



GROWING UNDERCOVER

AUGUST | 2025

UPDATES

IDO Update

Matt Plunkett

Talking to growers and industry around the country recently, the common theme in these discussions has been the unusually low light levels and a colder than average winter.

This coupled with large amounts of rain on the East Coast has filled dams and water storages but left many growers struggling trying to manage fungal diseases. It has also affected some outdoor soil-based crops and as a result, a severe shortage in some lines on the supermarket shelves.

We are still seeing some growth in the industry with this coming in the form of established larger growers in the vegetables and berries space.

It was interesting to read in the latest AUSVEG Grower Sentiment Survey that increasing compliance workload and red and green tape has overtaken labour shortages as the number one issue facing growers in the vegetable industry.

As many of our members would be aware, the burden trying to navigate the planning system to erect new structures is becoming increasingly harder. PCA are continuing to support our grower members in discussions with land use planning authorities to look for practical common sense solutions and awaiting further advice on the next iteration of the National Construction Code.

As we head into the warmer months, it is a good time to check your irrigation and fertigation system to ensure it can meet peak demand in the middle of summer. It is also a good time to undertake any maintenance and water quality tests. Some simple system checks now can save you lots of time and headache in the peak summer period.

I often ask growers whether they have tested the uniformity of their irrigation system? Why is this important? Put simply, it ensures that the target water and nutrient solution is being delivered to the plant roots evenly. This is important for substrate and soil-based production systems and there are some simple tests you can do.

Please reach out if you require assistance with these tests and of course our corporate partner AgVita offer a 10% discount for members if you wish to test your water.

In other news, some PCA 2025 conference videos are now available to all members and delegates. Please email admin@protectedcropping.net.au if you are having trouble accessing these resources. All videos will be available in the coming days.

Have a great month and best wishes.

CONFERENCE

Protected Cropping Australia Conference

A collage of four circular images showing conference activities: a group of people in a field, the PCA logo, three people in a greenhouse, and a group of people in a meeting.

PCA

28-30 JULY 2025
ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE

Growing profitably
and sustainably

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ABSTRACT BOOK

PCA2025

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PCA

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See the 2025 Abstract Book - On The PCA Website

[Learn More →](#)

AWARD WINNERS



See All Our 2025 & Past Award Winners

[Learn More →](#)

RECORDINGS

Document ↕	Category ↕	Sub
Soilless Australia Magazine - Autumn 2025	Soilless Australia Magazine	2025
drumMUSTER's role in reducing waste in agriculture	Webinars	2025
Introduction to Exfoliators' Perlite	Webinars	2025
Substrate Moisture Monitoring & Management - Turning Data Into Productivity	Webinars	2025
Soilless Australia - Winter 2025	Soilless Australia Magazine	2025
Protected Cropping Research Development Program (Sponsored By Hort Innovation) - SCREEN	Conference	2025
Agronomy & Environment + Pollination & Pest Management - SCREEN	Conference	2025
Medicinal Cannabis Forum - SCREEN	Conference	2025
Benefits of Nanobubble Technology for Protected Growers-20250827_063701UTC-Meeting Recording.mp4	Webinars	2025
Soilless Australia Magazine_Winter 2024.pdf	Soilless Australia Magazine	2024
Soilless Australia Magazine_Spring 2024.pdf	Soilless Australia Magazine	2024
Soilless-Australia-Magazine_Summer 2024.pdf	Soilless Australia Magazine	2024

Some Session Videos Now Available - More To Come

[Learn More →](#)

EVENTS

OCTOBER



Vertical Farming World Congress 2025

[Learn More →](#)

OCTOBER

Media Release**Hort Innovation**

Gatton AgTech Showcase tickets available now

Tickets for the second Gatton AgTech Showcase, on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 October 2025, are now available to book online.

The showcase will provide an opportunity for growers to see new global AgTech in action and talk to AgTech manufacturers about how these technologies can help their businesses be more productive and profitable.

Hort Innovation CEO Brett Fifield said the Gatton AgTech Showcase was an exciting example of the vegetable and onion research and development (R&D) levies at work, finding global productivity solutions for Australian growers and bringing them into our backyard.

"Autonomous technology is at the forefront of horticultural innovation and is transforming growers' lives as they tackle ongoing issues around labour costs and shortages," Mr Fifield said.

"The Gatton AgTech Showcase offers a unique opportunity for growers to see some of this farm-changing technology in action and have real conversations about the solutions it could offer.

"From technology that makes jobs faster or more accurate, to those that reduce waste, this is a vital event to attend for growers working to lift their productivity."

Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Director Vegetables, Supply Chains and Market Access, Ian Layden, said the award-winning showcase offered a world-class line up of speakers, in-field demonstrations and more than 100 AgTech and protected cropping exhibitors.

"Delivered as part of the [Gatton Smart Farm](#) initiative, the showcase offers a fantastic chance for growers to learn more about the latest global AgTech solutions available now," Mr Layden said.

