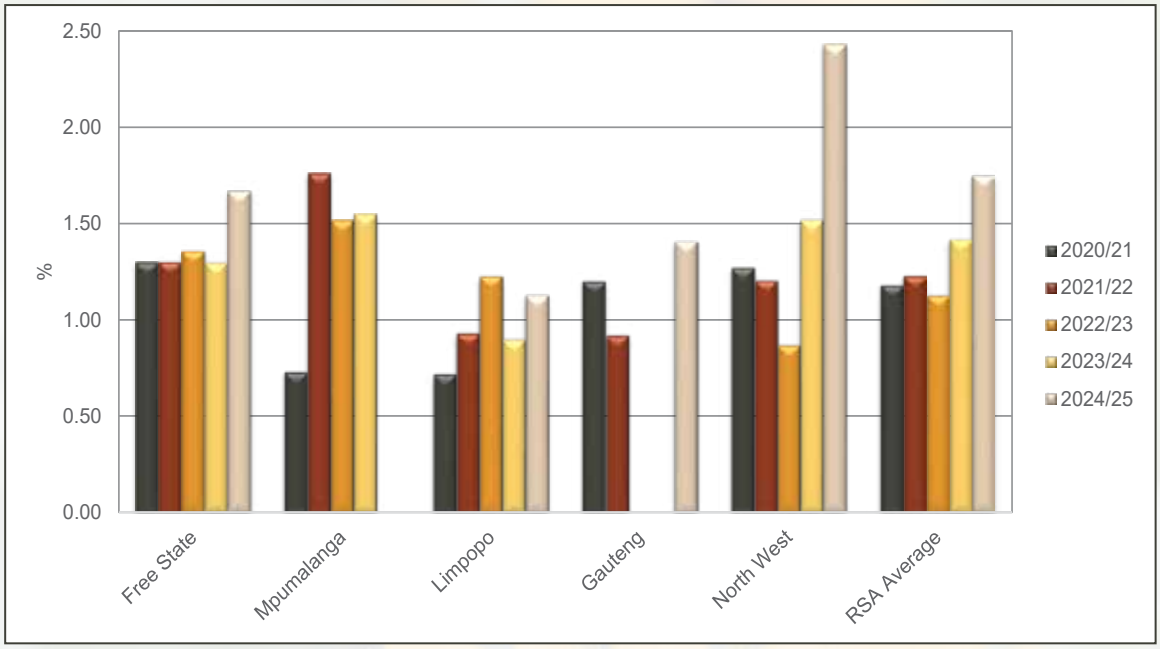
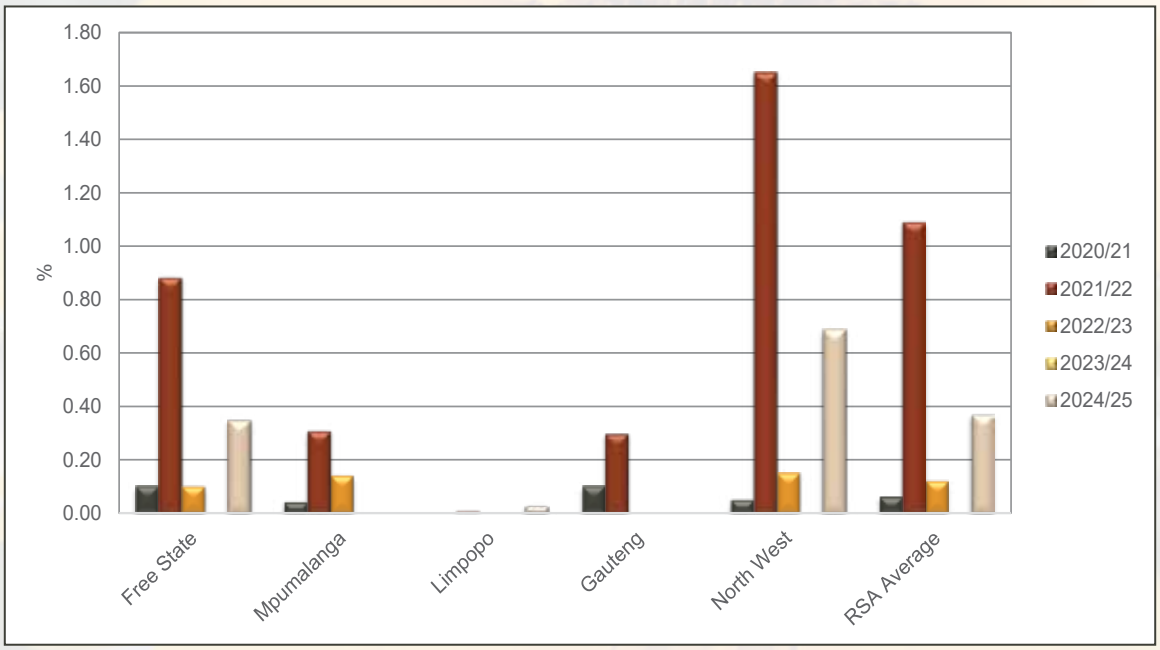


Graph 17: Average percentage foreign matter per province over five seasons

Fifty-nine samples (52%) received for this survey contained sclerotia from the fungus *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*. Last season only two samples received contained sclerotia. During the 2022/23 and 2021/22 seasons 22% and 70% of samples received contained sclerotia. 69% of samples containing sclerotia this season originated in the Free State, 27% in North West and two samples in Limpopo.



Graph 18: Average percentage sclerotia per province over five seasons

None of these samples however exceeded the maximum permissible deviation of 4% for sclerotia. Percentages ranged from a high of 3.5% to a low of 0.02%. North West reported the highest weighted average of 0.69% followed by the Free State with 0.35% and Gauteng with 0.03%. The sample from Limpopo did not contain sclerotia. The national weighted average is 0.37%.

Test weight does not form part of the grading regulations for sunflower seed in South Africa. An approximation of the test weight of South African sunflower seed is provided in Table 3 for information purposes. The standard working procedure of the Kern 222 instrument, as described in ISO 7971-3:2019, was followed. The g/1 L filling mass of the sunflower seed samples was determined and divided by two. The test weight was then