



**1<sup>ST</sup> SEM. 2007/2008**

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**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER**

**PROGRAMME: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE AGRICULTURE YEAR V  
(HORT OPTION)**

**COURSE CODE: HORT 501**

**TITLE OF PAPER: FRUIT CROPS**

**TIME ALLOWED: TWO [2] HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS**

**DO NOT OPEN UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR**

**QUESTION 1**

Discuss the concept of 'chemical thinning' as applied to apple (*Malus domestica* L) production.

**[25 marks]**

**QUESTION 2**

Pollination is a process and practice that entails both the scientific and business components. Discuss how a fruit grower and a beekeeper are involved in the business side of the pollination of fruit crops

**[25 marks]**

**QUESTION 3**

Soil management is an important feature of fruit crop production. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of some of the common techniques employed in the banana (*Musa* spp L.) industry in Swaziland.

**[25 marks]**

**QUESTION 4**

A farmer complains that the yield in his orchard fluctuates from a high in one season to a low or close to nothing in another season. With the knowledge that flowering is the foundation process in determining fruit crop productivity. Discuss how your knowledge of 'plasticity in flowering' exhibited by mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) may assist in providing an explanation to the farmer's problem.

**[25 marks]**

**QUESTION 5**

Discuss the following techniques of pruning fruit tree shoots:

- a) Modified central leader (14 marks)
- b) Open centre (11 marks)

**[25 marks]**