Gatton Agtech Showcase Tickets Now Available

[Learn More →](#)

OCTOBER

OFFICIAL OPENING

Protected Cropping C for Mild Winter Climat

15 & 16 October 1015 as part of Gatto
gattomagtechshowcase@cussonsme



Protected Cropping Facility Launch

[Learn More →](#)

SEPTEMBER



IPM in Action: Monitor, Manage, Protect (SA Wor

IPM In Action: Monitor, Manage, Protect Workshop

[Learn More →](#)

SEPTEMBER



Spraying Crops – Best Practice and Answers

[Learn More →](#)

SEPTEMBER



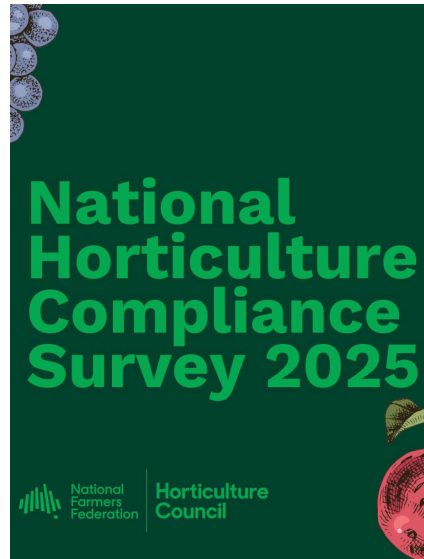
2025 FASTA Annual Symposium

[Learn More →](#)

INFORMATION

NATIONAL

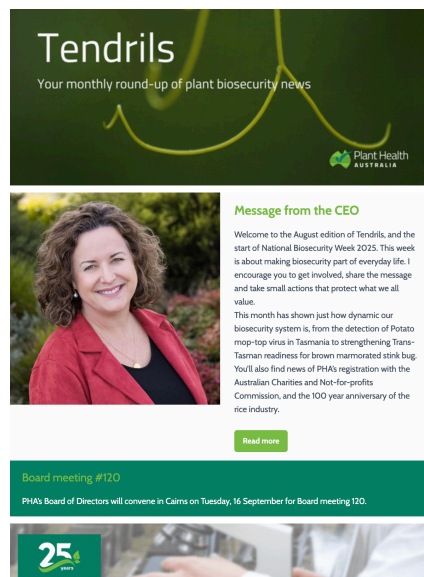
SURVEY



National Horticulture Compliance Survey 2025

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS



Plant Health Australia - Tendrils August 2025

[Learn More →](#)

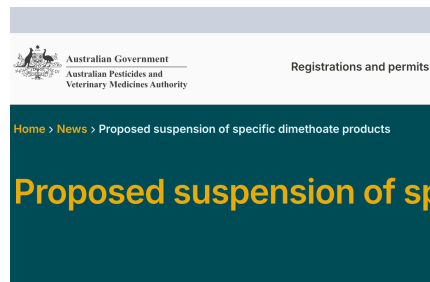
NEWS



Berries Australia - The Burst August 2025

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS



5 August 2025

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has proposed the suspension of dimethoate for use on blueberries, raspberries and blackberries.

The APVMA has received new information gathered by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) that consumption of blueberries, blackberries and raspberries has increased significantly compared to 2017.

Based on these consumption figures, the APVMA has reassessed the potential risk to human health from the use of dimethoate following the approved label directions does not leave a significant margin of safety. The APVMA considers the level of risk to be unacceptable.

Proposed Suspension of Dimethoate Products

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS



Achmea - Keeping Farmers Farming

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS



New Calcium Fertiliser Unlocks Crop Potential

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RESOURCE



Growing A Career In Horticulture - AusVeg

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS

[Growers](#) › [Help your business grow](#) › [Research reports, publications, fact sheets and more](#) › [Projects](#)

ONGOING PROJECT

Factors driving horticulture productivity (HA24004)

Key research provider: Centre for International Economics

[View the report \(1143 KB\)](#)

What is it all about?

This project is enhancing the horticulture industry's understanding of productivity challenges by engaging a broad range of stakeholders and providing practical tools. Building on previous modelling and scenario analysis from the 'Economic contribution of horticulture (MT21010)' project, it delves deeper into the factors driving productivity, equipping the industry for more informed decision-making.

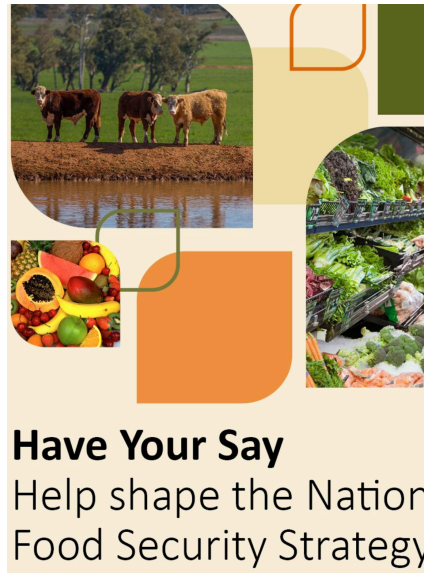
Challenge

Productivity is a major driver of economic performance, resilience, and sustainability.

Factors Driving Horticulture Productivity

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS



Shape Australia's National Food Security Strategy

[Learn More →](#)

MEMBER ADVERTISEMENTS

AIPH - FLORACULTURE INTERNATIONAL

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WWW.FLORACULTUREINTERNATIONAL.COM

JUNE 2025



INTELLIGENCE IN BLOOM

**AI becomes a new tool for
growers finding new rhythms
in plant production**

ABOVE THE CANOPY, BEYOND CONVENTION

**Drones are rewriting the rules
of labour, precision, and care in
ornamental crop production**

CITIES THAT LISTEN,
LANDSCAPES THAT LEARN

**Tech takes root in urban
spaces, with a new vision for
greener, smarter cities**

SMART, SUSTAINABLE, SCALABLE TECH

From AI to automation, the quiet power of innovation is reshaping
our industry—rooted in tradition, reaching toward tomorrow



[Unsubscribe](#)

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