

2 SAMPLING AREA

The sampling plots for this investigation were selected on the well known Zebediela Estates (lat. $24^{\circ} 18'$, long $29^{\circ} 20'$), Northern Transvaal. Van Blerk (1962, p. 7) gives a most fitting description of the locality and climate when he states that: "Zebediela lies some 70 miles south of the Tropic of Capricorn on the western section of the Strydpoort Mountains, and is just over 25 square miles in extent. It is bounded in the east by the Compies River and on the west and south by the Mogoto River. The terminus of a branch line that passes through the Springbok Flats, Zebediela is 52 miles north-east of Naboomspruit, its link with the main line from Pretoria to Pietersburg."

At an altitude varying from 3,300 to 3,900 feet, the Estates are sheltered from the cold south winds by the highveld. However, the prevailing north-easterly winds reach sufficient force in early spring to cause damage to both mature and young citrus fruit.

In summer, day temperatures are high, though not excessively so, and the nights normally cool. Winter weather is mild and while frost occurs, it does virtually no damage.

The rains come, often as heavy downpours accompanied by thunderstorms, mainly during spring and summer, but with the Drakensberg acting as a baffle to the moisture laden winds from the Indian Ocean, they come erratically and mid-summer

droughts are not uncommon. During the rainy seasons, hail is a hazard that causes damage in varying degrees to the citrus crop."

