



Photo by EcoFarms

WORLDWIDE  *fruit*

Regenerative Farming in the Elgin Valley, South Africa

Case Study 3

2025

Context

Agriculture stands at the forefront of some of the world's most pressing challenges, including soil degradation, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, and extreme weather events. Recognising the critical role that the agricultural sector plays in both contributing to and addressing these issues, **Worldwide Fruit Limited** (WFL) has committed to a holistic and collaborative approach to sustainability. Their journey is not just about meeting industry expectations—it is about proactively shaping a more resilient, regenerative, and responsible supply chain.

Since 2019, WFL has worked closely with **Blue North Sustainability**, a consultancy specialising in agricultural sustainability, to support farmers in implementing practical, long-term solutions. This partnership has shifted WFL's approach from a prescriptive "top-down" model to a "bottom-up" strategy that genuinely empowers farmers. By prioritising farmer-led initiatives, WFL ensures that sustainability efforts are not only effective but also deeply rooted in the realities of agricultural operations.

Through this ongoing collaboration, WFL has driven key initiatives such as water stewardship projects, the large-scale roll-out of the **SHERPA** online sustainability management system, and **carbon footprint** reduction programs. These efforts have equipped farmers with the tools, knowledge, and support needed to navigate the complexities of modern agriculture while reducing environmental impact.

These case studies highlight WFL's commitment to sustainability by showcasing the progress, challenges, and opportunities within its supply chain. They capture how farmers and suppliers are adapting to climate change, reducing carbon footprints, and strengthening livelihoods. A key theme across these stories is the mindset shift required for sustainable and regenerative practices to take root. Farmers are moving beyond conventional approaches, embracing new ways of thinking, and finding innovative solutions to long-term resilience.

These case studies serve several purposes:

- **Demonstrating Progress:** Showcasing real-world examples of how sustainability efforts translate into action and impact.
- **Encouraging Knowledge Sharing:** Providing a platform for farmers and suppliers to exchange insights, challenges, and lessons learned.
- **Strengthening the Business Case for Sustainability:** Highlighting the tangible benefits of regenerative practices, from improved soil health to economic resilience.
- **Aligning with Global Sustainability Goals:** Supporting WFL's commitments under the Courtauld Commitment 2030 and other key sustainability frameworks.

By documenting and sharing these stories, WFL and Blue North aim to inspire meaningful change across the agricultural sector—one rooted in collaboration, innovation, and farmer empowerment.

This case study highlights regenerative and resilience-focused farming in the Elgin region of the Western Cape, South Africa. WFL suppliers Dennegeur and Monteith (through Kromco) are adopting practices that strengthen soil health, enhance fruit quality, improve system reliability, and reduce dependence on increasingly restricted crop-protection products. Their stories explore the mindset shifts, motivations, lessons learned, and early outcomes emerging from their respective pathways—one rooted in long-term systems thinking, the other in pragmatic, precision-based refinement. Beyond individual farm decisions, their journey reflects the broader shift underway in Elgin as growers navigate input costs, regulatory change, and evolving expectations around sustainability. Together, these farmers demonstrate the potential of more ecologically aligned farming systems and the vital role growers play as stewards of the land and its long-term productivity.

Case studies in the 2025 series:

- Case Study 1: Regenerative Farming in the Koue Bokkeveld, South Africa.
- Case Study 2: Regenerative Farming in the United Kingdom, Chandler & Dunn.
- Case Study 3: Regenerative Farming in the Elgin Valley, South Africa.



Compiled by Malissa Murphy
Blue North Sustainability

Contents & Overview

Case Study 3: Regenerative Farming in the Elgin Valley, South Africa

p.5

CHAPTER 1. THE GROWERS AND THEIR SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY

Setting the scene: The Elgin Valley, a cool-climate centre of South Africa's apple industry, supplies premium fruit to Worldwide Fruit (WFL) while navigating tightening regulations and shifting market expectations. **Dennegeur** and **Monteith Trust (Kromco)** are each evolving their production philosophies to remain competitive in a changing landscape.

