

# FRESH NOTES

A TECHNICAL UPDATE PUBLISHED BY HORTGRO SCIENCE

Blaai ondertoe vir die [Afrikaanse](#) weergawe.

## Notification of the presence of spotted wing *Drosophila* (SWD) in South Africa.

Dear growers and other industry stakeholders,

We would like to notify you that the Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) officially declared SWD as present in South Africa in a 24 May 2024 notification to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). According to the notification, SWD has a restricted presence in four provinces (Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Kwazulu-Natal, and Limpopo).

SWD is a major pest of soft-skinned fruit like berries, cherries and other deciduous stone fruit. Apples and pears are not primary hosts of SWD, but damaged fruit and fruit left on the tree after harvest will be attacked to serve as a source of more flies. More information on SWD is provided in a [fact sheet](#) accompanying this FreshNotes. [Management guidelines](#), also accompanying this FreshNotes, were compiled by the crop protection teams of Hortgro and BerriesZA in consultation with crop protection advisors.

Hortgro has been conducting low resolution surveillance for SWD for several years, considering the extremely high invasiveness of this pest as evidenced from its rapid spread through North and South America as well as Europe. Prediction models also suggested a high likelihood that SWD would spread to and establish in South Africa.

In late 2023, a single male fly was identified from a trap at Misgund in the Langkloof. Traps were subsequently deployed in all stone fruit and in most berry production regions. Funding for the short-term monitoring efforts was provisioned from a Hortgro biosecurity risk fund that was established for precisely such an eventuality. Fruitfly Africa (FFA) assisted with monitoring in regions serviced by them while Hortgro Science staff and private contractors assisted in other regions. To date, SWD has been caught in the

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following regions/ towns: Tzaneen, Curry's Post (KZN midlands), Patensie, various locations in the Langkloof, Barrydale, George, Montagu, Napier, Worcester, Wolseley, Riviersonderend, Hemel-en-Aarde, Villiersdorp, Paarl, Simondium, Stellenbosch and Somerset West. Based on experiences elsewhere in the world, we expect SWD to rapidly spread to most stone fruit production regions by next season.

Surveillance is a key step in safeguarding our industry from invasive pests and diseases. Some pests can be eradicated if initial incursions are spotted soon after it occurred. Eradication is not possible in the case of SWD. However, if not for the surveillance run by Hortgro, its presence in South Africa would likely only have become apparent at the onset of the 2024/25 harvest season with crop losses, no registered control options, and no time for notification and negotiation with trading partners. A monitoring coordinator will be appointed at FFA to assist with further monitoring of SWD and to coordinate efforts across industries and with DALRRD to conduct surveillance for pests not yet present in South Africa.

Hortgro has kept the stone fruit and pome fruit producers' councils, the management committee of SA Cherries, the Hortgro Science council, and the Hortgro Pome and Stone boards up to date on all developments regarding SWD. The restriction on information must be seen in the context that SWD is a quarantine pest in South Africa in accordance with the Agricultural Pests Act No. 36 of 1983 (Act No.36 of 1983). Accordingly, all information regarding SWD had to be treated as strictly confidential until such time as DALRRD officially declared its presence in South Africa. This also required that DALRRD, through their inspection services, confirmed the presence of SWD in DALRRD-accredited laboratories.

Although SWD is present in many of the countries that we trade with, we do not know how trading partners may react and what phytosanitary control measures they may insist on. Negotiations with trading partners can ensue now that DALRRD has officially declared SWD as present in South Africa.

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DALRRD still needs to engage with industries on the conditions for movement of fruit off farms in regions where SWD is present. Appropriate conditions will contain SWD or slow its spread while not jeopardizing export markets or impinging on the ability of producers to sell their crop. We will circulate the conditions for the movement of fruit as soon as available. In the meantime, the Hortgro and BerriesZA crop protection teams with assistance from Hortgro's market access team, the crop protection advisory group (CPAG) and private crop protection consultants, have identified products registered for fruit fly control in South Africa and used to control SWD in the USA and Europe. DALRRD is assisting in requests to the registrar for label extensions for these products so to also include SWD.

