

Sorghum Crop Quality 2021/22 – Summary of results

Seventy-one percent (15) of the 21 samples analysed for the purpose of this survey was determined to be class GM. Of these, 10 samples (67%) were graded as Grade GM1. Two samples were graded GM2 and three samples were graded Class Other Sorghum (COS). Of the six samples determined to be class GH, 83% (5 samples) was graded GH1 and the remaining sample was graded GH2. No white sorghum samples were received this season for inclusion in the survey.

Certain varieties of sorghum contain tannins (strictly-speaking condensed tannins) in the seed coat layer beneath the pericarp (commonly referred to as the testa layer) of the grain. These varieties are variously referred to as: tannin, high-tannin, brown, bird-proof, bird-resistant, or bitter sorghums.

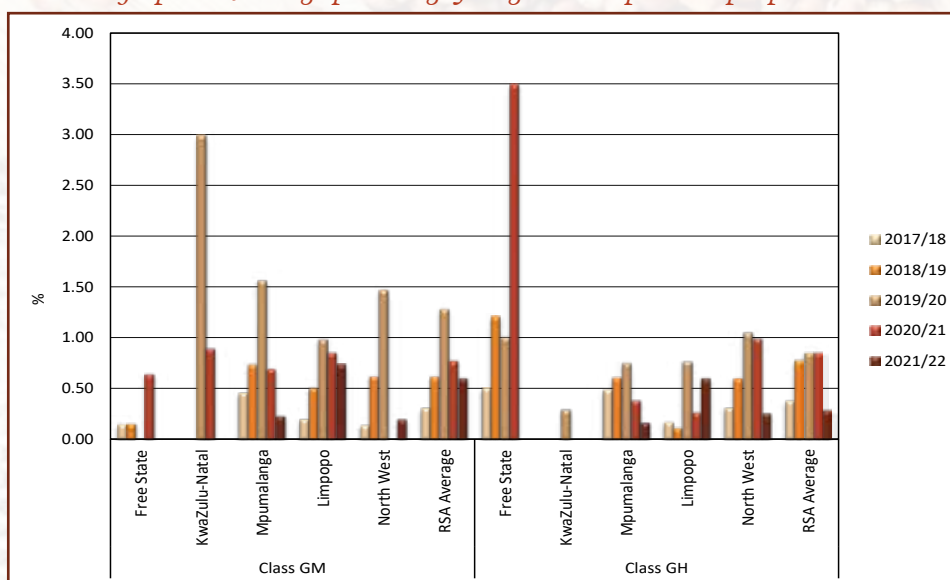
Varieties of sorghum not containing tannins are variously referred to as: non-tannin, low-tannin, condensed tannin-free, or sweet sorghums.

According to the national Grading Regulations (Government Notice NO. R.15 of 08 January 2016, Regulation 4. Standards for classes), a consignment of sorghum shall be classified as Class GM Sorghum if it consists of malt sorghum that does not have a dark testa and complies with the standards for the grades. A consignment of sorghum shall be classified as Class GH Sorghum if it consists of malt sorghum that has a dark testa and complies with the standards for the grades.

The detection of tannin in sorghum grain for grading purposes is done by SAGL by means of the bleach test. Please refer to the methodology followed under Methods on page 27.

Please see Graphs 16 to 18 for the weighted average percentages foreign matter, defective sorghum and small kernel sorghum per class per province over five seasons. The 11 samples received from Limpopo had the highest average percentage foreign matter (0.74%) for GM sorghum. A single GH sorghum sample also from Limpopo showed the highest foreign matter percentage (0.60%). The national weighted averages were 0.60% and 0.29% for GM and GH sorghum respectively.

Graph 16: Average percentage foreign matter per class per province



The percentage defective GM sorghum was the highest (4.57%) in Limpopo. North West (3 samples) had the highest percentage defective GH sorghum, namely 2.58%. The national averages were 3.72% for GM and 1.78% for GH. GM sorghum showed the highest percentage small kernels (national average 2.65%), with the samples from Limpopo having the highest percentage namely 3.37% and the Mpumalanga samples (N=3) the lowest with 0.41%. GM sorghum had the lowest percentages small kernels in Mpumalanga (two samples) with 0.75% and the highest in North West (1.71%), the weighted average for the class was 1.29%.