



GROWING UNDERCOVER

AUGUST | 2024

UPDATES

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IDO Update

Matt Plunkett

The recent outbreak of the Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on two properties in South Australia is a stark reminder that exotic disease outbreaks not only affect marketable yields and profitability but interstate market access and export markets as well.

I remember attending a joint Hydroponic Farmers Federation (HFF) and Protected Cropping Australia event in 2019 where a range of individuals and industry partners were educating industry on the threat of this highly contagious virus.

At the time of writing this article, both WA and Qld have imposed quarantine restrictions on plant material, fruit and other inputs entering these states. It is expected that other states will follow soon.

In addition, and as of the 24th of August, all exports of tomatoes to New Zealand have been

PCA are in a range of discussions with other industry groups including HFF, AUSVEG and Hort Innovation about a project that can help our growers and industry manage this disease if it cannot be eradicated. At this stage, no confirmed cases have been reported across other states and this may change as surveillance and traceability testing continues.

Growers are reminded to be highly vigilant with your biosecurity measures. PCA have developed a range of resources and updates and will share updated information regularly through email and on our Facebook and Social media channels.

In other news, it is pleasing to hear that returns for some commodities have improved over the winter which is good news for our growers.

In other news, the fire and egress study funded by the Australian Building Codes Board will be presented to our members on Wednesday the

temporarily suspended and will be reviewed in 7 days from the issuing of this order. It is unclear how long this suspension order will stand.

In recent years across Australia, we have seen a surge in exotic plant pest and disease incursions including the Green Cucumber Mottle Mosaic Virus in Qld and NSW. South Australia has had a particularly challenging year with this virus and the Fruit Fly Outbreak.

All our growers in SA are encouraged to reach out to AUSVEG SA or PCA for support during these challenging times.

4th of September. This is the first in a series of quarterly advocacy forums and a terrific opportunity to discuss issues and provide feedback on this important piece of work.

In addition, keep an eye out for our Wednesday Webinar series and our 2025 conference program is taking shape. The program will be jam packed with a range of initiatives and stay tuned for further news over the coming weeks including the launch of the prospectus and sponsorship opportunities.

Until next month, stay safe and happy growing.

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.

Jack Mooney

IAC

Dr. Jack Mooney is the CEO of Provenance Propagation Australia, a pioneer of sustainable growing practices. With a background in horticulture and a passion for innovation, Jack has led Provenance Propagation on a journey from vision to reality, establishing Australia's newest high-tech plant nursery. Jack's dedication to innovation and continuous learning has shaped Provenance Propagation, ensuring that his team remains at the cutting edge of the industry. With a focus on healing grafted plants, the facility has four state-of-the-art climate chambers designed specifically for this purpose. Jack's expertise, backed by a PhD in horticulture specialising in the healing of grafted vegetable seedlings, has been helpful in the success of Provenance Propagation.



EVENTS

SEPTEMBER



FERTILIZER AUSTRALIA

2024 Fertilizer Australia Conference

FERTILIZER AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE
2024 Sustaining Soil Health

10-13 SEPTEMBER
WEST PERTH

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SEPTEMBER



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5th Global Vertical Farming Show 2024

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MAY



Agential AI AgBio - Super Early Bird Tickets

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FEBRUARY

Sponsorship & Exhibitor Packages selling quickly ***

BerryQuest International 2025 will be held 24-27 February 2025 at the West Point Hotel Casino, Hobart including 2 days of farm tours to both north and south growing regions.

The conference offers a unique opportunity to promote your company and market your products and services to growers, wholesalers, marketers, retailers, researchers, nursery, and allied trade suppliers across the Australian berry industries.

Don't miss out - secure your Sponsorship or Exhibitor package today online <https://lnkd.in/gwxtUikn>



BERRIES AUSTRALIA

BerryQuest International
24-27 February 2025
West Point Hotel Casino, Hobart

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BQ 25

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FEBRUARY

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



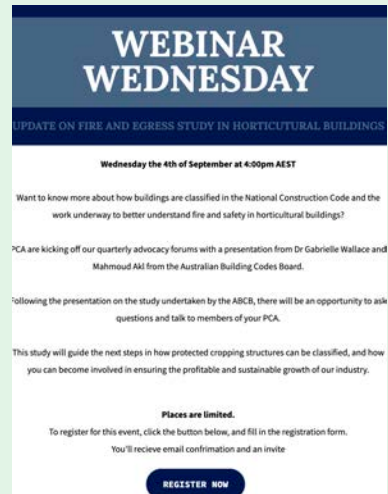
BRING US TOGETHER

GREENLIFE INDUSTRY CONFERENCE
19-21 FEBRUARY 2025
SYDNEY CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE

Greenlife Conference - Early Bird Tickets

[Learn more →](#)

SEPTEMBER



WEBINAR WEDNESDAY

UPDATE ON FIRE AND EGRESS STUDY IN HORTICULTURAL BUILDINGS

Wednesday the 4th of September at 4:00pm AEST

Want to know more about how buildings are classified in the National Construction Code and the work underway to better understand fire and safety in horticultural buildings?