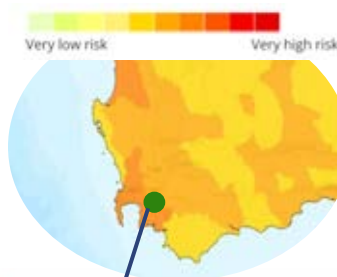
p.7

1.2 DENNEGEUR: A VALUE-DRIVEN SHIFT TOWARD ECOLOGICAL BALANCE

Dennegeur began **its shift nearly two decades ago** in response to rising costs, a journey that grew into a broader mindset change. Their approach now centres on **understanding how biological and physical processes interact**, shaping decisions that improve rooting, tree vitality and overall system function.



Andrew Purnell's guidance has shaped Dennegeur's whole-farm approach.



Elgin Valley



Kromco exports about **850,000 cartons** of pome fruit to the UK each year.

p.8

1.3 MONTEITH TRUST: PRACTICAL ADAPTATION IN A COMPLEX SYSTEM

Monteith's journey is shaped by a practical, forward-looking mindset - **continually adapting management** to shifting regulations, changing conditions and operational demands. Their **focus on precision, efficiency** and consistent execution supports strong production across varied soils and orchards.

p.10

CHAPTER 2: HOW THEY ARE DOING IT 2.1 DENNEGEUR: PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICE

Dennegeur's Environmental Management Plan guides a whole-farm ecological approach built on precise irrigation pulses, **complete biomass recycling** and detailed soil sampling. Habitat-based IPM, **including weevil bands** and **managed groundcover**, reduces reliance on chemical controls, while **mixed cover crops** and a **grazing-based recovery** cycle boost microbial activity ahead of replanting.



Dennegeur tracks biodiversity using iNaturalist.

p.13

2.2 MONTEITH TRUST: PRACTICAL STEPS TOWARD MORE RESILIENT SYSTEMS

Monteith applies an adaptive, precision-focused system: **weather-driven spray decisions, weevil bands and grassy strips** support targeted IPM; variable-rate fertiliser responds to soil variability; and drip irrigation, mulch recycling and shade netting improve water efficiency. **Digital tools, drones** and Kromco's orchard-profit model support field management and long-term planning.



Monteith is developing apple cultivars uniquely suited to Elgin and future climates.

p.15

CHAPTER 3. CONCLUSION & FUTURE OUTLOOK

Dennegeur is seeing more stable yields, stronger rooting and healthier orchard floor conditions, alongside the return of wildlife after decades of absence. Monteith maintains strong production while improving consistency through sharper irrigation timing, nutrient precision, technology-led efficiencies and a **breeding programme** developing cultivars suited to local and future conditions. Both growers are focusing on better in-field data and long-term orchard planning, supported by WFL. Their shared mindset **blends ecological processes with the strategic use of agrichemicals to sustain productive, future-ready orchards.**

Chapter 1: The Growers and Their Sustainability Journey

1.1 Setting the Scene: The Elgin Valley

The Elgin Valley—centred on Grabouw, about 70 km southeast of Cape Town—has long been South Africa’s leading apple-growing region. Once known as Koffie Kraal, the area later adopted the name Elgin from the Glen Elgin farm and rail station; the arrival of the railway in 1902 catalysed commercial fruit production in the valley. Today, Elgin produces roughly 60% of South Africa’s apples and is equally renowned for its cool-climate wines, shaped by its altitude, proximity to the ocean, and temperate upland climate (South African History Online, 2025; Theewaterskloof Municipality, 2025).

Wet springs are part of the region’s natural rhythm, bringing vigour to the orchards but also creating ideal conditions for fungal diseases. While annual rainfall is relatively consistent, the intensity of individual events has increased in recent years, underscoring the need for robust infrastructure and planning. Water availability itself is seldom a constraint; rather, growers face ongoing challenges linked to disease pressure, rising input costs, and tightening regulations on crop-protection products.



About Dennegeur

Established in 1948, Dennegeur is a third-generation family business rooted in the heart of the Elgin Valley. Today it forms part of a combined 800-hectare operation, with nearly 460 hectares in pome fruit production. Known for its integrated management, from production through to packing and post-harvest handling, Dennegeur has become a benchmark for long-term thinking in South African fruit farming. Under CEO Stephan Beukes, the farm has redefined its operations around systems thinking, soil health, and ecological balance, guided by the principle of leaving the land in a better state for future generations.

