

Ek glo dit is 'n baie koste effektiewe manier om bome te bespuit. Veronderstel jy spuit jou avokadoboarde met Eugene se helikopter vir avokadobesie. Dit is 'n feit dat so 'n bespuiting baie effektief is en afhangende van boomstand / ha kos dit net omtrent 'n rand /boom. Om dit te kan betaal moet 'n boer net een ekstra avokado vir elke vier bome pluk.

Dit neem Eugene ongeveer 'n uur om so 60 ha te spuit. Dit wil se 'n minuut /ha. Ek kan getuig dat dit sekerlik een van die mees koste effektiefste prosesse is wat op 'n plaas kan plaasvind. Eugene is 'n uiters professionele vlieënier en is baie goed met wat hy doen. Sodra hy klaar is stuur hy vir jou 'n kaart wat presies aandui waar hy oral gespuit het. Ek kan getuig dat dit eintlik 'n baie opwindende oggend is wanneer Eugene kom spuit. Ons staan so 4 uur op en is teen 5 uur gereed met die eerste mengsel om te spuit. Eugene begin 05:30 spuit en teen 09:30 is hy klaar en het hy 200 ha gespuit. Wat 'n plesier!!!

Kosie Eloff - AGRIVET, Soekmeakaar

## WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING

Having come from a crop spraying background I have always been of the opinion that the aerial application of products has a far higher efficacy than ground applications. Our consistent low USK over the past number of years proves this approach to be correct. There are many benefits to aerial applications which include the following:

- There is far less drift and contamination than normal mist blower applications.
- The dependence on weather is less than normal as we are able to complete a full cover spray in less than 60 minutes over 50 hectares, this in turn minimizes the impact that wet weather will have on washing off products.
- Even on large trees, due to the nature of the lift created by the helicopter there is ample penetration into the orchards.
- The pests are located in the top third of the tree hence we target that area first with aerial sprays. We have used a fixed wing for over 10 years and Heli-Tractor for the past 2 years. We feel at ease knowing we have a professional who is responsible for the correct mixing and application of all our products. We find Heli-Tractor to be responsible and efficient. They provide a service which is exemplary. Eugene is always willing to discuss various options available when spraying and makes a consistent effort to assist us in finding the best solution for our business. Bill Bales-Smith - BEAUMONT FARM, Hazyview

Aerial spraying is one of the most cost effective ways of spraying orchards. The timing of a spray is of utmost importance and this is a method where one can spray at least 200 hectares and more in a morning.

I believe this method is safer as Eugene has completed spraying before anyone enters the orchards. Orchards that are situated on steep areas and are not mechanized, where one is unable to spray with mist-blowers, is extremely labour intensive and costly. Here the helicopter spray is head and shoulders above any other spray method. Eugene has been involved with orchard spraying at Westfalia for at least 15 years and has been extremely successful and professional. He is extremely skilled and sprays as low as possible to the tree tops, insuring maximum penetration and efficacy. The results have proved this. It is always a pleasure to work with someone like Eugene as he does his work with exact accuracy and this is confirmed to the exact liters per ha and area sprayed by a spraylog map that is given to the customer afterwards. Keith Elphinstone - WESTFALIA, Tzaneen

## ADVERTORIAL

# World class technology available to the subtropical fruit industry

*"The highly sophisticated AG-laser technology gives the ability to measure within 1 cm accuracy and gives real time read-outs."*

Eugene Kalafatis, owner of Heli-Tractor based in the Eston district of KwaZulu-Natal is an unconventional and pioneering small-scale cane grower and macadamia farmer who provides a specialised aerial crop spraying service to growers. He is the first crop sprayer in the world and the first helicopter sprayer in Africa to employ the sophisticated AG-laser technology which is helping growers reduce costs and significantly increase returns.



