



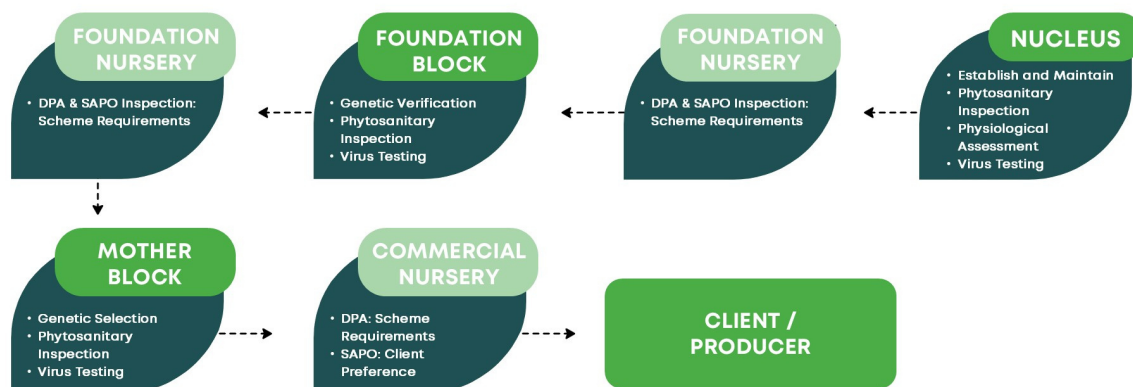
THE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF CERTIFICATION FOR GRAPEVINE AND TREE FRUIT PLANT MATERIAL

The certification system can essentially be viewed as a controlled chain in which plant material is multiplied from a verified source while maintaining its identity, phytosanitary status and traceability.

1. **Nucleus Plant Material:** The Nucleus level is the foundation of the certification system and consists of genetically true-to-type, healthy plant material that meets the required virus and pathogen testing standards, with strict traceability and variety identification.
2. **Foundation Plant Material:** Foundation material is established from approved Nucleus or Foundation material and must maintain the required varietal identity, health status, testing, inspections, traceability and certification requirements of the Plant SA scheme.
3. **Mother Plant Material / Mother Block:** The Mother Block is used for multiplication and must only be established from approved plant material with a confirmed origin, certification status, required testing and inspection history, ensuring that all propagated material remains traceable to its certified source.

The Certification Chain

Each level depends on the integrity and certification status of the level before it. Maintaining correct identity, plant health, testing and traceability throughout this chain is therefore critical to protecting the integrity of the certified plant material



South African Deciduous Fruit Plant Certification Scheme in accordance with the Plant Improvement Act, 2018 (Act No. 11 of 2018)

Why It Is Important to Protect the Integrity of a Certified Block

The integrity of a certified block is important because the certification status, phytosanitary health, genetic identity and traceability of the block must be maintained.

Plant material of a lower certification status should not be introduced into a block with a higher certification status. Doing so can compromise the status and increase the phytosanitary risk, as the lower-status material have not undergone the same testing and phytosanitary controls.

For example, say a producer has a dead tree or vine in a Foundation block. They can't replace it with Mother block material — the replacement has to meet the same status requirements as the block it's going into. In other words, a Foundation block can only be replanted with Foundation material.

The same principle applies to a Mother Block: replacement material must come from an equal or higher status source — Foundation material or another approved Mother Block — as required by the certification scheme.

KEY PRINCIPLE

A certified block must only be maintained with plant material of an appropriate certification status to protect its phytosanitary integrity, traceability and certification status.

READ MORE: PlantSA

ARTICLE: Plantmaterial
- Start clean, end clean

INVESTING IN DIAGNOSTIC CAPACITY

SAPO's laboratory strengthened its testing capability this quarter with the acquisition of two new QuantStudio 3 Real-Time PCR systems, supporting a collaboration with Patho Solutions to develop real-time PCR protocols for scheme viruses.

ELISA testing for grapevine fanleaf virus and ELISA and PCR testing for pome/stone fruit schemes resumes in September/October.

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

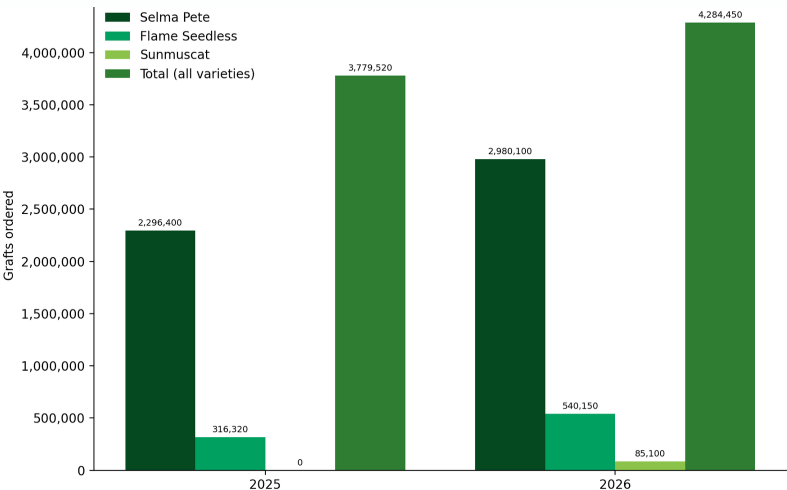


RAISINS & TABLE GRAPES:
RECORD ORDERS AND NEW PLANTINGS

Total nursery orders for SAPO's raisin and table grape plant material grew 13.4% in 2026, from 3.78 million to 4.28 million grafts. Selma Pete remains the flagship variety, with Flame Seedless and newcomer Sunmuscat also driving strong growth.

This growth was backed by over 61,000 new Foundation and Mother Block plantings established in 2025, including SAPO's first-ever budwood harvest from the new Sunmuscat blocks in the Orange River Region.

Thank you to all the producers who hosted our harvesting teams and made this season's collection possible.



A QUARTER IN PICTURES



Heidi Nicholls, Henrico Olivier, Brandon Klem and Willem Bezuidenhout attended the PlantSA Inspector Course, gaining accreditation as authorised plant inspectors under the DPA and VIA schemes.



This Mandela Day, the SAPO team gave their 67 minutes to preparing educational tools for the Heaven-on-Earth Project (HOEP), which supports pre-schoolers' early development.

WEBSITE: hoep.org.za



In August, we had the pleasure of hosting Fresh Forward Breeding & Marketing for valuable conversations and connections across South Africa's fruit industry. Thank you to Teunis and Joanna for making the trip, and to everyone who made time to connect.



Renée Prins is stepping down after 23 years as founding director of CenGen, leaving a legacy for scientists across SA's agricultural sector. SAPO's partnership with CenGen dates back to 2012. Thank you, Renée, for your leadership over the years.



Celebrating the women that work for SAPO on Women's Day 2026.



SAPO's 2026 winter budwood harvest is nearing completion – carefully timed to trees reaching dormancy, starting in the colder Ceres region before moving through the rest of the production areas.

Welcome to the SAPO Team



We are pleased to welcome **Amanda Madala** to the team as our new Junior Laboratory Assistant. Amanda holds an Advanced Diploma in Biotechnology from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), bringing a strong scientific foundation to her new role. In her position, Amanda will assist with ELISA and PCR testing, playing an important part in the accuracy and reliability of our diagnostic work. She will also help supervise our laboratory plants across the tunnels, glasshouse, and virus elimination environments, supporting the careful, controlled conditions these facilities depend on.

ORDER PLANT MATERIAL

Orders for stone fruit summer plant material can be placed from October.



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