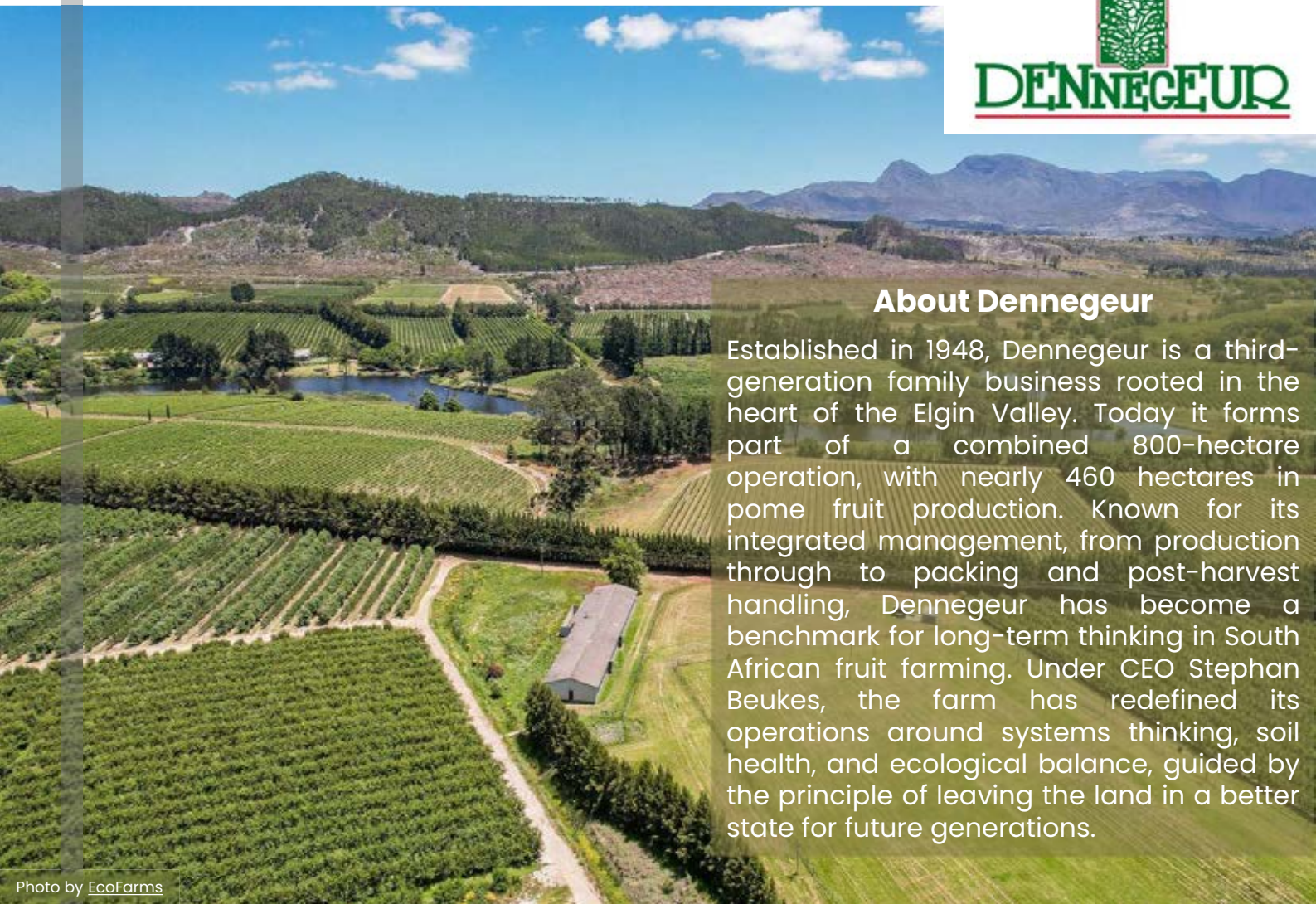


Photo by EcoFarms



MONTEITH
TRUST

About Monteith Trust

Monteith Trust, also based in the Elgin Valley, represents five generations of family farming. With around 430 hectares under production in Grabouw and an additional 160 hectares in Greyton, the business also manages a nursery and breeding programme that supports its vertically integrated model. A founding member of Kromco, Monteith supplies premium apples to WFL for export to the UK. Led by Jurie Erwee and his father, the farm embodies a practical, knowledge-driven approach—prioritising precision, responsible input use, and continuous improvement within an increasingly regulated environment.

