

Subject: Growing Undercover - June 26

Date: Tuesday, 30 June 2026 at 10:40:53 am Australian Central Standard Time

From: PCA

To: Jade Lewis



GROWING UNDERCOVER

JUNE | 2026

UPDATES

IDO Update

Matt Plunkett

Welcome to the June edition of Growing Undercover.

As another financial year comes to an end, it is important that growers are aware of changes to award rates, employee entitlements and other payroll changes that come into effect from the 1st of July.

The start of a new financial year is a good time to review business operations, review contracts, input pricing and alternate markets for your products where applicable. If you haven't already done so, speak to your accountant and finance professional. Now more than ever, knowing your true costs of production and gaining detailed insight on fixed and variable costs in your business has never been more important.

The PCA Industry Advisory Council met last week to discuss a range of initiatives including planning for our 2027 conference entitled "Growing What's Next." Save the date in your diary for the 26-28th of July and register your interest on the website at www.pca2027.com.au

Several topic areas were discussed for potential inclusion in the conference program including:

- market opportunities and pricing for products
- managing root zone temperatures
- choosing suitable substrates
- crop establishment techniques
- alternate crops
- alternatives to gas for heating

- ag tech innovation including Artificial Intelligence
- empowering the next generation of horticulture leaders.

Many growers, particularly in the eastern states have decommissioned gas supplies and not heating traditional crops this winter. Renewable energy technologies and systems, at scale have not been widely adopted yet or are largely cost prohibitive here in Australia. As Australia pivots to a net zero future, PCA are hoping that our project application with Applied Horticultural Research to the Hort Frontiers fund on energy efficiency will be accepted in the coming month.

Similarly, we are seeing in the high-tech end of our industry adoption of automation equipment including robotic pollination which is now commercially available. That said, we are still a way off having scalable robotic picking solutions with a large amount of research and development progressing in this area both here in Australia and abroad.

And finally, I spoke with a friend who has just returned from North America and Europe studying the circularity of recycling plastic waste in horticulture. Put simply, he stated that in most countries, it had been regulated whereby the producers of plastic materials and products had to provide recycling options to the end user as part of their responsibilities. I look forward to sharing this and many other insights in the future.

Until next time, have a great month and stay safe.

EVENTS

JULY - OCTOBER



GLOBAL EVENTS FOR IFPA MEMBERS

ENGAGE GLOBALLY AND TRANSFORM YOUR BUSINESS

all about **connection!** Global connections for regional impact: whatever your plans for the rest of 2026, we can help get you connected. If you're travelling, reach out before you hop on the plane!

AUSTRALIAN GROWER STUDY TOUR USA

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

open to those employed within or directly connected to the horticulture or fresh produce supply chain

Greetings from
FLORIDA
U.S.A.

A., in partnership with Hort Innovation, invites applications for the inaugural *Australian Grower Study Tour* to Florida this October, closing **10 July 2026**. The program will be held from **17 October 2026**, and will include an opportunity to attend the Global Produce and Horticultural Show. The program will develop leadership capability through international engagement, offering exposure to innovation, technology, and global supply chains. Limited to 10 participants from the Australian horticulture value chain, the program will strengthen horticulture industry leadership, global connections, and innovation.

The project (LP25002) is funded through Hort Innovation Frontiers with co-investment from IFPA and contributions from the Australian Government.

Global Events for IFPA Members

[Learn More →](#)

JULY

PROJECT HUB | RESOURCE LIBRARY | **EXPORT HUB** | NEWS | BQI |



Queensland Strawberry Field Day 2026
29 July
Maroochy Research Station

Queensland Government | Hort Innovation | STRAWBERRY FUND

QLD STRAWBERRY FIELD DAY 2026

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Join fellow strawberry growers for a practical day of learning, networking and sharing knowledge at the Queensland Strawberry Field Day.

Hosted at the Queensland Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Nambour, this event will provide an opportunity to inspect and assess strawberry trial varieties, learn the latest information on pollination, flavour research and emerging technologies.

The program includes practical presentations, a guided field walk with Dr Joanne Hogg, a demonstration of RoBird, the innovative bird deterrent technology currently used in commercial strawberry production. Growers will also hear updates on Varroa and other pests.

COST:

Free for commercial berry growers, QSGA Associate Members and Berry Inc members. All other attendees, please purchase a ticket \$50 per person including lunch.

AGENDA:

QLD Strawberry Field Day - Berries Australia

[Learn More →](#)

OCTOBER

Myplant & Garden Middle East
Save the date: October 21–22–23, 2026
Dubai Exhibition Centre (UAE)



WELCOME

دبي
MYPLANT & GARDEN
Middle East Green Expo

Sectors

- Landscape architecture and urban planning
- Nurseries
- Tools and outdoor furniture
- Machinery, equipment and irrigation
- Flowers and decoration
- Technique and services

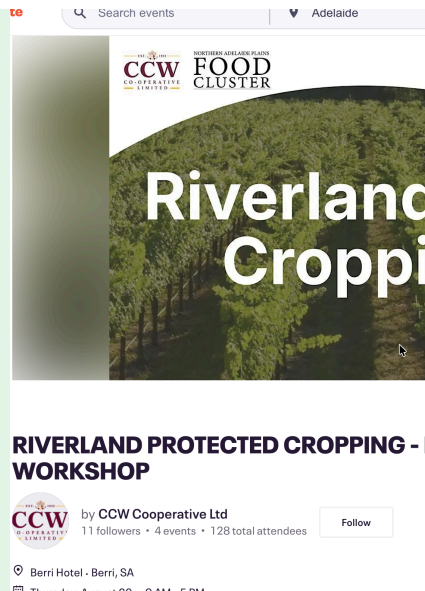
Myplant & Garden Middle East has opened a new chapter for the global green industry. In Dubai, **business, innovation, sustainability, and international networking** came together to create a unique event for the worldwide floriculture and nursery market, as well as for the future of landscape and urban sustainability.

