



**Stellenbosch**  
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# Chair in Plant Health



## Disease Management: Principles and Practices

This short course covers the basic principles and practise of plant disease management in commercial agriculture. The content of this course will lay the foundation for a better understanding of plant disease management principles and to advance knowledge in this field for further study in other courses.

### Presenter: Bekker Wessels

Bekker Wessels is the CEO of Procrop (Pty) Ltd. Procrop is an independent company providing consultation in the field of crop protection to growers as well as several other institutions involved in primary agriculture.

### Presenter: Gideon van Zyl

Gideon has been part of ProCrop as a technical consultant since 2016, advising ProCrop's client base and other interested parties in matters retaining to plant disease control. Gideon is a Plant pathologist and researcher, with specific focus on application technology theory and implementation, one of the most important factors in optimal disease control. Gideon has multiple authorships and coauthorships on the topic of spray application.

### Presenter: Philip Rebel

Philip has the responsibility of managing and conducting field research projects, providing technical advice to clients in his field of expertise, presenting industry training workshops and short courses, research novel technology and methodology relevant to crop protection as well as be of any assistance to ProCrop.

### Presenter: Prof Adele Mcleod

Adele received BSc (Agric) and BSc (Agric) Hons degrees from the University of Pretoria, majoring in Plant pathology. She started her teaching and research career as a senior lecturer at Stellenbosch University Department of Plant pathology in 2004, which changed to an associate professor position in 2015.

### Presenter: Prof Gerhard Pietersen

Prof. Gerhard Pietersen is a South African plant virologist and Senior Researcher at Patho Solutions in Wellington. He holds a BSc in Botany and Microbiology from the University of the Witwatersrand, an MSc from the University of Pretoria, and a PhD in Microbiology from Wits.

### Presenter: Sonja Coertze

Sonja Coertze joined Stellenbosch University (SU) in 1998 after completing her MSc studies. She is responsible for teaching phytobacteriology and bacterial plant diseases at the Department of Plant Pathology. She currently also manages the Plant Disease Clinic (PDC) in the Department of Plant Pathology.

### Programme Day 1:

- Plants and disease
- Parasitism and disease development
- How Pathogens attack plants
- How plants defend themselves against pathogens
- Plant disease epidemiology
- Environmental factors causing plant disease
- Plant diseases caused by fungi and fungal like organisms
- Plant diseases caused by bacteria and mollicutes
- Virus and virus like diseases of fruit and vegetable crops

### Programme Day 2:

- Nonchemical management strategies
- Chemical control of plant diseases
- Market access – Restrictions posed by pesticide use
- Fungicide resistance
- Planning of disease control strategies:
- **Case studies**
  - Management of downy mildew in vines (Oomycete)
  - Management of leaf rusts in wheat (Basidiomycete)
  - Management of apple scab (Ascomycete)
  - Management bacterial speck and spot in tomatoes (Bacteria)

**Presenting type: In Person and Online**

**Date: 6 & 7 August 2026**

**Price: R6500 pp / Online: R5500 pp**

**For more information and registration:**

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[agritraining.co.za](http://agritraining.co.za)

[Click here to register for the course](#)

**Closing date for registration: 30 July 2026**