



# GROWING UNDERCOVER

FEBRUARY | 2025

## UPDATES

### Projects Update

*Tony Bundock*

#### **PCA at BerryQuest**

This week saw the PCA team participating in the BerryQuest conference in Hobart. This conference was organised by Berries Australia and aimed to bring together the berry growing and the associated trade community in a four-day event. BerryQuest facilitated the showcasing of the latest innovations including growing techniques, research, packaging, export development, biosecurity, labour and marketing.

The PCA team of Project Officer Tony Bundock and board member Zak Iqbal were on hand to man the PCA stand and also network with the growing community to promote the benefits of PCA membership, and also highlight the forthcoming PCA conference to potential trade and grower delegates.

In addition to the trade show the event hosted a packed speaker program that covered a wide range of topics and culminated in a gala dinner and awards night.



# Protected Cropping Australia Conference



28-30 JULY 2025  
ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE

Growing profitably  
and sustainably

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## GROWER UPDATES

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

The Industry Advisory Council (IAC) meets quarterly 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.

Thankyou, Melanie & Job

*Andrew McIlwain*

Recently two of PCA's valued IAC members have stepped off the committee. On behalf of PCA, I personally wanted to express my gratitude to both Job Roskam and Melanie Power for their contributions PCA's Industry Advisory Council over the years. Our association relies on advice and feedback from our industry members to ensure we are appropriately utilising our resources to represent our members best interests.

Job, a long-standing member of the Australian PC industry brought insight from the nursery and ornamental flower sector along with business management advice. Job, I wish you all the best as you embrace retirement and enjoy the time spent cycling.

Melanie, a well-respected industry member in the substrate supply chain, berry and vegetable industry. Melanie's connections to growers allowed PCA to keep in tune with the challenges our grower members are facing. I wish you & your family all the best.

PCA is always looking for members to join the Industry Advisory Committee. If you think you could help to keep PCA informed of what's going on in your part of the industry, we'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to email me your expression of interest, at [an.j.mcilwain@outlook.com](mailto:an.j.mcilwain@outlook.com) .

Wishing you good growing weather.

## EVENTS

### MARCH



Co-located with:  
AGRITECHNICA ASIA

**HortEx**  
VIETNAM 2025

SAVE THE DATE  
**12 - 14 MARCH 2025**  
SECC, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam  
[www.hortex-vietnam.com](http://www.hortex-vietnam.com)

**HortEx**  
COME GROW WITH US!

**AGRI  
TECHNICA  
ASIA**

**12 - 14 March 2025**  
**SECC, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**

The 7th International Exhibition & Conference  
for Horticultural and Floricultural Production and  
Processing Technology in Vietnam

"HortEx Vietnam, together with AGRITECHNICA ASIA, is the largest and  
leading trade exhibition in Southeast Asia, showcasing the entire  
agriculture and horticulture industry"

Horticulture and Floriculture are one of the most promising sectors of the Vietnamese

HortEx Vietnam 2025 - Save The Date

[Learn More →](#)

### MARCH



**National Horticulture Roadshow**

The National Horticulture Roadshow is an initiative to bring together industry experts, growers and the community to share knowledge, showcase new technologies, celebrate the horticulture sector's achievements and foster growth in the industry.  
[More Information](#)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**GATTON - 13 MARCH 2025**

**The Details**  
 The event will take place on Thursday the **13th of March 2025**, and will offer a unique opportunity for industry members to engage with the presenters on basic production concepts, and the latest advancements and innovations in protected cropping production techniques.

**Time:** 1PM - 4PM AEST  
**Date:** 13 March 2025  
**Location:** DPI Gatton Research Facility, 107 John Howie Memorial Drive, Lawes QLD 4343 (Northern side of Warrego Highway)  
**Google maps link:** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/QmErzuanvGAI5Av9>

**Event Highlights**  
**1:00pm - Registration and afternoon tea**

- Welcome and overview of session (PCA)
- Basic Irrigation and fertigation options, and guidelines on management beyond the use of timers - Tony Bundock (PCA)
- Monitoring Pests and Diseases and IPM - Dan Papacek
- Extending cropping to increase productivity (including examples of crops grown at DPI) - Elio Jovicich, Col Douglas, Heidi Wiggenhauser and Gaurav Bhujju
- Pest and disease control - emerging technologies - Jack Kovacevic
- Grower panel - Q & A on IPM usage
- Site walk including practical nutrient testing and distribution uniformity testing - Col Douglas, Tony Bundock, Elio Jovicich, Heidi Wiggenhauser and Gaurav Bhujju

