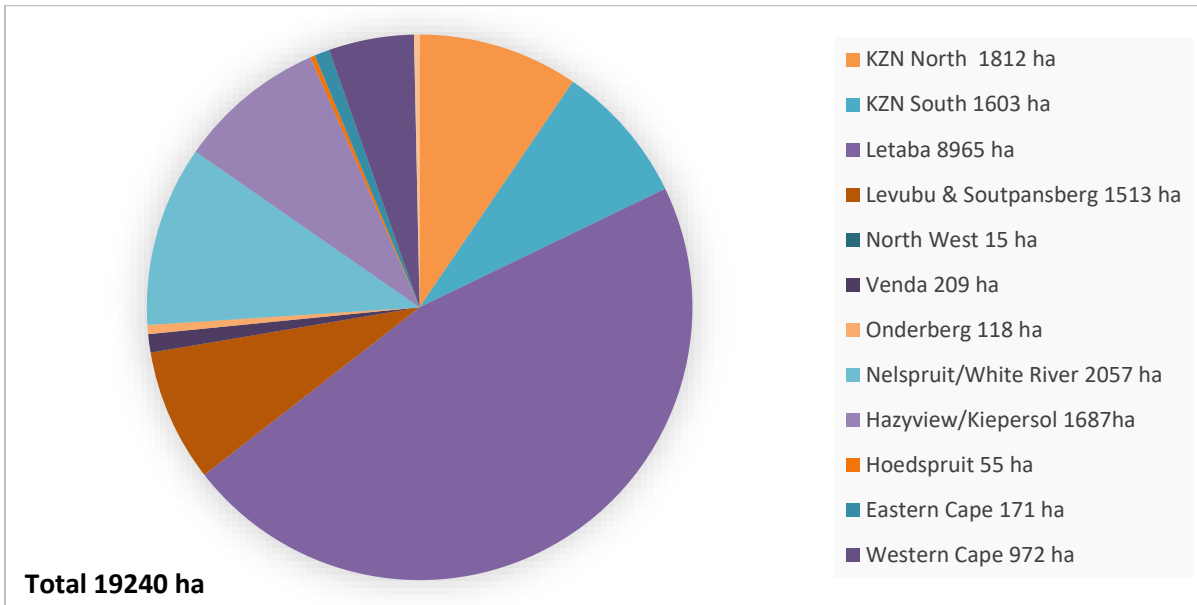


Figure 2: Regional breakdown of avocado hectares in South Africa.

Cultivars

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

Hass-type cultivars represent 58.47% of national plantings. ‘Hass’ is the most planted avocado cultivar in South Africa (44.10% of industry). ‘Maluma Hass’ is the second most planted Hass-type (6.71% of industry).

Green skin cultivars represent 26.90% of national plantings. ‘Fuerte’ is the most planted green skin cultivar and the second most planted cultivar overall. ‘Pinkerton’ and ‘Ryan’ plantings represent 5.77% and 3.87% of the industry total respectively.

