

South Africa Farm Visit 2015



Contrary to some of the areas in the northern provinces of South Africa where critical drought conditions are crippling crops, the Eastern Cape has experienced an above average level of rainfall in their spring period so the Sundays River Valley was unusually lush and green in late October with the purple Jacaranda tree in full bloom and the flora, fauna and local wildlife all in great condition.

The orange trees have blossomed and the image shows the navel oranges in early development,



only currently the size of a pea with the late Valencia oranges being even smaller. The trees and orchards are looking extremely healthy for the 2016 season.



The lemon trees have a large set which left unmanaged would produce a large crop of very small fruit. Here we treat the trees to an organic compost to increase the general fruit size and produce a healthier sized crop.



Johannes gave us a tour of the orchards and is already looking forward with the 2016 season in mind. New water rights on the Steenblok farm also mean there are plans for some new trial crops including Kiwi, Sweet potatoes, butternut and Gem Squash.