PCA are kicking off our quarterly advocacy forums with a presentation from Dr Gabrielle Wallace and Mahmoud Aki from the Australian Building Codes Board.

Following the presentation on the study undertaken by the ABCB, there will be an opportunity to ask questions and talk to members of your PCA.

This study will guide the next steps in how protected cropping structures can be classified, and how you can become involved in ensuring the profitable and sustainable growth of our industry.

Places are limited.

To register for this event, click the button below, and fill in the registration form. You'll receive email confirmation and an invite.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

PCA & ABCB Advocacy Webinar and Forum

[Learn more →](#)

INFORMATION

NATIONAL

WEBINAR



Greenlife - Nursery Benchmarking Webinar

[Learn more →](#)

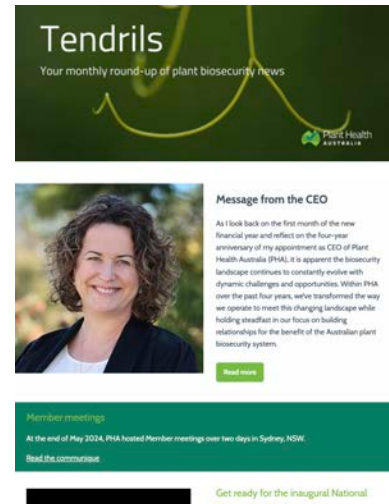
STRATEGY



National Food & Fibre Education Strategy

[Learn more →](#)

NEWSLETTER



Plant Health Australia - July Newsletter

[Learn more →](#)

COMPETITION



Competition - Growing Dwarf Tomatoes

[Learn more →](#)

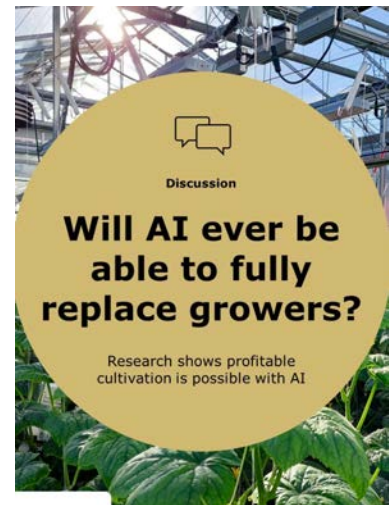
RESOURCE



Managing Greenhouse Temperatures

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RESEARCH



Will AI Ever Fully Replace Growers?

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NEWS

NEWS

NEWS



Narrow Orchard Systems

[Learn more →](#)



Absence of Robots in Modern Greenhouses

[Learn more →](#)



In Progress

Spatially enabling Australian tree crops

The project will be collating industry information such as variety, planting date,...

Future Food Systems & Hort Innovation

[Learn more →](#)

NEWS



Specialty Melons - Tropics Opportunity

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RESEARCH



New PHD Research Project Available

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RESOURCE



LED Grow Lights - Impact on Crop Types

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NEWS

NEWS



Hi <<First Name>>

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Berries Australia team for 2024

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you in touch with important news about R&D occurring in your industry, as well as ensure that you are informed in a timely way about changes to employment law, workplace health & safety, upcoming events and other information necessary to help you to run your berry business effectively.

IN THIS EDITION

Dear <<First Name>>

In big news this month we have a new federal Agriculture Minister Julie Collins. Minister Collins hails from Tasmania and was the opposition spokesperson for Agriculture prior to the last election. We look forward to engaging Minister Collins in relation to our priorities around export, biosecurity, chemical access and workforce in particular.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Senator the Hon. Murray Watt for

Berries Australia - The Burst Newsletter

Learn more →



VICCHEM - Outright 770

Learn more →

TOMATO BROWN RUGOSE FRUIT VIRUS (ToBRFV)

NEWS



tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) has been detected in the Northern Adelaide Plains. This is the first time the disease has been found in South Australia.

In response to the detection of ToBRFV, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions, South Australia (PIRSA) is currently investigating the source of the outbreak and determining any potential risk factors. PIRSA will advise on any additional measures that can be implemented as quickly as possible. We encourage growers to report any suspicious plants or crops to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

Growers in close contact with AUSVEGE SA and other State and National bodies and will continue to receive industry updates as they become available.

Stay Calm, Stay Aware: We will keep you informed and help you follow the recommended precautions. Together we can navigate this challenge to our industry.

READ THE PIRSA ANNOUNCEMENT

Initial PCA Announcement

Learn more →

RESOURCES

NEWS



PRESS RELEASE: COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE THROUGH ENHANCED BIOSECURITY

At Provenance Propagation, we are dedicated to growing the highest quality plants in a controlled, secure environment. To ensure the health and safety of our plants, we have strengthened our biosecurity measures. Our goal is to protect both our nursery and our clients by maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness and care.



OUR ENHANCED BIOSECURITY MEASURES

1 Strict Access Control

No Visits Without Appointments

To maintain a controlled environment, all visits to our facility must be scheduled in advance. This ensures we can provide personalized attention and adhere to our rigorous biosecurity protocols.