Photo by Monteith Trust

A major shift underway in Elgin—and across the broader fruit sector—is the tightening of crop-protection regulations. As certain chemistries face review or withdrawal, the grower’s “toolbox” of registered and cost-effective products narrows. This raises concerns about maintaining a diverse range of control options to prevent resistance, safeguard pollinators, and protect the fruit quality standards required for export markets.

These external pressures intersect with increasing sustainability expectations, prompting growers to rethink how to build resilience within their production systems. For some, this means investing in ecological processes—soil biology, orchard-floor diversity, and natural predator populations—while others take smaller, carefully measured steps to remain both competitive and compliant.

It is within this evolving landscape that [Worldwide Fruit Limited](#) (WFL) suppliers [Dennegeur](#) and Monteith Trust are finding their respective paths. Their approaches differ in pace and philosophy: Dennegeur’s journey reflects a deeply embedded systems-thinking model, while Monteith’s represents a more pragmatic, precision-based evolution guided by [Kromco](#). Both, however, share a common goal—building resilient orchards capable of producing high-quality fruit in a world of tighter constraints and rising expectations.

1.2 Dennegeur: A Values-Driven Shift Toward Ecological Balance

Dennegeur's shift toward a more regenerative way of farming began almost two decades ago, during a time when fertiliser prices were rising and profitability across the fruit industry was under pressure. "The trigger to shift was profitability," recalls Dennegeur's CEO, Stephan Beukes. "We needed to start doing things differently, and we began with what didn't cost extra money."

Those first steps led to a period of experimentation and learning that gradually reshaped the team's understanding of the farm as a living system. Greater attention to soil conditions revealed how tree health, soil aeration, and microbial activity are deeply interconnected. Over time, this awareness developed into a guiding philosophy—one grounded in the belief that healthy orchards arise from a balanced, biologically active ecosystem below ground.

Stephan summarises this thinking simply: "The first time you plant an orchard, you disturb the balance. As a steward, your responsibility is to keep that balance as close as possible to how it was before you planted." This idea has since become the foundation of Dennegeur's approach to both production and sustainability—seeing the farm as an interconnected system rather than a collection of separate operations.

As regulatory changes and shifting market standards reduced the diversity of available control options, Dennegeur increasingly focused on strengthening natural processes rather than relying on chemistry alone. For Stephan, the goal is not elimination but equilibrium: "Our goal is not eradication," he says, "it's balance."

Dennegeur's journey reflects a mindset rooted in observation, feedback, and shared responsibility. It is not compliance-driven but values-driven—a continuous effort to understand how every decision influences the wider system and to leave the farm in a better state for the next generation.

"As a steward, your responsibility is to keep the balance as close as possible to how it was before you planted."

– Stephan Beukes, Dennegeur

Photo by Malissa Murphy



“When you’re trying new things, you need to be sure it fits your soil and your environment. There’s no single recipe that works for everyone.”– Jurie Erwee, Monteith Trust

Photo by Monteith Trust

1.3 Monteith: Practical Adaptation in a Complex System

Monteith’s sustainability journey is guided by pragmatism and forward thinking. As a business built on reliability and technical excellence, the team continually asks: *if costs rise or conditions change, what can we do differently to maintain production?* That mindset—evaluating alternatives from energy efficiency to smarter management systems—drives their approach to long-term resilience.

Co-CEO Jurie Erwee explains that chemical inputs are used strategically, not routinely. “You never want to spray unnecessarily, because you don’t want pests or diseases to become resistant,” he says. For Monteith, responsibility means using the right tool at the right time while ensuring each intervention is justified and effective. This practical, evidence-based approach is echoed across the Kromco grower network, where producers recognise that the goal is to stay productive, compliant, and environmentally responsible as regulations and markets evolve. This shared awareness shapes how new ideas are considered, tested, and eventually adopted.

Introducing alternatives is complex. The farms in Grabouw and Greyton span diverse soil types, so management strategies must be adapted to each context. With limited regional data, new approaches must be carefully tested and integrated into existing systems. “When you try something new, you still have to run the day-to-day operation,” Jurie says. “It takes management time and resources to make change stick—until it becomes the new normal.” Board support and management alignment ensure that innovation strengthens existing systems rather than disrupts them.

