



ENSURING TOP-QUALITY STONE FRUIT BUDWOOD FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON

The budwood collection team is currently conducting block inspections to ensure that all plant material supplied for the upcoming season is true-to-type and free from visual pests and diseases.

Summer budwood cutting typically begins in mid-November, depending on the maturity of the material. The team usually starts with peaches, nectarines and apricots. From late November into early December, we move on to plums, prunes, almonds and cherries, again guided by maturity levels.

All our stone fruit budwood sources are tested annually for the prescribed scheme viruses and are inspected during both flowering and fruiting stages to ensure optimal quality. Nurseries are reminded that plum budwood generally matures slightly later than other stone fruit types; therefore, a little patience during this period helps us deliver the highest-quality material.

SAPO LAB DEMONSTRATES PROVEN COMPETENCY

In September 2025, the laboratory took part in the second official DPA interlaboratory comparison (ring test) for PCR as required by PlantSA. The results verified SAPO's competency in accurately testing for the pome fruit scheme viruses (ACLSV; ApMV; ASGV, and ASPV).

Testing of pome fruit; stone fruit and grapevine material is still underway.

Contact wendy@saplant.co.za for more information.



FRUIT ATTRACTION 2025 – STRENGTHENING GLOBAL COLLABORATION



Jacques Jordaan (CEO) and Elsa Muller attended Fruit Attraction 2025 in Madrid, using the platform to reinforce key international relationships and explore new opportunities in cultivar development.



The trip began with a valuable visit to the Johan Nicolai Nursery in Belgium. There were several exciting new varieties on display.

At Fruit Attraction, SAPO held a series of strategic meetings focused on current projects, variety performance, and future collaborations. Discussions centred on advancing apple, cherry, prune, strawberry, and rootstock programmes, with several varieties showing strong promise under South African conditions. SAPO also explored opportunities to broaden its service offering and strengthen technical support across existing partnerships.

A key theme throughout the week was the importance of maintaining trusted, long-term relationships with global breeders. As the industry evolves, face-to-face engagement remains crucial for aligning priorities, ensuring phytosanitary integrity, and accelerating the flow of high-quality plant material into local trials.

Overall, Fruit Attraction 2025 proved to be a productive and inspiring week, reinforcing SAPO's commitment to delivering leading cultivars and supporting sustainable growth in the South African fruit industry.



RECENT EVENTS AND PARTICIPATION



On 21 October 2025, Tshotsho Asandiswa, Tree and Grapevine Technician, and Rudi Vos, Plant Verification Technician and Evaluation, from SAPO attended Provar's Rootstock Field Day, spending a productive morning exploring the 'Louterwater Granny Smith' and 'BigBucks Gala Orchard' trials. The session featured engaging discussions on rootstock performance, adaptability, and promising results from the Geneva rootstocks.



Brandon Klem, Tree and Grapevine Certification Manager, attended the Raisins SA/Nedbank Symposium 2025 on 31 October 2025 at the Vine Academy and Model Farm in Kakamas. The event offered a valuable opportunity for knowledge-sharing, connection, and collaboration, bringing industry stakeholders together to explore new insights and strengthen relationships across the value chain.



Elsa Muller joined an insightful panel discussion at Kromco's Producer Day on 20 November 2025, alongside Calla du Toit, Piet Nieuwoudt, Johan Kotzé and Dr. Iwan Labuschagne. The panel highlighted a clear message: winning orchards start with informed decisions about cultivars, market direction and technology.



CELEBRATING TOP PERFORMERS AT THE BIGBUCKS / FLASH GALA™ 9TH AGM

SAPO hosted the BigBucks Gala/ Flash Gala™ 9th AGM on 19 November 2025. We are pleased to recognise the following companies for their exceptional performance during the 2025 season, listed from first to third:

Marketer of the Year

- The Fruit Route (Pty) Ltd
- Du Toit Agri (Pty) Ltd
- Mõreson Trust

Grower of the Year

- Jay-Dee Rovon Werkers Trust
- Schoonvlei Boerdery (Pty) Ltd
- Tulpieskraal Boerdery (Pty) Ltd

WATCH VIDEO:

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR PRE-HARVEST PREPARATION



RESOURCE: CLICK HERE TO REQUEST A SUMMARY OF THE PRESENTATIONS





STANDING TOGETHER IN PINK FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

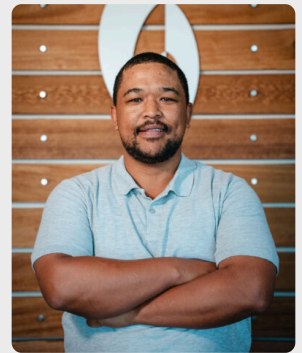
SAPO personnel proudly showed their support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, coming together in pink to promote early detection, inspire hope, and stand in solidarity with those affected by breast cancer.

MEET THE TEAM:

Brandon Klem

Brandon's agricultural journey began in 2010 at the Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute, where he completed his B.Agric in Plant Production. Growing up on a farm, agriculture, especially fruit production, was always his natural path.

His fascination with how fruit grows led him into the fruit industry, where he now serves as a Tree and Grapevine Certification Manager. Brandon values the opportunity to work in a sector driven by innovation and considers himself fortunate to have gained experience across various areas of fruit production.



Tshotsho Asandiswa

Tshotsho has recently stepped into the role of Tree and Grapevine Technician, bringing with him a deep passion for the fruit industry. From nurturing young trees and vines to seeing the harvest come to fruition, he finds the blend of nature and science incredibly rewarding. His dedication plays an important role in ensuring the industry receives high-quality plant material. He obtained his Honours degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Fort Hare in 2019.

"I owe a big thanks to the team at SAPO Plant for sharing their knowledge and experience with me. I'm excited to keep learning and to make a meaningful contribution to the fruit industry."

ORDER PLANT MATERIAL

Stone fruit summer plant material:

Orders should be placed before end December.



Elsa Muller

Variety Development Manager and Grower Support
elsa@saplant.co.za



Marthinus Gresse

Production Manager Tree Fruit
gressem@saplant.co.za



Nadine Steenkamp

Grapevine Sales Coordinator
nadine@saplant.co.za



Annamarie van As

Pome & Stone Fruit Sales Coordinator
annamarie@saplant.co.za