SWD expert, Prof Vaughn Walton from Oregon State University in the USA, will be presenting a talk on the management of SWD at the Hortgro technical symposium. Mr Jan-Hendrik Venter, Director Plant Health, DALRRD will also present at the symposium on the management of biosecurity threats, alluding to SWD as an example of how incursions are managed and communicated. Three new research projects are planned for 2024/25 to, amongst other things, evaluate various protocols for the postharvest management of SWD in consignments of fruit. This latter work will take place at Hortgro's phytosanitary laboratory (PHYLA) and will also focus on protocols for air freight of fruit.

Going forward, Hortgro will keep producers informed on the presence and spread of SWD in different production regions. Efforts to find effective pre- and postharvest control options will be ongoing. With SWD also significantly impacting production in Europe and the USA, large investments are being made by crop protection companies, industries, and the public sector to find solutions to this pest.

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Producers should please direct their queries relating to SWD to Hortgro (Matthew Addison; Dr Minette Karsten; Wiehann Steyn) via stone and pome fruit area representatives. We will consult with area representatives on the need for regional information sessions.

**Afrikaanse weergawe op volgende bladsy**

## Kennisgewing van die voorkoms van die “*spotted wing*” *Drosophila* (SWD) in Suid-Afrika.

Beste produsente en ander bedryfsbelanghebbendes,

Hiermee wil ons u inlig dat die Departement Landbou, Grondhervorming en Plaaslike Ontwikkeling (DALRRD) op 24 Mei 2024 die Internasionale Plantbeskerming Konvensie (IPPC) ingelig het van die beperkte voorkoms van SWD in vier provinsies (Wes-Kaap, Oos-Kaap, Kwazulu-Natal en die Limpopo) van Suid-Afrika.

SWD is 'n belangrike pes van vrugte met sagte skille soos bessies, kersies, en ander bladwisselende steenvrugte. Appels en pere is nie primêre gashere nie, maar beskadigde vrugte en vrugte wat na oes in die boord agterbly dien wel as 'n bron van vlieë. Raadpleeg die **feiteblad** en **bestuursriglyne** wat hierdie FreshNotes vergesel vir meer inligting oor SWD en die bestuur daarvan. Die dokumente is opgestel deur die gewasbeskerming spanne van Hortgro en BerriesZA in konsultasie met gewasbeskerming adviseurs.

Hortgro verrig reeds vir 'n aantal jare 'n lae resolusie opname van SWD gegewe die uiters hoë indringerpotensiaal van die pes soos duidelik uit die vinnige verspreiding daarvan in Noord- en Suid-Amerika asook in Europa. Voorspellingsmodelle het ook gedui op 'n hoë waarskynlikheid dat SWD na Suid-Afrika sou versprei en hier vestig.

'n Enkele manlike vlieg is einde 2023 geïdentifiseer in 'n lokval op Misgund in die Langkloof. Lokvalle is vervolgens in alle steenvrug en in die meeste bessie produksie areas ontplooi. Befondsing vir hierdie kort-termyn monitering is verkry vanaf Hortgro se biosekuriteirisikofonds – die fonds is spesifiek geskep vir 'n gebeurtenis soos hierdie. FruitFly Africa (FFA) hanteer monitering in streke wat deur hulle gedek word terwyl Hortgro personeel en private kontrakteurs oorblywende streke moniteer. Tot op datum is SWD in die volgende streke/dorpe gevang: Tzaneen, Curry's Post (KZN middelende), Patensie, verskeie plekke in die Langkloof, Barrydale, George, Montagu, Napier, Worcester, Wolseley, Riviersonderend, Hemel-en-Aarde, Villiersdorp, Paarl, Simondium, Stellenbosch

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en Somerset-Wes. Gegewe die ervarings elders in die wêreld, verwag ons dat SWD vinnig gaan versprei en teen die volgende seisoen in die meeste van ons steenvrug produksie streke gaan voorkom.

Opnames is 'n kern aksie in die beveiliging van ons bedryf teen indringer peste en plaë. Vestigingspopulasies van sommige peste kan heeltemal uitgewis word indien dit kort nadat die pes in die land aangeland het, gevind word. In die geval van SWD, is uitwissing ongelukkig nie moontlik nie. Indien dit egter nie was vir Hortgro se opname nie, sou ons waarskynlik eers vanweë oesverliese in die 2024/25 seisoen bewus geraak het van die voorkoms van SWD in Suid-Afrika. Daar sou geen geregistreerde produkte vir die beheer van SWD wees nie en weinig tyd vir kennisgewing en onderhandeling met handelsvennote. 'n Moniteringskoördineerder gaan by FFA aangestel word om te help met verdere monitering van SWD en met gekoördineerde opnames saam met ander bedrywe en DALRRD vir indringer peste wat nog nie hier voorkom nie.