The success of the first edition — the only exhibition in the Middle East dedicated to landscape and ornamental greenery — was made possible

Myplant & Garden Middle East

[Learn More →](#)

AUGUST



Riverland Protected Cropping Expo, SA

[Learn More →](#)

NOVEMBER



Save The Date - Hort Business Summit 2026

[Learn More →](#)

JULY 2027

GROWING WHAT'S NEXT

26-28 JULY 2027 · GOLD COAST · GCCEC

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

LEARN MORE

PCA 2027 Conference - Gold Coast

[Learn More →](#)

INFORMATION

NATIONAL

NEWS



Hi <<First Name>>

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Berries Australia team for 2026

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

Dear <<First Name>>,

Whilst May might be one of the quietest months on the berry production calendar, it is certainly a busy time for politicians with the handing down of the Federal Budget. It is difficult to wade through the detail and the political point scoring to work out which bits actually impact horticulture and agriculture more broadly.

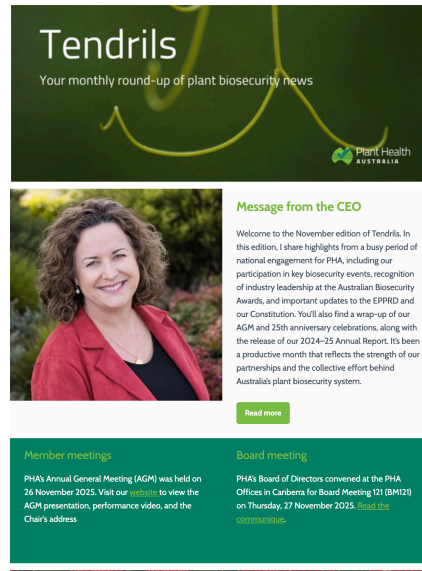
It is encouraging that primary production income will be exempt from the new 30% trust tax, which is critical for an industry built on multi-generational family businesses. The permanent extension of the \$20,000 instant asset write-off is also welcome for our berry businesses with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$10 million, providing certainty for farm businesses looking to invest in equipment and technology.

The National Farmers Federation deserves credit for its advocacy on these two issues.

Berries Australia - The Burst June 2026

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS



PHA - Tendrils Newsletter April 2026

[Learn More →](#)

RESEARCH



Sustainable fertigation in PC - Md Mazadul Islam

[Learn More →](#)

RESOURCES

Reducing plastics and chemicals in NSW's cut flower industry

Through targeted education, extension activities and industry collaboration, this project aims to encourage NSW cut flower growers to adopt more sustainable practices and strengthen their resilience.

This project is being delivered by RMCG on behalf of AgriFutures Australia, with funding from the NSW Government's Storm and Flood Industry Recovery program.

[Click here to access fact sheets](#)

[Click here to access webinar recordings](#)

[Click here to access videos](#)

[Click here to listen to the In Bloom: Tackling Plant Diseases podcast series](#)



Reducing Plastics/Chemicals In Cut Flower Industry

[Learn More →](#)

RESEARCH



Towards Fossil-Free Strawberry Cultivation

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS

The Greenhouse of the Future

Innovation, Sustainability and Reliability in Greenhouse Horticulture

Company News 10 Apr 2026



The greenhouse horticulture sector is on the brink of immediate change. During recent sessions for Achmea colleagues and during a network meeting for the Dutch Food & Flower industry, our vision for the greenhouse of the future.

Hagelunie - The Greenhouse Of The Future

[Learn More →](#)

MEMBER ADVERTISEMENTS

AIPH - FLORACULTURE INTERNATIONAL

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WWW.FLORACULTUREINTERNATIONAL.COM

MAY 2028



AIPH

WORKFORCE PRESSURE

**Why horticulture
must compete harder
for talent**

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**When transparency
becomes
responsibility for
workers**

TECHNOLOGY AND PEOPLE

**How automation and
AI are changing the
work people do**

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE PLANTS

How labour, skills, leadership and technology are
reshaping ornamental horticulture

GSC SUBSIDISED COURSES - WERRIBEE APPLICATIONS NOW
OPEN



Greenhouse Technical Management Course – a Masterclass in Protected Cropping

Delivered By Graeme Smith Consulting

SUBSIDISED COURSES AVAILABLE

Eligibility considerations per applicant:

- Offered to one student per location per year (max 4 locations)
- Must be a current resident of Australia
- Must be < 35-year-old
- Must be actively involved in the Australian protected cropping industry
- Can demonstrate challenges from a background of some disadvantage
- Must agree to write a brief report of training experience for PCA (Protected Cropping Australia)
- Is able to meet the \$500 rebated training fee, plus any extra personal expenses (travel, accommodation, etc)

Location	Date	Training Partner	Applications Open	Applications Close
Werribee, South VIC	6 th - 10 th July 2026	 ACA Australian College of Agriculture & Horticulture EDUCATION TRAINING CONSULTING aca.edu.au	29 May 2026	12 June 2026
Virginia, SA	3 rd - 7 th August 2026	 CITY OF Playford	29 th June 2026	6 th July 2026
Gatton Smart Farm, QLD	7 th - 11 th September 2026	 Queensland Smart Farms	31 st July 2026	7 th August 2026
Hawkesbury Campus, NSW	5 th - 9 th October 2026	 WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY	31 st August 2026	7 th September 2026



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