

# Newsletter 1/2022

## Macadamia Nursery Association



Dear Macadamia Nurserymen,

Following the nomination conducted at the end of 2021, the newly elected [Macadamia Nursery Association Committee \(MNAC\)](#) is looking forward to bringing value to all Macadamia Nurseries in South Africa and to improve our impact in the macadamia industries by actively participating with SAMAC, SGASA and other role-players.

The [MNAC](#) consists of the following people:

- [Mrs Anne-Hélène Meyer \(MNAC Chairperson\)](#) – *Du Roi Multiplant (Letsitele)*
- [Mr Wynand Steyn](#) – *Kubu Group (Tzaneen)*
- [Mrs Lauren Strever](#) – *Amorentia Nursery (Politsi)*
- [Mr Org Lindeque](#) – *Anro Boerdery (Nelspruit)*

The booming of the macadamia industry has been exponential in the past years with many new growers looking to diversify their risks or at new agricultural investment. Our objectives – as the Macadamia Nursery Association – shall ensure that we assist those growers with technical information and supply them with the best tree standards. We are often seen as the first point of contact when a market feasibility and decision making is conducted. I am convinced that no nursery takes this position lightly and seek to provide the most professional advice to those newcomers.

In this light, I would like to encourage all SAMAC nurseries to capitalise in the SGASA certification process. To date we count 48 macadamia nurseries being SAMAC members. However only 14 nurseries have pursued the accreditation process and distribute certified trees to the macadamia industry.

With this in mind, the [MNAC](#) have been working closely with the SGASA Certification Committee to review the audit guidelines, aiming to add value to the nursery operations and ultimately to the macadamia industry.

Some of the revised standards include:

- Improvements regarding Phytophthora and Pythium monitoring/prevention.
- Inclusion of a Macadamia Tree Standards – inclusive of “micro-grafting” – aiming to create a common reference and lingo of tree standard amongst the nurseries. Ultimately, this information will be shared with the growers to promote a better understanding of trees standards at a nursery level.
- Removal of certain legal requirements – safety/employment – to allow the auditor to focus more on plant quality.
- Recognition of other certification standards such as SIZA to prevent an audit duplication.

Those changes have been incorporated into the 2022 Audits and we hope it will alleviate the burden that some nurseries may experience when looking at the certification process. It will also give the assurance to growers that the risk of trees not on standard would be limited if ordered from a certified nursery. Any questions regarding the SGASA audit standard can be emailed to Mr Christo Dirks - [christo@seedlingrowers.co.za](mailto:christo@seedlingrowers.co.za)

To the current SGASA accredited nurseries, we hope you will see the benefits of the amendments when conducting your 2022 audit. The goals were to turn the focus of the certification into the core of our nursery business: general hygiene and sanitation, as well as quality trees standards and overall performance.

*We wish you a successful audit and look forward to your feedbacks.*

Sincerely,  
The Macadamia Nursery Association Committee