Hortgro het voortdurend die steen- en kernvrugprodusente-rade, die bestuurskomitee van SA Cherries, die Hortgro Science-raad en die Hortgro Pome en Stone rade op hoogte gehou van verwickelinge rondom SWD. Siende dat SWD in Suid-Afrika 'n kwarantynpes onder die regulasies van die Landbou Pes Wet No. 36 van 1983 (Wet No.36 van 1983) is, was daar 'n beperking op die deel van data. Alle inligting rondom die voorkoms van SWD in Suid-Afrika moes streng vertroulik hanteer word tot en met die internasionale kennisgewing deur DALRRD. Internasionale kennisgewing kon eers geskied nadat DALRRD se inspeksiedienste die voorkoms van SWD in hul geakkrediteerde laboratoriums bevestig het.

Alhoewel SWD in baie lande waarnatoe ons vrugte uitvoer voorkom, weet ons nie hoe ons handelsvennote gaan reageer nie en watter fitosanitêre maatreëls hul mag vereis nie. Noudat DALRRD amptelik verklaar het dat SWD in Suid-Afrika voorkom, kan onderhandelinge met handelsvennote begin.



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DALRRD moet nog met bedrywe skakel omtrent die voorskrifte wat gestel gaan word vir die vervoer van vrugte vanaf plase in streke waar SWD voorkom. Toepaslike voorskrifte sal die verspreiding van SWD beperk of vertraag sonder om uitvoermarkte in gevaar te stel of die vermoë van produsente om hul vrugte te verkoop te belemmer.

Die voorskrifte sal aan produsente gestuur word sodra dit beskikbaar is. Intussen het Hortgro en BerriesZA se gewasbeskermingspanne in samewerking met Hortgro se marktoegangspan, die gewasbeskermingadviesgroep (CPAG) en private gewasbeskermingskonsultante produkte geïdentifiseer wat reeds teen vrugtevlieë in Suid-Afrika geregistreer is en wat in die VSA en Europa teen SWD gebruik word. DALRRD se plantgesondheid-afdeling het reeds die produkte aan die registrateur voorgelê met die versoek dat hulle etikette uitgebrei word om ook SWD in te sluit.

SWD kenner, prof. Vaughn Walton van Oregon State University in die VSA is tans op uitnodiging in Suid-Afrika vir die aanbied van 'n praatjie by die Hortgro simposium oor die bestuur van SWD. Mnr. Jan-Hendrik Venter, Direkteur Plantgesondheid, DALRRD, gaan ook by die simposium praat oor die bestuur van biosekuriteirisiko's met verwysing na SWD as voorbeeld. Drie nuwe navorsingsprojekte word beplan vir 2024/25 met een projek wat gaan fokus op die evaluasie van protokolle vir die naoes bestuur van SWD in besendingsvrugte. Laasgenoemde projek gaan in Hortgro se fitosanitêre laboratorium verrig word en met spesifieke aandag op lugvragprotokolle.

Noudat daar nie meer 'n beperking is op die deel van informasie nie, gaan Hortgro produsente voortdurend ingelig hou oor die voorkoms en verspreiding van SWD in verskillende produksie streke. Pogings om effektiewe voor- en naoes beheer opsies te vind gaan ook ononderbroke voort. Omdat SWD 'n aansienlike invloed het op produksie in Europa en die VSA, bestee gewasbeskermingsmaatskappye, bedrywe en staat strukture in hierdie wêrelddele groot bedrae geld om oplossings te vind.

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Navrae rondom SWD kan via steen- en kernvrug streekverteenwoordigers aan Hortgro (Matthew Addison; Dr Minette Karsten; Wiehann Steyn) gerig word. Ons sal met die streeksverteenwoordigers konsulteer rondom die behoefte aan inligtingsessies in die onderskeie streke.