NEWSLETTER

2 | 2023

Macadamia NURSERY ASSOCIATION

SAMAC
Macadamias South Africa NPC
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SGASA
Growing excellence in plug production
Seedling Growers Association of South Africa

Update on SGASA macadamia nursery certification

The SGASA certified macadamia nurseries are currently being inspected through their yearly audit.

SGASA, SAMAC and CROPWATCH have been instrumental in physically examining all propagated trees for macadamia felted coccid, as well as the in-house traceability protocols. In the long-term, we hope these measures will control the spread of the macadamia felted coccid.

Growers are urged to support SGASA certified nurseries. If you have any doubt regarding the certification and phytosanitary status of your trees, please contact your supplying nurseries for more information.

New members within the Macadamia Nursery Association Committee

We would like to welcome:

- Mr Mark Hassenkamp (Red Sun Hortitech); and
- Mr Werner van Niekerk (Rietplaatz Nursery - Agristar)

Thank you for volunteering to assist with the MNC activities. We look forward to their contributions within the Association to an improved global macadamia industry.

Mark Hassenkamp

Werner van Niekerk

FABI and University of Stellenbosch – Appeal to nurseries

Currently, very little is known regarding diseases occurring in macadamia nurseries in South Africa as well as other parts of the world where macadamias are grown commercially. The only published information that is currently available is a survey that was conducted in Australian nurseries where endophytic fungal strains were identified.

Results from this survey showed that many of the fungal genera present in nurseries also contain known plant pathogens and that some of the fungal genera also included species that are known pathogens of macadamia trees in established orchards. A survey to document disease symptoms, and research to identify the causal agents from diseased tissues of different cultivars and different nurseries in South Africa, therefore needs to be conducted.

FABI is appealing to macadamia nurseries that would like to be part of their survey to please contact Phozisa Dlokweni (phozisa.dlokweni@fabi.up.ac.za) to arrange a site visit.

SAMAC and the MNA would like to also remind nurseries that all SAMAC members have access to the FABI Diagnostic Clinic for soil analysis and disease identification free of charge.

- ✓ Identify disease plants and symptoms
- ✓ Take photographs
- ✓ Taking samples:
  - collect plant tissue where the primary symptoms are present, but ensure that there is also some healthy plant tissue present on the sample you collect. This is needed to identify the primary causal agent. Plant material that are already in an advance state of disease and/or dead will be overgrown with secondary fungi and as such will not allow for the identification of the primary pathogen.
  - Soil should always accompany root samples.
  - Samples should be individually wrapped, labelled and placed in brown paper or plastic bags.
  - Soil samples should be between 300 – 500 gram.
  - Insect specimens should be placed in 70% Ethanol
  - Complete the online clinic form. No samples will be processed without a completed form (app.informationhub.io/form/cl2yijf4y00124ss65vwobwfo).

✓ Courier overnight to:

Dr Lieschen De Vos
FABI
University of Pretoria
Lunnon Street Entrance
Hatfield, 0083
Pretoria South Africa

Email: diagnostic.clinic@fabi.up.ac.za

FABI

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gerda.fourie@up.ac.za | https://www.fabinet.up.ac.za/

In parallel, Prof. Adele Mcleod is leading a SAMAC funded project which aims to identify the oomycetes (*Phytophthora* and *Pythium* spp.) associated with macadamia nursery trees, as well as in young- and old orchards. 3

Following this first phase of the project, the second phase will aim to determine which species are damaging to macadamia seedlings. In the third phase, different macadamia rootstocks will be evaluated for their tolerance towards those oomycete species that were identified as being pathogenic in the second phase of the project.

If you would like to partake in this project, please complete and submit the below survey to Kaleigh Carter (kcarter@sun.ac.za). All information obtained from a nursery will be kept confidential. The data will only be used for research purposes.

Oomycete Nursery survey.pdf

SGASA Annual Symposium - June 2023

SGASA will host its annual Symposium from 6 to 8 June 2023 at the Avianto Hotel in Muldersdrift.

The three-day event will include nursery visits, key talks with local and international horticultural specialists, exhibitions and networking opportunities.

Kindly register via the online booking form on the SGASA website (https://seedlinggrowers.co.za) The programme is attached.

Sincerely,
Anne-Hélène Meyer
Chairperson of the MNA