



GROWING UNDERCOVER

MARCH | 2025

UPDATES

Attend PCA2025 On Us!

Julie Krieger

PCA is thrilled to announce two exciting initiatives designed to make it easier than ever for growers to engage with the industry at PCA's conference...

Free Grower Passes

If you're an existing PCA grower member, you will have received an invitation already to register to attend PCA2025 for free*. You'll need the special registration link contained in the email to secure your free pass, so please reach out to the team if you haven't seen the email.

New Grower Membership & Conference Bundles

In addition, we're excited to launch our **membership & conference bundles**, tailored specifically for grower businesses who are new to PCA. When you join PCA on this new 2-year bundle, you will receive a free registration to the PCA2025 conference. There are individual and corporate packages available. Aside from the opportunity to attend the conference on us, membership gets you access to our great member benefits such as exclusive training resources and industry updates, and access to our new membership platform and community forum. There has never been a better time to join PCA!

These free passes demonstrate our commitment to supporting the protected cropping sector. They are designed to remove barriers and encourage greater participation, learning, and networking across our grower community. Whether you're new to the industry or a seasoned producer, joining PCA and attending our conference are the best ways to stay up-to-date, connect with suppliers, and hear from leading experts.

*Free passes include full conference registration, and welcome reception attendance. Farm tours and other functions are optional and at the grower's expense. Free passes are limited and

will be allocated on a first-in basis.

See you in Adelaide in July!

Protected Cropping Australia Conference	28-30 JULY 2025 ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE	FREE GROWER PASS		
		WHEN YOU PURCHASE 2 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP		
Growing profitably and sustainably	CORPORATE	• 2 years of corporate grower membership	INDIVIDUAL	• 2 years of corporate grower membership
	\$440 + GST	• 2 FREE conference grower passes*	\$100 + GST	• 1 FREE conference grower passes*

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.

EVENTS

OCTOBER



Vertical Farming World Congress 2025

[Learn More →](#)

APRIL



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/QmEwruaryGA5Hy9>

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 Bhujra
- 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 Bhujra

PCA National Hort Roadshow - Gatton

[Learn More →](#)

MAY



AGENTIAL AI AgBio 2025

Join AI transformation in Agritech & Biotech
Understand and leverage AI to reduce labour, increase efficiencies, enhance sales and revenue for your business.

Register Now: agentialai.com

SAVE \$400
 Use promo code: **PCAEB01**
 (ends Oct 31st)

MAY 6-8, 2025 | BITEC, BANGKOK

AGENTIAL AI AgBio 2025 in Bangkok

[Learn More →](#)

APRIL



Webinar - Greenhouse Gas & Reducing Emissions

[Learn More →](#)

APRIL



NFF Future of Hort Science Roadshow - NSW & WA

[Learn More →](#)

APRIL



Berries Australia Trade Update

[Learn More →](#)

Protected Cropping Australia Conference

28-30 JULY 2025
ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE

Growing profitably and sustainably

CONNECT • SHARE • LEARN

INFORMATION

NATIONAL

The banner features a collage of images: a group of people at a conference, a person in a green cap in a field, and a group of people in a field. The PCA logo is also present. The background is a mix of white and dark green with leaf patterns.

NEWS

AgSAFE

AgSAFE logo with hands holding icons related to sustainability and safety.

Newsletter - February 2025

bagMUSTER collection sites are now open!

We're excited to announce that bagMUSTER collection sites are starting to open across west Victoria, giving farmers and growers the opportunity to start recycling their eligible single-use polypropylene (PP) bags. If you're in west Victoria, we encourage you to check if there's a collection site in your area by visiting the bagMUSTER website.

For those outside of this phase 1 corridor, bagMUSTER will continue expanding. In the meantime, visit our website to learn more about the program, how it works, and how you can get involved. Together, we're making a difference by ensuring 100% of collected bags are recycled right here in Australia.

A map of West Victoria, Australia, showing the locations of bagMUSTER collection sites marked with black dots.