Technology is central to this process—digital monitoring, precision irrigation, and in-time data help fine-tune operations, reduce inputs, and maintain consistency across changing conditions.

Peer collaboration also supports progress. Jurie is part of a study group of young farmers in the Elgin Valley, where six peers meet to share experiences and discuss sustainability topics. “Everyone is aware that we need to figure this out,” he says. “The study group is where we ask questions and learn from each other.”

Monteith’s story shows that meaningful progress lies in steady, evidence-based refinement—combining precision, collaboration, and curiosity to strengthen an already successful production system.

Changing Crop Protection Regulations

Photo by Dennegeur

South Africa’s crop protection products are regulated under the Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Seeds and Remedies Act 36 of 1947, which is continually updated through new regulations. The most recent amendments (August 2023) align with a global shift to phase out highly hazardous pesticides, particularly where risks cannot be effectively managed. Products linked to chronic health hazards have largely been removed, while acute-risk products now require trained and registered operators to handle and apply them.

Because a significant share of South Africa’s fruit is exported, European Union (EU) regulations are highly influential. The EU regularly reassesses active ingredients, and products may lose approval there even if risks can be managed locally. Sometimes withdrawals are driven not by safety concerns alone, but by commercial decisions (e.g., high re-registration costs or companies prioritising newer products).

However, EU farmers receive substantial income support to buffer the impact of losing crop protection tools. South African growers do not have this safety net, meaning withdrawals or non-approvals can have direct consequences for production costs, yield reliability, and fruit quality.

While biological and lower-risk alternatives are becoming more available, they are not always full replacements. Many suppress pests rather than eliminate them and may require more targeted timing and supporting measures. This is why growers increasingly rely on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) — combining cultural, biological and chemical strategies — and why building resilient orchard systems is becoming so important.

-Adapted from Roleen la Grange (Croplife South Africa), [Agbiz Media Day: Realities, Regulations, and Resilience, 2025](#); Roleen la Grange, personal communication, 2025.



Photo by Malissa Murphy

Chapter 2: How They Are Doing It

2.1 Dennegeur: Principles in Practice

A Whole-Farm Plan Anchored in Place

A few years ago, Dennegeur partnered with environmental consultant Andrew Purnell ([EcoFarms](#)) to translate its sustainability philosophy into a structured, farm-wide framework. The resulting Environmental Management Plan (EMP) integrates water, soil, and biodiversity planning across the property, aligning day-to-day operations with the farm's broader ecological context.

Soil First: Roots, Oxygen, and Microbial Life

Building on insights developed over many years, Dennegeur has refined a set of practices to create a consistently aerated, biologically active root zone.

- **Irrigation for soil oxygenation and root growth**

Dennegeur uses short, precisely timed irrigation pulses supported by two on-site weather stations. Forecasts guide decisions based on maximum temperature and relative humidity, helping maintain optimal moisture without saturating the soil and allowing roots to develop in an aerated environment. As Stephan puts it: "Roots don't grow where there's no oxygen."

- **Mulch and on-farm biomass**

All pruned material and orchard residues are retained in the orchard and chipped on-farm, even old apple bins, so that carbon stays where it belongs. What began as trials with a composting site evolved when the team realised that residues were self-composting naturally in place. Within a year, fine prunings and leaves had broken down entirely, creating a rich, living surface layer.

When a wetter-than-usual orchard was later acquired, Stephan remained confident that mulch would help: "If you don't know where to start, start with mulch and watch what the biology tells you. "Contrary to neighbours' concerns that mulch would make the soil wetter, it instead stimulated root growth and microbial activity, quickly restoring balance.

○ Targeted soil interventions

Where older orchards show compacted layers, the team conducts one-off correction actions during redevelopment to establish a uniform rooting volume. New plantings are moving toward minimal or zero tillage as conditions allow.

○ Nutrient precision

To match nutrient application to actual plant needs, the farm uses grid-based soil sampling (50 m × 50 m) and profile pits every second year, supported by leaf analyses. This has reduced unnecessary inputs while improving fruit quality, particularly colour and firmness.



“Good management begins with understanding how the ecosystem functions.”

– Andrew Purnell, EcoFarms

Photo by Dennegeur

Water Stewardship: Efficiency and Quality

Dennegeur treats water as a scarce, shared resource. Their management strategy focuses on maximising efficiency and safeguarding quality downstream.