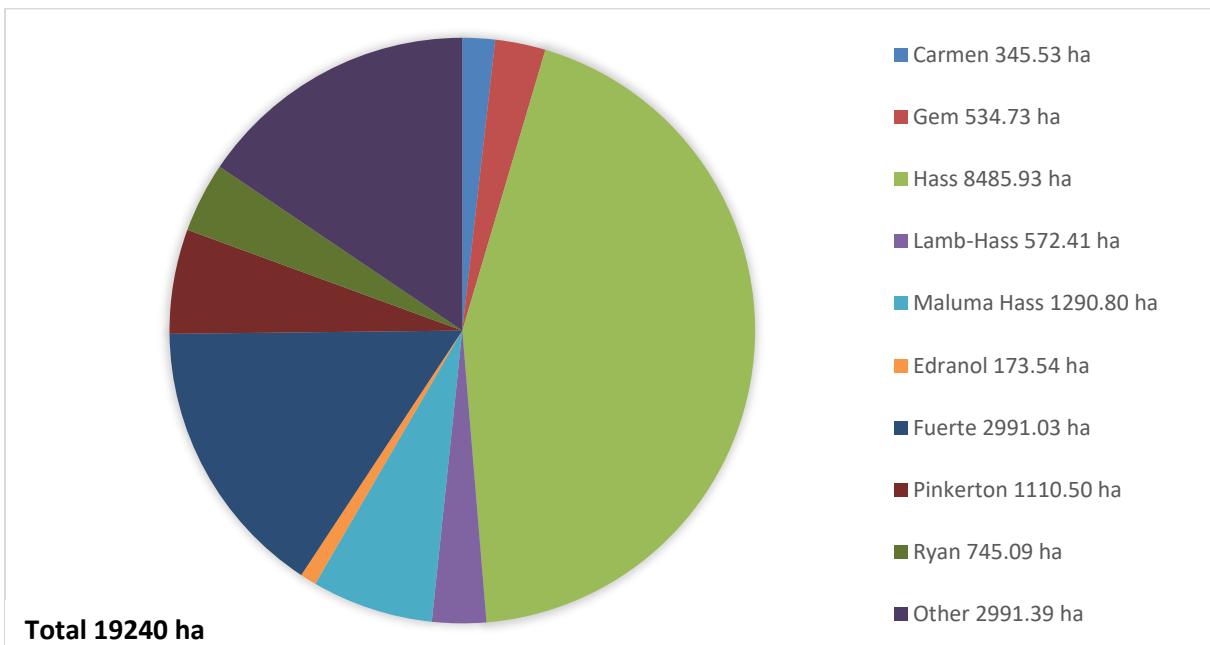


Figure 3. Avocado cultivar distribution across all production regions in South Africa. Note: This information is not representative of the whole industry. Cultivar information was only provided by 249 growers, accounting for 16 910 ha. A further 108 growers, accounting for 2 330 ha only provided their total hectares with no cultivar information.

	Limpopo			Mpumalanga			KwaZul-Natal			North West			Western Cape			Eastern Cape			Industry (ha)	Industry %
	Area (ha)	Province %	Industry %	Area (ha)	Province %	Industry %	Area (ha)	Province %	Industry %	Area (ha)	Province %	Industry %	Area (ha)	Province %	Industry %	Area (ha)	Province %	Industry %		
Hass-type (Subtotal)	5948.07	100%	30.91%	2212.29	100%	11.50%	2366.01	100%	12.30%	0.00	0%	0.00%	561.31	100%	2.37%	141.71	100%	0.74%	11229.39	58.36%
Carmen	310.37	5%	1.61%	33.31	1.51%	0.17%	1.85	0%	0.01%				85.73	15%	0.44%	85.04	60%	0.44%	345.53	1.80%
Gem	272.61	5%	1.42%	3.4	0.15%	0.02%	87.95	4%	0.46%				352.05	63%	1.83%	56.67	40%	0.29%	534.73	2.78%
Hass	3886.78	65%	20.20%	1999.28	90.37%	10.39%	2191.15	93%	11.39%				103.74	18%	0.54%				8485.93	44.10%
Lamb-Hass	251.24	4%	1.31%	132.36	5.98%	0.69%	85.06	4%	0.44%				19.79	4%					572.41	2.98%
Maluma-Hass	1227.07	21%	6.38%	43.94	1.99%	0.23%													1290.80	6.71%
Green skin (Subtotal)	3093.61	100%	16.08%	1395.17	100%	7.25%	521.70	100%	2.71%	0.00	0%	0.00%	9.24	100%	0.05%	0.00	0%	0.00%	5019.72	26.09%
Edranol	40.12	1%	0.21%	115.79	8.30%	0.60%	16.83	3%	0.09%				0.80	9%	0.00%				173.54	0.90%
Fuerte	2238.30	72%	11.63%	523.91	37.55%	2.72%	220.51	42%	1.15%				8.31	90%	0.04%				2991.03	15.55%
Pinkerton	363.75	12%	1.89%	531.78	38.12%	2.76%	214.39	41%	1.11%				0.13	1%					1110.05	5.77%
Ryan	451.43	15%	2.35%	223.69	16.03%	1.16%	69.97	13%	0.36%										745.09	3.87%
Other	1701.60	16%		317.85	8%		526.62	15%		15.00	100%		401.07	41%		29.25	17%		2991.39	15.55%
Grand Total	10743.28	55.84%		3925.31	20.40%		3414.33	17.75%		15.00	0.08%		971.62	5.05%		170.96	0.89%		19240.50	100.00%

Future Developments

We can already see a clear indication of where future developments will be from the latest nursery census. Letaba, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape are showing the most increases in tree sales, thus more expansions can be expected in the coming year.