



FRUIT FLASH

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IN THIS
ISSUE:

Intro
 Attending VIII Symposium on Walnut,
 Cashew and Pecan
 Customer care
 BigBucks apple demand 'unstoppable'
 Vraag en aanbod van steenvrugte ogie-plantmateriaal
 vir 2017/18 seisoen
 Change of name
 Joybells



INTRO

Two months of the New Year have already passed and 2017 is a vague memory. We bade farewell to two of our colleagues, Johan Laubscher and Marno Simpson. Johan, whom had already retired mid last year, helped us out at Tygerhoek until end of November 2017. Marno decided to trade working in a lab, for the academy. He formally enrolled at the University of Stellenbosch.

Current water shortages in the Western Cape are challenging daily activities and operations. Many plans were put in place to be more efficient and make additional provision for water. Drilling for water took place during January 2018 at Tygerhoek. To great joy and excitement, a strong flow of water was discovered to keep the drought at bay at SAPO's nursery.

ATTENDING VIII SYMPOSIUM ON WALNUT, CASHEW AND PECAN: SANTIAGO, CHILE

Frederik Voigt attended the VIII International Symposium on Walnut, Cashew and Pecan, which was held in the city of Santiago, Chile during November 2017. The symposium showcased the latest technological breakthroughs and developments of walnut, cashew and pecan. Good collaboration with worldwide researchers was obtained, with updated knowledge about walnut and pecan production, genetics and breeding as well as plant propagation.

CUSTOMER CARE

SAPO has decided to create a mailbox for customer comments and suggestions. Should you have a compliment or complaint, please address it to customercare@saplant.co.za. I will personally manage this mailbox and forward mails on to the relevant colleague or department. Most importantly, by using this communication method, not only will I be informed, but will also be able to monitor follow-up actions and give credit where due. - Burgert

BIGBUCKS APPLE DEMAND 'UNSTOPPABLE'

The South African BigBucks Producers Association organised an orchard walk on 30 January 2018, at Beaulieu Farm, Grabouw. Young second leaf trees, two orchards carrying their first crop of this season, and the older original trial trees were visited. The orchard walk was well attended and there is great interest in this variety.

The current demand for plant material is high and SAPO supplied just over 1 million buds during the 2018 budding season. This is very special, since it's the first apple variety in South Africa for which demand and supply increased so dramatically in five years – from 2013 (ca. 11 000 buds), to 1 million. For more information on the marketing of the BigBucks apple, visit their new website, launching mid-March www.bigbucksapples.com





VRAAG EN AANBOD VAN STEENVRUGTE OGIE-PLANTMATERIAAL VIR 2017/18 SEISOEN

Die voorsiening van steenvrug-plantmateriaal wat in herfs, winter en somer 2017 verskaf is aan kwekers, het met 24% afgeneem. Die afname was hoofsaaklik weens die dalende vraag na pruim- (28%) en perske-plantmateriaal (59%).

Daar het wel 'n groot toename in die vraag na amandel-plantmateriaal plaasgevind. Die huidige droogtetoestand en beskikbaarheid van onderstamme het 'n verdere rol in die vraag na plantmateriaal gespeel.



CHANGE OF NAME

Due to an older red plum cultivar in Europe, called Ruby Crunch, the South African cultivar with a similar name created confusion in the export market. A request was submitted to DAFF to change the name of the cultivar to Ruby Crisp; all the standards still remain the same.

Please take note that the Ruby Crunch plum has undergone a change of name. In future it will be called Ruby Crisp.



JOYBELLS

The Agricultural Research Council (ARC), in partnership with the South African Table Grape Industry (SATI) and Culdevco, launched the seedless breeding red table grape variety called Joybells at the Fruit Logistica Trade Fair in Berlin, Germany during February 2018. Joybells was cultivated in 2001 by table grape breeder and Senior Researcher at ARC, Ms Phyllis Burger.

Dr van Mollendorf mentioned that of the five recent varieties that have been released by Culdevco and the ARC, Joybells is the most successful to be commercially released in the global market. To top this fruitful result, market feedback from prominent global retailers has been immensely positive, adding to the promise of the commercial success in Europe and beyond. Commercialisation in South Africa will be handled by Culdevco.



Ms Phyllis Burger, in Berlin at the Joybells launch.



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