Key actions include:

- **Precision irrigation scheduling** to minimise overwatering and protect soil structure.
- **Seasonal ecological water-quality mapping**
- **A constructed wetland** in an old dam filters packhouse wastewater.
- **Waterless “enviroloos”** replacing chemical toilets.
- **Preventive maintenance** in workshops prevents oil and fuel leaks from machinery.



Photos by Malissa Murphy



Indigenous plantings, insect habitat structures and the safeguarding of rare flora like *Aspalathus monosperma* reflect Dennegeur's commitment to restoring and stewarding the farm's natural ecosystems.

Integrated Pest Management and Biodiversity

Chemical interventions are used only when justified by risk—for example, bee-safe treatments for American bollworm during flowering or maintaining codling moth thresholds. As broader-spectrum products have been phased out, some secondary pests have become more noticeable. Instead of escalating chemical use, the team has strengthened habitat-based controls: weevil bands prevent stem-climbing pests, and managed groundcover provides alternate food sources for weevils and habitat for beneficial insects such as lacewings, ladybirds, and spiders that help moderate pest pressure. Trellising also doubles as raptor perches, supporting natural rodent control across the orchards.

Beyond production blocks, nearly a quarter of the property is managed for conservation. In-house alien-clearing teams restore natural areas, and a small eucalyptus stand is retained for bee forage and raptor roosting. An indigenous nursery supports restoration and erosion-control work.

Cover Crops and Recovery Phases

Dennegeur continues to expand its cover crop and landscape-integration practices. Mixed-species cover crops, including indigenous and pioneer grasses, are being trialled to promote pollinator activity, stabilise soils, and encourage microbial recovery in replanting zones.

The farm also partners with a neighbouring cattle farmer to build soil health on land earmarked for new orchards. Depending on the block, either oats are planted or natural veld is grazed. The residues and livestock manure enrich the soil, creating a three-year recovery cycle before replanting.

