



GROWING UNDERCOVER

DECEMBER | 2025

UPDATES

Behind The Scenes

Julie Krieger

As 2025 draws to a close, it's a wonderful opportunity to pause and recognise the momentum this industry has built over the past twelve months. It has been a year marked by progress, collaboration and genuine sector-wide effort — much of it driven by your engagement and your expertise.

Of great significance this year was our united response to the ToBRFV incursion and the measures put in place to address it. The advocacy, coordination and information-sharing led by members, alongside government and technical partners, demonstrated the real strength of a connected industry. I would particularly like to call out the extraordinary work undertaken by our Chair, Andrew Tout, who devoted countless hours and was instrumental in driving this critical work for the benefit of our members and the PC sector. Through combined effort, we elevated the issue nationally, improved preparedness across businesses, and ensured growers had both a voice and visibility in decision-making. That work will continue into 2026 — stronger, more informed and more cohesive for the effort we've already invested.

A further standout moment was our national conference in Adelaide in July — three days in which growers, suppliers, researchers and partners came together with purpose, curiosity and energy. The exchange of ideas and knowledge continues to shape conversations and decisions across the country, reinforcing just how valuable it is when we gather as a community. Planning is already underway for our next major conference in July 2027, and we look forward to delivering an event that reflects the ambition, innovation and resilience of our sector.

What excites me most is that every milestone we've reached has been shared. Your contributions, insights, feedback and passion for this industry drive PCA forward every day, and

we enter 2026 with great momentum.

Thank you for your support throughout 2025. From the team here at PCA, I wish you and your families a safe, happy and restorative festive season — and I look forward to what we will grow, build and achieve together in 2026.

Coming in 2026...

PCA

Planning is already underway for a range of educational and collaborative initiatives and opportunities for members in 2026. Some things to watch for..

- Monthly Webinar program returns from February
- Launching of PCA training opportunities, including Chemical handling certification
- Members' GreenTech/Netherlands tour in June
- New advertising and sponsorship opportunities (launching in January)
- PCA podcast
- Land use planning advocacy with the ABCB - join our working group!
- Announcement of 2027 conference and call for abstracts, coming mid-2026

There's much more in store and we are excited to release news on each initiative throughout the year ahead.

EVENTS

JUNE



Protected Cropping Australia are seeking expressions of interest from PCA members who would like to participate in a study tour trip that would take in a visit to the Greentech 2026 expo and key industry and farm sites in the Westland area of the Netherlands. The event itself is aiming to provide an insight into the latest technologies and developments in the protected cropping industry.

The Greentech event is in itself - massive! With some 550 trade stands and a packed lecture program, the event is certain to provide interest for all growers. For more details on the Greentech itself, please feel free to visit the link shown to provide more insight into this event - <https://youtu.be/SS16-J3dUT8>

Preliminary discussions have revealed strong support from key industry players to facilitate site and generic industry visits. These companies include Rijk Zwaan, Priva and Grodan to name but a few. We anticipate that the tour would be based around the Amsterdam region to facilitate easy access to the Greentech and also provide a central meeting point for the tours. Once we have

Greentech & NL Industry Tour 2026 EOI

[Learn More →](#)

DECEMBER



FFS - End Of Year Networking Event

[Learn More →](#)

FEBRUARY



Lighting In Greenhouses & Vertical Farms

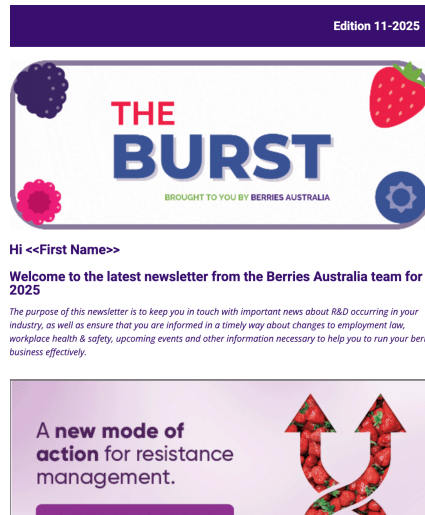
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INFORMATION

NATIONAL

NEWS

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Berries Australia - The Burst December 2025

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RESOURCE

Building a Better NSW

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Free Cyber Security courses

Hello Protected Cropping Australia Ltd

Stop cyber criminals from getting into your business. It's easier, cheaper and far less stressful than trying to fix the damage later.

In just 3 hours, you can learn the essentials of online protection – for free (normally \$140).

Enrol in the Introduction to Cyber Security course from IAT Digital and TAFE NSW and discover how to:

- identify common threats, vulnerabilities and risks
- understand attackers and their motivations
- stay cyber safe.

