

FOREWORD TO THE INTEGRATED PRODUCTION GUIDELINES FOR EXPORT CITRUS

VOLUME III: INTEGRATED PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT

The citrus industry in southern Africa was initiated in 1654, when the first citrus trees were planted in the Cape. From those humble beginnings the southern Africa citrus industry has grown to the point that the region is today one of the major global players in the international citrus trade.

Southern Africa provides many opportunities in terms of competitive citrus production. The wide range of climatic conditions encompassed by region, enables production of a comprehensive basket of citrus cultivars over a protracted season. As a consequence, citrus is now produced over most of the southern African region.

Hand in hand with the opportunities that the climatic diversity of the region provides, the industry is faced with an exceptional diversity of horticultural, pest and disease challenges. The southern African citrus industry has a long history of supporting citrus research of exceptional quality, thereby turning many of the challenges faced by the region into opportunities for the industry.

The southern African citrus industry is today highly reliant on the export of fresh citrus to over 60 countries around the world. The industry's particularly high reliance on export to the world's most discerning markets has compelled its research and technical support base to adopt a uniquely market sensitive approach. The increased importance of sanitary and phytosanitary legislation impacting on international trade in fresh produce poses a particular challenge to the industry.

These Production guidelines are the outcome of an extensive industry team effort over many years. They combine the contents of various recommendation booklets, reports, popular articles and scientific publications into a comprehensive compilation.

The guidelines consist of four volumes, namely Citriculture – Establishment (Vol 1), Citriculture – Cultural Practices (Vol II), Integrated Pest and Disease Management (Vol III) and Harvesting and Packing of Citrus (Vol IV).

The profitable production of export citrus involves a multitude of decisions regarding the choice of production techniques and management practices best suited to the circumstances of the individual grower. These guidelines are aimed at assisting growers to produce export citrus profitably in a sustainable manner with minimal environmental impact.



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