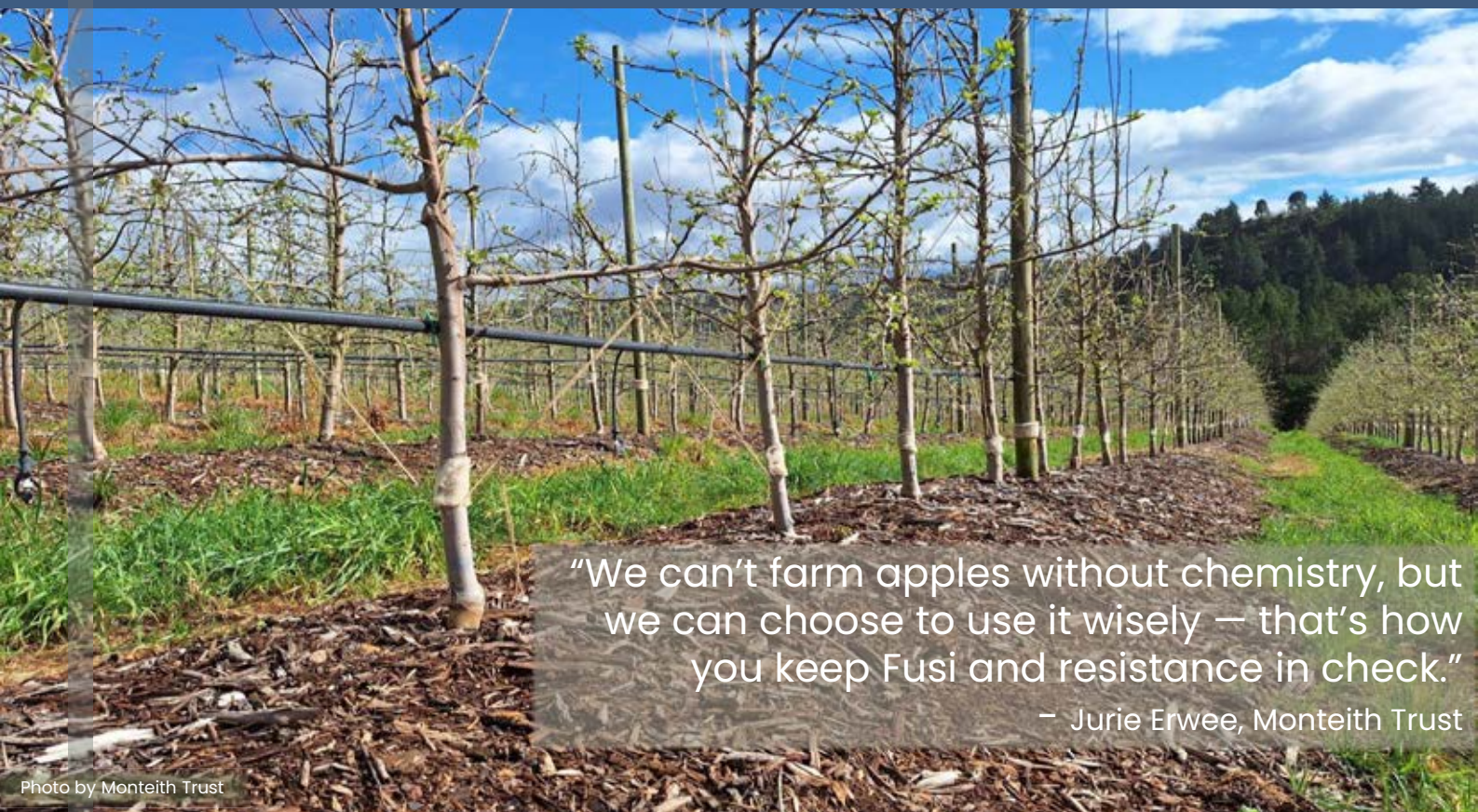


Photo by Monteith Trust

“We can’t farm apples without chemistry, but we can choose to use it wisely — that’s how you keep Fusi and resistance in check.”

– Jurie Erwee, Monteith Trust

2.2 Monteith Trust: Practical Steps Toward More Resilient Production Systems

Monteith’s approach focuses on gradual, well-considered improvements guided by data and the operational realities of farming across diverse soil types.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM): Using the Toolbox Wisely

Apple scab (Fusi) is one of Monteith’s most significant disease pressures, and effective control depends on precise timing. Chemical sprays are therefore applied based on weather and infection risk, not fixed schedules. A weather station and disease-risk models inform decisions so that applications are made only when conditions require them.

For insect control, the team relies on targeted physical and cultural measures:

- **Weevil bands** prevent stem-climbing pests.
- **Grassy strips** in work rows provide habitat and food sources for predatory insects.
- Larger areas of **natural veld** across the property contribute to broader ecological stability.

Chemical use is carefully aligned with Kromco’s internal guidelines, which are often more conservative than industry norms. Kromco’s technical team, deeply knowledgeable on regulations, product safety, and resistance management, provides valuable guidance, helping Monteith stay ahead of evolving requirements while maintaining effective control.

Water Stewardship and Irrigation Efficiency

Effective irrigation scheduling has been a top priority for Monteith in recent years, and several improvements have been implemented to strengthen efficiency and control.

Key practices include:

- **Drip irrigation in all new orchards**, improving water-use efficiency by about 30% compared to micro systems.
- **Mulch** from removed orchards returned to the fields to reduce evaporation and support soil moisture retention.
- **Shade netting**, installed primarily to protect fruit from sunburn, brings the added benefit of reducing water demand.
- **Soil probes and in-field assessments** to guide irrigation scheduling, ensuring water is applied within the active root zone and preventing leaching.
- **Tracking production efficiency** in tons of fruit per litre of water, providing a clear long-term benchmark for system performance.



“Water isn’t our biggest constraint, but irrigation efficiency has been a top priority – it improves tree health, saves costs, and is why all new orchards go in with drip.”

– Jurie Erwee, Monteith Trust

Photo by Monteith Trust

Soil and Nutrient Management

Regular soil sampling and analysis help the team identify variability across orchard blocks and adjust fertiliser applications accordingly.

On the Greyton farm, variable-rate fertiliser technology ensures nutrients are applied only where needed rather than uniformly across blocks. This improves orchard uniformity and reduces total fertiliser use. The team plans to expand this approach as more data becomes available.

Mulching remains important—supporting moisture retention, adding organic matter, and contributing to long-term soil health and orchard resilience.