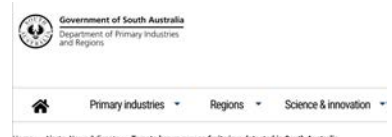
CONTACT US: 0300 677 193 | www.provenanceprop.com

Provenance Propagation Biosecurity

Learn more →

NEWS

NEWS



News

Tomato brown rugose fruit virus detected in South Australia

Monday 19 August 2024

Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) has been detected in the Northern Adelaide Plains region of South Australia.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is currently investigating the detection of an exotic tomato disease – tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) in the Northern Adelaide Plains region.

Response and surveillance measures are underway and PIRSA is working with affected businesses with quarantine measures implemented at the property level.

As part of response activities PIRSA is currently investigating the source of the disease, determining any potential further spread so that effective mitigation measures can be implemented as quickly as possible.

Initial PIRSA Announcement

Learn more →

NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENT

TOMATO BROWN RUGOSE FRUIT VIRUS DETECTED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Biosecurity Advice

Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus

Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) is a newly discovered virus that causes a range of symptoms in tomato plants, including stunted growth, yellowing, and fruit ripening issues. The virus is highly infectious and can spread between plants through contact with infected plant material, such as cuttings, seedlings, and fruit. The virus is also spread by several species of insects, including whiteflies and leaf-miners. The virus is currently under investigation in South Australia, and it is important that growers and industry stakeholders remain vigilant and take appropriate biosecurity measures to prevent the virus from spreading further.


Basic Hygiene Practices

INFORMATION SHEET

PCA Hygiene & Information Resources

Learn more →

NEWS




THE FRONTLINE

Vegetable, potato & onion biosecurity

22 August 2024

Biosecurity update: Tomato brown rugose fruit virus detection at two properties north of Adelaide




Marbling and uneven ripening of tomato fruits infected with ToBRFV (image credit: A. Dombrovsky, EPPO Global Database, <https://gdi.epppo.int/>)

Current situation

South Australia's Department of Primary Industries and Regions (DPIRSA) is

AUSVEG Biosecurity Update

Learn more →



Biosecurity Update

Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus

29 August 2024

Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV) is a highly infectious plant virus that can affect tomato and capsicum production, reducing yields in affected crops up to 70%.

On 19 August 2024, South Australia advised that ToBRFV was confirmed at two commercial properties in the Northern Adelaide Plains region. The impacted businesses are currently operating under biosecurity requirements aimed at preventing the virus spreading from facilities whilst the full extent of the detection is being determined.

Agriculture Victoria is aware of the situation and is working closely with Biosecurity South Australia, and other state biosecurity agencies, to determine whether the virus has spread. Any linkages to Victoria will be investigated to understand the risk to our producers.

Symptoms of the disease in tomato and capsicum fruits include yellow spots, brown wrinkled patches, and deformed/uneven ripening. Symptoms on leaves include mottled/mosaic patterning, deformation and puckering, as well as wilting.

The risk of entry and spread of ToBRFV can be reduced through production systems by ensuring staff and visitors comply with on-site biosecurity and hygiene practices such as:

1. Avoiding unnecessary visits and contact with crops
2. Reducing equipment and materials shared between facilities, such as reusable plastic fruit crates
3. Monitor crops for disease symptoms
4. Disinfect tools, propagating material, and equipment.

If you suspect the presence of ToBRFV in crops in Victoria, please report this to Agriculture Victoria using the online reporting form at <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity>. Reports can also be made by calling the DESCA Customer Contact Centre at 136 136 or the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline at 1800 084 881.


Any Victorian businesses with questions on international trade and exports should contact the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry at horticultureexports@aff.gov.au. Any businesses with questions about domestic trade can contact Agriculture Victoria at market.access@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

For more information on ToBRFV please visit the Agriculture Victoria website <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/plant-diseases/vegetable-diseases/tomato-brown-rugose-fruit-virus>

Agriculture VIC Biosecurity Update

Learn more →

RESOURCE



Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus

About ToBRFV


FAQ for Australian tomato growers

Developed by Rijk Zwaan

RIJK ZWAAN

About ToBRFV - Rijk Zwaan

Learn more →



Agriculture and land | Biosecurity and trade

Home / Biosecurity and trade / Export / Controlled export goods / Plants and plant products / Export

Industry Notices

2024-54: Horticulture – S to New Zealand

23 August 2024

Purpose

This Industry Advice Notice (IAN) is to advise industry to the detection of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV) in New Zealand.

Summary of changes and key points

- The New Zealand National Plant Protection Organisation effective as of 24 August 2024, the export of all tomatoes is suspended.
- Commodities affected:
 - Tomatoes (*Solanum lycopersicum*, also known as MicoR has been updated to reflect the suspension.
 - New Zealand have undertaken to review this decision

IMPORTANT: Consignments of tomatoes that have received permission for export to New Zealand.

Tomato Exports to NZ Suspended

Learn more →

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JULY-AUGUST 2024

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