



# GROWING UNDERCOVER

APRIL | 2024

## UPDATES



## Behind The Scenes

*Julie Krieger*

In exciting news for PCA and our members, Matt Plunkett has now joined the team in a part-time role helping with industry development and special projects. As IDO, Matt will focus on advocating for our members with industry bodies, and finding funding opportunities which will assist growers to move into, or upscale their PC activities, assisting in the delivery of a not-to-be-missed PCA 2025, and working with the PCA team to create and deliver member benefits that help our members to thrive.

“I am delighted to be back assisting growers and industry to advance their businesses and grow our sector.” Matt said.

PCA, our members and the industry could not be in better hands. Matt can be contacted outside of normal business hours:

[0434 147 988](tel:0434147988), [ido@protectedcropping.net.au](mailto:ido@protectedcropping.net.au)

# IDO Update

Matt Plunkett

PCA has re-engaged with the Australian Building Codes Board to advocate for protected cropping-favourable inclusions in the National Construction Codes (NCC) 2025 iteration. In particular, PCA is working to ensure the inclusion of PC structures in the lower-graded categories for fire and egress requirements, and is seeking further considerations in the form of separate PC categories altogether in the 2028 iteration of the NCC.

PCA and University of New England (UNE) are in discussions regarding the next update to the immensely valuable Australian map of Protected Cropping. Proving to be a critical tool for the sector, the map will be updated in the coming year. The current map will be available via the PCA website soon, and can be viewed now via the link below.  
<https://www.une.edu.au/connect/news/2023/01/mapping-australias-protected-crops>



## Projects

Tony Bundock

Following the very successful workshop/seminar on the 11th of March for growers in the Coffs Harbour region focussing on the formulation of nutrient recipes for both run to waste and recycling systems, a follow up session has now been planned in conjunction with Local Land Services NSW for the 15th of April. The intent of this event is to allow growers to look at their drip and drain water test results, and evaluate them on a one on one basis with a member of the presentation team. This event will be held between 3pm and 4:30pm, and if you would like to attend, please indicate this via email to Tony Bundock.

Ther online learning platform continues to expand, and this week we will be seeing the launch of the 'Protected Cropping' resource. This online course provides an overview of the various components that go towards a protected cropping system and is



intended as an initial guide for prospective new entrants to the industry.

Currently we are looking at hosting another grower seminar and as soon as we have all the details finalised these will be promoted in our social media platforms – stay tuned!

## GROWER UPDATES

### Did you know we have an Industry Advisory Council?

The Industry Advisory Council (IAC) meets every second month and is led by our Deputy Chair, Andrew McIlwain.

If you would like to hear more or become a part of this vital group, please **get in touch** with us.

## Do You Have Something To Share?

PCA

Growers, do you have something to share? This is your space! We'd love to hear from you.

If you have something to share with the PCA membership, or would like to get word out to other growers, **send us an email** with your article or content, and we'll work with you to make sure it gets out there!



## EVENTS

APRIL

MAY

MAY

**UPCOMING EVENT**  
**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP FOLLOW UP**  
 Monday 15th April, 2024: 4:00 - 5:30pm  
 Seaview Tavern,  
 Woolgoolga.

After the recent success of the Early Needs Recovery Project seminar on nutrient formulation, a second event has now been scheduled to assist growers in a more "hands on" way in using the excel tool.

This event is being primarily run by Local Land Services with support from the Early Needs Recovery team and is scheduled for Monday the 15th of April at 4:00pm at the Seaview Tavern, Woolgoolga.

The event will allow participants to gain confidence in using the tool and ideally, use water test results that they have obtained from their drip and drain analysis. Participants are asked to bring a laptop and results of a recent water test along to the event and the team will be able to assist you to interpret the results.

To register your interest in participating in this event, please email:  
 Harriet.Brickell@lls.nsw.gov.au

The Early Needs Recovery Program is part of the \$150 million Primary Industries Support Package which is co-funded by the Australian and NSW Governments.

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## Nutrient Management Workshop - Follow Up

[Learn more →](#)

**FAIR TALK**  
**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**STEVI HOWDLE**

Stevi is the Executive Officer of Farmsafe Australia which is the national entity connecting state farming organisations, peak commodity bodies, advocacy bodies and other groups that share a common interest in agricultural health and safety.

## Fair Talk By Fair Farms - Safety On Farms

[Learn more →](#)



## HFF Conference - Early Bird Registrations

[Learn more →](#)

# INFORMATION

## NATIONAL

### NEWS



## Have your say - National Water Agreement

[Learn more →](#)

### NEWS

**AIPH**  
 AIPH INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURAL EXPO NEWS

A1 NEWS | A2 NEWS | A3 NEWS  
 D NEWS | SPRING MEETING | EXPO 2023 DOHA  
 Expo Meetings 2027 | Expo Changes 2024 | Summit 2025

EXPO 2023 DOHA | EXPO 2024 AUSTRA | EXPO 2025 AUSTRA | EXPO 2026 AUSTRA | EXPO 2027 AUSTRA

Expo organisers from around the world meet in Doha Qatar for the AIPH Spring Meeting 2024

## AIPH International Hort Expo News

[Learn more →](#)

### NEWS



## VICCHEM Appoints Angus Roney

[Learn more →](#)

### RESEARCH

### SURVEY

### UPDATE

**CSIRO HEALTH AND BIOSCIENCE**

**Social Research Information Sheet**

This research seeks to understand industry perspectives of gene edited honeybees.