Technology, Systems, and Data for Smarter Decisions



Monteith actively integrates technology to enhance efficiency and decision-making across operations:

- A **computerised sprayer** optimises water use during chemical application.
- **Drones** distribute slug pellets efficiently across the orchards.
- A **digital data-capture app** is being implemented to improve recordkeeping and enable real-time field monitoring.
- **Kromco's orchard profit model** informs orchard renewal decisions and long-term planning.

Together, these tools allow the team to refine practices, reduce input waste, and track environmental and financial performance more accurately.



Photo by Dennegeur

“We’re working toward a South African-bred apple that can handle low chill, sunburn and changing regulations — it will be a game-changer.”

– Jurie Erwee, Monteith Trust, on their apple-breeding programme

Chapter 3: Conclusion & Future Outlook

3.1 What the Farms Are Seeing on the Ground

Dennegeur is seeing consistent improvements in both fruit quality and yield stability, particularly in blocks managed under their refined soil- and floor-management system for multiple seasons. Stronger rooting, improved soil structure, and natural nutrient cycling have contributed to more reliable production across the farm, supported by the long-term integration of ecological processes into orchard design and management. These shifts have coincided with a striking return of wildlife—including raptors, duikers, caracal and even tree snakes—after decades of absence, signalling a broader recovery of ecological function.

Monteith is also experiencing measurable gains across key operational areas. Improved irrigation scheduling, more precise nutrient management and targeted use of technology—from drones to computerised sprayers—are generating efficiency savings and clearer, data-informed decision-making across diverse soil types. These incremental improvements are helping to strengthen overall system reliability and reduce unnecessary inputs from season to season.

“We’ve learned not to farm with the ‘flavour of the day’
— you have to understand your system
first, or even a good idea becomes the wrong one.”

— Stephan Beukes, Dennegeur



Photo by EcoFarms

3.2 The Road Ahead: Priorities for Continued Progress

Both Dennegeur and Monteith will continue placing soil health at the centre of long-term orchard resilience.

Dennegeur plans to further refine practices that deepen rooting, minimise disturbance and sustain biological activity in the root zone. Their participation in WFL’s Model Farm project will enable structured monitoring of these practices and create opportunities to share insights more widely across the WFL supplier network.

Monteith is similarly focused on improving soil structure and organic matter, strengthening natural tolerance to pests, and enhancing real-time decision-making through better in-field data. Their long-term apple-breeding programme, now more than a decade underway, reflects a forward-looking investment in cultivars suited to local growing conditions and future climate demands. Their internal 10-year plan provides a structured pathway for integrating more sustainable and resilient practices in ways that align with operational capacity and commercial performance.

Both growers recognise that sustained progress requires time, consistency and management capacity. Peer study groups, technical support and shared learning will remain important vehicles for deepening knowledge and scaling innovation in ways that suit each farm’s unique context.

3.3 WFL's Role in Enabling Long-Term Resilience

Worldwide Fruit Limited plays a key role in connecting on-farm practices with how sustainability is understood further along the value chain. By recognising growers' efforts and helping share these stories, WFL ensures that practical improvements on the ground are visible to partners and markets abroad. Through initiatives such as this case study and the Model Farm work, WFL helps build a clearer picture of what resilient production looks like in practice. This visibility supports growers, strengthens customer understanding, and reinforces a shared movement toward more sustainable fruit production across the supply chain.

3.4 A Shared Mindset for the Future

The experiences of Dennegeur and Monteith underscore that resilient fruit farming is not a fixed model but a mindset—one grounded in observation, curiosity and stewardship. As these growers continue refining their systems and reporting measurable outcomes, they will help shape a more sustainable and future-ready fruit sector across the WFL network.

A key part of this mindset is acknowledging that agrichemicals remain necessary in high-value apple production, particularly under South Africa's evolving regulatory landscape. For both Dennegeur and Monteith, resilience does not mean removing chemistry, but rather using it judiciously—guided by data, supported by ecological processes, and integrated into a broader system that works with nature rather than against it.



Resilient farming is a mindset — grounded in curiosity, guided by ecology, and supported by chemistry only when it's truly needed.

Photo by Malissa Murphy

Sources:

- Information for this case study was gathered from Interviews with Dennegeur, Monteith Trust and Roleen le Grange from CropLife SA
- [South African History Online, 2025](#)
- [Theewaterskloof Municipality, 2025](#)