

PRACTICAL VALUE OF THE ALLESBESTE MICRO CLONING TECHNIQUE

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The Micro Cloning technique as published in the proceedings of the World Avocado Congress IV was developed by Allesbeste Nursery, a leading clonal avocado nursery in South Africa, situated in the Letaba region of the Limpopo Province. This technique is derived from the so-called Frolich technique, which is used as a standard by various nurseries worldwide. The Micro Cloning technique is proven to be superior to the Frolich technique:

- More than one clonal plant produced per nurse seed.
- Repeated use of nurse seed until depletion of seed resources.
- Reduction in propagation costs due to technique efficiency.
- Buffer zone between clonal and seedling root systems with phytosanitary advantage.
- Inspection of root system for quality and quantity with decreased transplant losses.
- Plants kept in micro liner area are less space consuming.
- Regulated flow of plants through fertiliser management in micro containers.
- Production of Micro Clonal plants in compliance with highest phytosanitary standards
- Cost efficient delivery of Micro Clones to distant growers or nurseries worldwide.
- Direct field planting of Micro Clones a viable option with significant cost savings.
- More even root distribution with outstanding quality.
- Nurse seedling survival in field nonexistent.
- Clonal root system and leaf canopy area in full balance at time of field planting.
- No establishment shock due to Micro Clonal tree's reliance on clonal root system only.
- Tree uniformity significantly better.
- Excellent root system ensures maximum utilisation of tree's genetic potential.