**The Research**

Most publication articles are essential for many crops, including 50 billion/year of Australian horticultural products. Australian bees face numerous threats including climate change (both extreme weather events, severe rains, and pesticide exposure). These threats pose major challenges to bee populations and new solutions are necessary to overcome them.

This ongoing project will explore the views of publication service users and service providers on using genetic engineering to introduce beneficial traits into bees to improve bee resilience. These traits include mite/pesticide resistance and tolerance to changes in climate, for example.

The project will provide recommendations to Australian horticultural industries on what publication service users and providers perceive the benefits, risks and knowledge gaps you see for developing and displaying gene edited honeybees.

CSIRO is conducting this project for research on behalf of Horticulture Innovation Australia (their investment) in partnership with Monash University. Research activities will include primary and secondary data collection and analysis, including interviews. The research will inform their innovation of the opportunity for using mite/pesticide resistant honeybees for publication services in the horticulture industry.

**What is involved in this research?**

Most participants will involve taking part in:

**Individual interviews**

You will be involved in an individual (one on one) interview to be conducted online or via telephone. The duration of the interview will be between 30 minutes to 1 hour and the conversation will be recorded (audio and/or video, whichever is appropriate) to ensure the accuracy of the information you provide. You will not be identified during any reporting process.

It is important to remember that there are no right or wrong answers regarding the information you provide. We are interested in your honest thoughts and

experiences regarding mite/pesticide resistant honeybees, and their impacts both economically and socially on yourself and your community. Your input is very important to this research.

**Participation and withdrawal**

Please note, you must be 18 years or over to participate. Participation in this research is completely voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time without penalty or penalty. If you wish to withdraw from the interview, your individual responses can be deleted on request up until the point of data aggregation (where it is no longer able to be associated from the participant data pool).

**Risks and Benefits**

Aside from giving up your time, there are no foreseeable risks associated with participating in this study. However, you should find any question to be spurious or irrelevant, you are free to stop answering that question. If you have concerns about any aspect of the study, please contact Dr Lucy Carter (contact details below). There may be no direct benefit to you participating in the project. However, an opportunity to share your experiences with others may offer some benefits to you and your peers. Your contributions will be valuable to hort innovation and the potential use of genetic engineering in the horticultural space.

**How will my privacy be protected?**

Your personal information is protected by the Privacy Act 2000 (Cth) (Privacy Act). CSIRO will handle your information in accordance with the Act, the National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007), updated (2014), or an otherwise required by law.

Your personal information (direct contact details, opinions, personal reflections of mite/pesticide resistant honeybees), including some potentially sensitive information (audio recordings of discussions, or information you choose to share about your health and well-being) is being collected for the purpose of conducting this research. Any recordings will be made only to ensure we accurately analyse the information you provide to us. No identifiable information will be shared



**CSIRO Grower Interview**

[Learn more →](#)

**Freshcare Standards Review**

[Learn more →](#)

**CCC Blueberry Open Day - Report**

[Learn more →](#)

**QUEENSLAND**

**AWARDS**

**SYNGENTA GROWER OF THE YEAR**

NOMINATION CRITERIA    NOMINATE

**SEEKA MARKETER OF THE YEAR AWARD PRODUCED BY IPA AND PRODUCE PLUS**

NOMINATION CRITERIA    NOMINATE

**CORTEVA AGRISCIENCE YOUNG GROWER OF THE YEAR**

NOMINATE    NOMINATION CRITERIA    NOMINATE

**BAYER YEAR**

NOMINATE

**BOOMAROO NURSERIES**

**E.E.M**

**Awards for Excellence 2024 Nominations!**

[Learn more →](#)

**NEW SOUTH WALES**

**GRANTS**

Local Land Services



### On-farm grants for intensive horticulture

Do you have a project idea to reduce water use, nutrient and chemical run off, repair soil erosion or improve your riparian buffer vegetation?

Funding between \$10 000 and \$35 000 per business is available to assist growers implement on ground works to keep sediments and nutrient on farm and out of our coastal waterways.

**Who is eligible?**

Commercial blueberry, rubus and vegetable growers in Clarence, Coffs, Bellinger & Namadji CMA.

**How do I apply?**

Visit the NSW Grants & Funding Clean Coastal Catchments Horticulture page to find out more.

Applications close 5.00pm 15 May 2024.



Project Officer: Hamish Brickhill 0467 446 222 [hamish.brickhill@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hamish.brickhill@lls.nsw.gov.au)

This CCC project is funded under the NSW Government's Marine Estuaries Management Strategy. The ten-year Strategy was developed by the NSW Marine Estuaries Management Authority to coordinate the management of the marine estate.



1300 79 79 79

## On-Farm Grants - Intensive Horticulture

Learn more →

# FLORA CULTURE INTERNATIONAL

## MONTH 2024

# fci



AIPH

[WWW.FLORACULTUREINTERNATIONAL.COM](http://WWW.FLORACULTUREINTERNATIONAL.COM)

APRIL 2024

EURO PLANT TRAY

**Working on a universally  
accepted solution**

FLOWERTRIALS

**Showcase of purpose-  
driven plant breeding**

FLORANOW

**Dubai's B2B  
e-commerce creates its  
online marketplace**

## PACKAGING

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How the industry is taking bold steps to combat  
plastic pollution

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