

MALUMA HASS[®] : A NEW RELEASED CULTIVAR IN COMPARISON WITH HASS

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Maluma Hass[®] was released with full export cultivar status in South Africa from the breeding and selection programme of Allesbeste Nursery. Two semi commercial trial blocks of 1.5 hectare were respectively planted during March 2001 with Maluma Hass and Hass on clonal Duke 7 with 7 x 3.5 spacing. Maluma is an upright grower with central leader and lateral branching with excellent light penetration while Hass is more compact (several leader branches) with poor lateral branching. Maluma is significantly more precocious and less vigorous than Hass. To induce a higher fruit set as well as to control tree size a growth retardant (uniconazole) needs to be applied on Hass. Without applying growth retardants Maluma outperforms Hass on production, fruit size and distribution. Compared to Hass, Maluma reaches the same moisture levels about one month earlier. The recommended maturity level is 78% (moisture) for Maluma. Maluma has a shiny appearance, colours up (black) very well with no lenticel problems. Maluma exports well and was among others accepted by Tesco (a leading U.K. supermarket) for its ripe-and-ready programmes. In comparison the cumulative production in year five for Maluma was 53 132 kg ha⁻¹ and 36 363 kg ha⁻¹ for Hass (with manipulation). The cumulative income over the same period for Maluma was US\$41 041-61 ha⁻¹ compared to US\$19 213-37 ha⁻¹ for Hass. Allesbeste Nursery holds the plant breeder's rights for Maluma Hass under registration number ZA 20043215