

Progress Report on Pruning Hass Avocado Trees to Hedgerows

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Pruning of avocado trees to hedgerows is common practice in Israel and Florida. The advantages of pruning to hedgerows are tree size control and easy access during all orchard operations. The aim of this study is to quantify the effect of annual pruning on Hass yields under South African conditions.

A description of the two trial sites used is given in Table 1. Treatment dates are listed in Table 2, and preliminary yield results are shown in Table 3. Several years of yield data are still needed before any recommendation on pruning of Hass trees to hedgerows at Goedgelegen and/or Westfalia can be made.

Table 1
Orchard details on two Hass pruning trials
at Goedgelegen Estate (Mooketsi) and Westfalia Estate (Duivelskloof).

	Goedgelegen	Westfalia
Rootstock	Duke 7	Duke 7
Planted	1981	1990
Density (trees/ha)	277	400
Soil	Sandy Loam	Clay Loam
Rainfall	600 mm	1 300 mm
Water quality	Brackish	Excellent

Table 2
Pruning dates

	Goedgelegen	Westfalia
1st Pruning	July 1993	September 1994
2nd Pruning	July 1994	—

Table 3
First yield (tons/ha) after pruning (1994)

	Goedgelegen	Westfalia
Pruned	3	—
Unpruned	3	—

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