



Figure 1. A pump curve for a KSB WKLn 32, 2 900 rpm pump. (<http://www.ksbpumps.co.za>)

suction or delivery side of the pump. Blocked impellers and cavitation will also hamper performance. All of this can be picked up from reading the curve and tying up your own installation's performance.

In short, once a good understanding of the pump curve is achieved, it is possible to monitor the irrigation network and be able to pick up whether the pump is operating correctly and at its most efficient point. In essence, check the following points:

1. Print a copy of the pump's performance curve off the internet or from the pump supplier.
2. Run the pump and ensure that the pressure and flow rates correspond

on the performance curve.

3. Ensure that all suction and delivery valves are fully open.
4. Repair any leaks on the suction side of the pump, as well as all leaks on the delivery side of the pump. (This includes all leaks in the lands.)
5. Perform routine maintenance on the pump.
7. Size the motor correctly for the pump application.
8. Use premium efficiency motors.
9. Use the correct pump for the application.

With these simple checks in place, one can make great gains in the manner in which power is used and drastically reduce costs by increasing efficiency. **ST**

A sad resignation – invaluable contribution

Wouter Retief has decided to resign from Subtrop, after more than a decade's dedication to the South African subtropical industry. Wouter started working for the South African Avocado Growers' Association (SAAGA) as a technical advisor in 2001 and later for Subtrop, when the four growers' associations merged to form Subtrop in 2006.

He became a well-known expert, especially in the avocado industry, and contributed significantly in many areas to expand the knowledge and literature the industry today often takes for granted. As Gerhard Nortjé says: "Everything I know about avocados, I have learned from Wouter".

Wouter will be joining a family farming business in Kiepersol, where he has been staying for the past nine years. He will thus remain in the subtropical industry and will still be in contact with the Subtrop staff and the avocado and macadamia industries. Besides working on the family farm, Wouter will also do private consulting in the area. The technical section of Subtrop will cooperate with him on technical avocado issues as Wouter will still be a member of SAAGA.

Wouter's inputs in many areas will be sorely missed, but we wish him all the best in his future career. **ST**



Wouter Retief