## PCA National Hort Roadshow - Gatton

[Learn More →](#)

## MAY



**AGENTIAL AI AgBio 2025**

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 (ends Oct 31st)

MAY 6-8, 2025 | BITEC, BANGKOK

## AGENTIAL AI AgBio 2025 in Bangkok

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## OCTOBER



## Vertical Farming World Congress 2025

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## MARCH

### WEBINAR WEDNESDAY

UNLOCKING NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES WITH GLOBAL FARMS

**Wednesday the 27th of November at 4:00PM**

Explore how Global Farms is revolutionising market access for farmers and suppliers in the agriculture industry, with Brad Ward. This webinar will cover the benefits of a commission-free platform, designed to provide farmers with practical tools to showcase their brands and products directly to local and international buyers. Learn how Global Farms simplifies technology for farmers, enabling them to connect with primary, secondary, and surplus markets. Discover how Global Farms supports members of Protected Cropping Australia in enhancing market reach, profitability, and sustainability.

Brad Ward is General Manager at Global Farms, a commission-free platform that connects producers with buyers directly. Born and raised in regional New Zealand and over 10 years experience in digital innovation, Brad is passionate about creating sustainable solutions for the agricultural industry and helping farmers achieve better market visibility and fair pricing. Through Global Farms, they aim to bridge the gap between producers and consumers, making the food supply chain more transparent and accessible.

**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 Webinar Wednesday - Exfoliators

Coming Soon

# INFORMATION

NATIONAL

## NEWS



## Autonomous Greenhouse Challenge - 2024 W

[Learn More →](#)

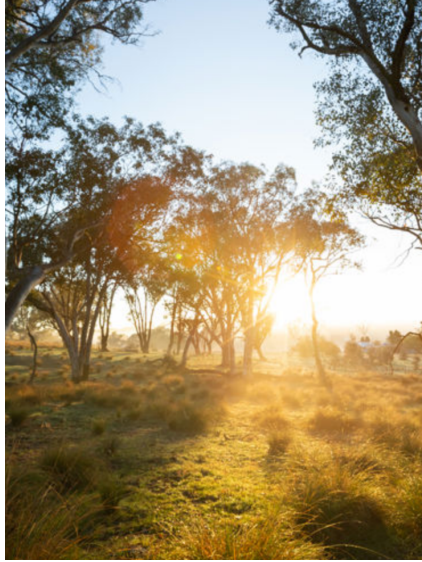
## NEWS



## Biosecurity Response - Red Imported Fire Ants

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## NEWS



Co-Finance Program - CEFC and Rabo Media Release

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## **NEWS**



Findings from the 2024 Global CEA Census

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## **NEWS**



Co-Finance Program - CEFC and NAB Media Release

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## NEWS



VegNET WA - Potential In Protected Cropping

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## NEWS





## Provenance Propagation Save \$50,000 On Energy

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## COURSE



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**Hello Protected Cropping Australia Ltd**

Cyber threats are on the rise. To protect your business from hackers, scammers and online attackers, enrol in the free [Introduction to Cyber Security](#) course from [IAT Digital](#) and [TAFE NSW](#).

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## RESEARCH



NSW CCC - Blueberry Nutrition & Research Update

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## COURSE

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Women's Development Scholarships Available

[Learn More →](#)

## NEWS



Priva & Blue Radix - Collaboration Press Release

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## RESOURCE



The Towards Net Zero Agriculture Pathfinder

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## RESOURCE



CropTalk Podcast With Marco De Bruin

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## RESOURCE



Simple Hydroponic System - A Breakdown

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## RESOURCE



Managing Berries In Extreme Weather - New Guide

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WWW.FLORACULTUREINTERNATIONAL.COM

FEBRUARY 2025

## La Gaitana Farms



AIPH



VALENTINE'S DAY  
**Cut flower industry's biggest event**

WATER MANAGEMENT  
**The challenges and opportunities**

COUNTRY REPORT  
**Creme de la creme of French growers**

## AIPH INTERNATIONAL GROWER OF THE YEAR 2025

Announcing the winners and sharing their stories

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MAY 6-8, 2025



Bangkok, Thailand



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