

# A boon for Wolwekraal productivity

Having recently installed the newly developed Vizier Grape Sizer, Gerhard Risseeuw of the farm Wolwekraal at Marble Hall is elated about its efficiency, accuracy and productivity boost.

He commented, "I've improved productivity by an estimated 70 percent. Instead of the numerous people sorting the grapes by colour, berry size and mass, half join the harvesters and the other half is employed in the field to prepare grapes. That means faster harvesting and doing two jobs at once."

Risseeuw added that the grape sizer minimised human handling of table grapes - a great benefit in

these times of high hygiene requirements.

He said the ability of the sizer to change packing types, adapt carton weights, trim berry size classification and adjust colour bands of classes had proved a major operational advantage. "Packing different pack types simultaneously simplify the allocation of resources and optimise throughput.

"We'd like to see a few practical changes to the machine. Fortunately, because of the sizer's flexibility, these upgrades would be easy to implement."

**Other benefits offered by the grape sizer:**

- A reduction in handling bunches, obviating the need for scale persons and grading checkers
- Higher productivity in the cut, sorting, weighing and packing process
- Improved uniformity of classification. When done by people, berry size, colour and weight are measures that will vary due to stress, tiredness and other influences. These factors don't affect a machine, thus delivering consistency
- Taking from bordering classes to optimise volume in a high value class
- Uniformity per class results in a more favourable presentation of the packed product in the market.