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NSW Free Cyber Security Course

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RESOURCE



Tomato Potato Psyllid


Fruit and vegetable industry webinar for carrier prod
27 November 2025

Tomato Potato Psyllid Webinar

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS

Media Release



New drone technology takes flight to protect Australian crops

The way Australian horticulture manages bird damage, is about to transform, with drones leading the charge. A new project, funded by Hort Innovation, will work to develop and commercialise a suite of drone-based deterrence solutions to help growers reduce crop and financial losses caused by birds.

Over the next three years, trials will be conducted using fixed-wing and flapping-wing drones across key growing regions, including almonds, summer and pome fruit in the Goulburn Valley, and strawberries in Caboolture.

Led by drone technology specialists AERIUM Analytics, the project will deliver evidence-based, best practice recommendations for growers, tailored to bird species, crop types, operating conditions, and drone configurations. These practices will be designed to support broader adoption across additional crops and regions.

Anthony Kachenko, General Manager Sustainability and Production R&D at Hort Innovation said the investment demonstrated how important technology-driven solutions were to the future of Australian horticulture: "Bird damage is a persistent challenge for growers across Australia. This project brings together cutting-edge drone technology and expert wildlife management to deliver practical, scalable solutions that protect crops, improve productivity and do not harm local bird wildlife."

Delivered in collaboration with Australian industry partners and The University of Adelaide, the project will unlock new opportunities for growers to adopt innovative, non-lethal bird deterrence strategies that are both scalable and environmentally responsible.

Having demonstrated success in international agricultural and aviation settings, AERIUM's RoBird technology, an ornithopter drone that mimics the flight of a Peregrine Falcon, will be deployed alongside complementary deterrence tools. This approach has reduced crop loss by up to 75 per cent in overseas trials and is expected to deliver significant benefits to Australian growers through reduced habituation and improved fruit quality and yield.

Jordan Cicoria, CEO of AERIUM Analytics added: "Our goal is to deliver a practical and scalable bird deterrence solution that integrates seamlessly into growers' operations. By combining advanced drone technology with rigorous field testing, we're confident this project will set a new benchmark for Bird Control in agriculture."

This initiative is funded through Hort Innovation Frontiers and contributions from the

New Drone Techn Takes Flight To Protect Crops

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS

Industry use

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA), having announced the state free of Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV), continues to support industry in accessing interstate markets that have put import requirements in place.


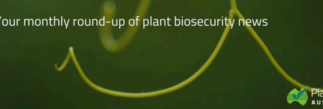
Thank you to everyone who has responded to our requests for information on your market access needs over the Christmas - New Year period. Based on the information you gave us, we understand demand for market access sampling and testing will be low over this time.


The SARDI laboratory that manages most of our testing must close for essential maintenance between 24 December and 5 January, so any urgent testing between those dates will go to another accredited laboratory.

[Learn More →](#)

Tendrils

Your monthly round-up of plant biosecurity news





Message from the CEO

Welcome to the November edition of Tendrils. In this edition, I share highlights from a busy period of national engagement for PHA, including our participation in key biosecurity events, recognition of industry leadership at the Australian Biosecurity Awards, and important updates to the EPPRD and our Constitution. You'll also find a wrap-up of our AGM and 25th anniversary celebrations, along with the release of our 2024-25 Annual Report. It's been a productive month that reflects the strength of our partnerships and the collective effort behind Australian plant biosecurity system.

[Read more](#)

Member meetings

PHA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 26 November 2023. Visit our [website](#) to view the AGM presentation, performance video, and the Chair's address

Board meeting

PHA's Board of Directors convened at the PHA Offices in Canberra for Board Meeting 121 (BM121) on Thursday, 27 November 2023. [Read the minutes](#)

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

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NOVEMBER 2025



REWARDING INNOVATION

**Protecting value across a
complex global market**

BUILDING TRUST

**Finding common ground in
rights and royalties**

STRENGTHENING THE SYSTEM

**How AI and collaboration
can shape the future**

INNOVATION. INTEGRITY. PROTECTION.

Inside The Long Game Of Plant Breeding — Where Patience,
Protection And Partnership Make Progress Possible

MERRY XMAS FROM ROYAL BRINKMAN



With the festive season fast approaching, Brinkman Australia wish to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a happy, safe festive holiday period and Prosperous 2026.

We thank you very much for the support and the trust you place in us as your preferred supplier throughout the year.

It is our pleasure working closely with you. We are excited with what 2026 will bring and look forward to continuing our co-operation with you all in the New Year and beyond.

Brinkman Australia Christmas & New Year Trading

Close: 12:00pm Wednesday 24th December 2025

Re-open: 8:00am Monday 5th January 2026

Final day for despatch/deliveries will be Tuesday 23rd December 2025.

During this peak period please identify/advise your requirements early, orders can be scheduled and delivered on time.



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