Bell with fertiliser hopper

Heli-Tractor undertakes aerial crop spraying of ripener, herbicide, insecticides and fungicides and liquid or granular fertiliser, and being a part of the farming community as well as a farmer at heart, Eugene fully understands the challenges that farmers are faced with. His pioneering efforts in the field of crop spraying have meant that growers have benefited from his service, saved costs and increased income. These efforts have resulted in Eugene being in high demand for his services in Brazil, Ecuador, Columbia, Chile, Peru, New Zealand and even the Ukraine, to instruct new pilots, train and set up businesses in the heli-crop spraying market and help farmers better their crops.

Being a perfectionist, Eugene has continually sought ways to improve precision. He researched not only techniques of spraying, but investigated equipment which includes the hoppers which hold the chemicals and fertilisers under the chopper. The result is that five years ago, Eugene commenced a project which has seen him and a friend invent a kevlar and fibreglass tank to fit under the belly of the Bell Huey chopper - for crop spraying and fire fighting in one.

This is the first tank of its kind in the world and Eugene is in the process of having it patented. Again a Heli-Tractor first.

In 2010 the need arose to include aerial granular fertilising over crops. Eugene along with a company in New Zealand went to work on a design and a fertiliser hopper was developed to be used under the Bell Huey helicopter. The hopper holds 1350 kg of fertiliser. Again a Heli-Tractor first.

When applying fertiliser over crops, you need to be 20 m above the crop canopy, however without laser technology it becomes a guessing game and the incorrect swath and applications occur. The highly sophisticated AG-laser technology being used by Heli-Tractor gives the ability to measure within 1 cm accuracy and gives real time read-outs.

In addition Eugene uses Tracmap DGPS to map the areas he sprays, and is able to give the grower a detailed breakdown of application on different fields. This DGPS guided device records not only the area sprayed ensuring accurate coverage but also the ground speed, the flow rate of the chemical, and calculates it back to a per hectare breakdown so the farmer will have a detailed print out and also know exactly and precisely what has been done.

Eugene stresses that small helicopters do not generate enough vertical downdraft to get the results that the big Bell helicopters get when working on crops like avocados, macadamias and citrus, and this is vital to obtain good results.

Heli-Tractor has been spraying for companies like WESTFALIA in Tzaneen for 15 years now and others like ZZZ, Halls, Green Farms, Royal Macadamias, Ivory Macadamias, Sabie Valley Macadamias and many more have employed his services to improve the quality of their crops. Heli-Tractor meets all global/EuroGAP standards.

Eugene Kalafatis can be contacted at 082 652 6705 for further information.

### ADVANTAGES OF HELICOPTER SPRAYING VERSUS FIXED WING AIRCRAFT

- Undulating terrain is particularly suited to helicopter spraying for effective application because of a helicopter's greater manoeuvrability.
- Downward rotor wash from the helicopter means that chemicals reach the leaf underside when they are ruffled. The chemical is also pushed into the crop.
- As the helicopter takes off from the site, application can be done far earlier in the morning when weather conditions are more conducive to application.
- Small blocks can be done with a helicopter and/or selected fields.
- As the helicopter is on the farm, the farmer is able to see the chemicals being mixed and loaded – this is done on site.
- Spraying above powerlines allows the helicopter to slow right down using it's downward wind to blast chemical into the crop ensuring all areas are treated.



**Ask yourself,**  
Why do the biggest avocado, macadamia, citrus growers and exporters, amongst others use Heli-Tractor ...



Simple ... chemicals are blasted like a mist blower into high density crops from above, vertically downwards, providing unsurpassed crop penetration. Better chemical coverage and efficacy, increased yields for export and precision laser guided applications.

Heli-Tractor is the **ONLY** aerial applicator in the world to use laser guidance in a helicopter and we provide you with a Google map afterwards with your spray log recorded.

**Heli-Tractor uses Bell helicopters as they deliver more vertical downwash to force the chemical into the crop than the smaller, less efficient helicopters.**

Visit our website for further details or contact Eugene

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CROP SPRAYING • FERTILISING

**WE GET IN LOW AND SLOW**

*The only operator in Africa to use laser guidance technologies.*