Agsafe Newsletter - February 2025

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS



Biosecurity Response - Red Imported Fire Ants

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS

Wednesday, March 26, 2025 ProJoules knows

[Vacancies](#) [Photos](#) [Calendar](#) [Contact](#)

New 20-hectare greenhouse s to be built in Australia

Goodness Grown is constructing a 20-hectare high-tech greenhouse, delivering a consistent supply of premium gourmet and Roma tomatoes w setting new benchmarks in efficiency, sustainability, and innovation in Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA).

At the heart of the development is an advanced greenhouse designed to optimize plant growth and productivity in all seasons. The structure incorporates low-iron diffused glass with double anti-reflective coatings, allowing plants to thrive even under the intense Australian summer sun w maximizing light penetration in winter. This ensures consistently high-qual yields year-round.

A 1MW solar energy system will provide renewable power from day one, w significant progress has been made toward establishing an onsite bioener plant. This facility is expected to convert local dairy and food waste into biogas for heating and CO₂ enrichment within the greenhouse, enhancing productivity while reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Once operational, this system will play a critical role in cutting emissions, repurposing agriculture products, driving circularity, and supporting a carbon-neutral production model.

Horti-Daily - New 20-Hectare Greenhouse

[Learn More →](#)

RESOURCE



US: Michigan State University launches series of videos to aid crop protection

The MSU Extension Floriculture Team has announced the release of a new educational video series designed to help greenhouse growers transition to biological control for managing pests in spring floriculture crops. This five-part series serves as an accessible, beginner-friendly resource for those looking to integrate biologically based pest management techniques into their operations.

A practical, grower-focused learning experience

This educational series focuses on biological control strategies specifically managing western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*), one of the most persistent pests in greenhouse floriculture production. The videos feature valuable insights from experienced Michigan greenhouse growers who have successfully implemented biological control programs. Viewers will not only hear firsthand accounts from these experts but also see real-life demonstrations of application techniques, offering an in-depth look at how these methods work in commercial greenhouse settings.



Horti-Daily - Series of Videos to Aid Crop Protection

[Learn More →](#)

RESOURCE



Internal Fruit Rot of Capsicum

Internal fruit rot is a significant disease affecting capsicum production, often remaining undetected until it reaches consumers, leading to complaints and reduced confidence in the product. The *Rot of Capsicum* project investigated this issue through disease surveys, pathogen identification, management trials, and postharvest studies in Australia.

In this webinar, hosted by SWICP, the VG17012 project team—Dr. Jenny Ekman, Dr. Diplock, and Ryan Hall discussed key findings from the project, including pathogen identification, management strategies, and future recommendations for mitigating internal fruit rot.



Webinar Recording - Internal Fruit Rot of Capsicum

[Learn More →](#)

RESOURCE



March 2025

Free telemetry devices
Sign up now before time runs out!



Hurry registrations close 31 March 2025!

Did you know that if you have more than 100 ML of water entitlement nominated to your works approval, your meter needs to be telemetered?

Landholders in the Murray-Darling Basin – this is your chance to get a **FREE** telemetry device and installation to simplify water management.

Benefits from opting into the free **Telemetry Uplift Program**

- no up front cost—purchase, installation and 12 months warranty is fully funded by the Australian Government

NSW Water - Free Telemetry Devices - Sign Up Now

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS



Dear Julie,

Program update: bagMUSTER officially launched and future plans

Plastic packaging is critical for the safe transport, use, and storage of agricultural products like fertiliser, seed, grain, stock feed, and pet food. However, 45,000 tonnes of soft plastic is used in Australian agriculture each year, with only 12% currently recycled. To tackle this growing challenge, a dedicated collection and recycling program is essential, particularly for hard-to-reach farming areas.

That's why we're excited to share a major milestone in the bagMUSTER journey! On 6 March 2025, CropLife Australia and the Australian Seed Federation (ASF) officially launched the program in Ballarat, bringing together industry partners, participants, and stakeholders. This event marked a significant step forward in how the agricultural industry manages single-use plastic waste, ensuring that 100% of collected bags are recycled right here in Australia.



BagMuster Program Officially Launched

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS

In the spotlight



SoilWealth - ICP - March 2025 Newsletter

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS



New crops, same result for Bundy's 'Lucky Ray'

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS

TAFE Students Get Smart With Farming In Sunraysia

Wednesday 26 March 2025

Horticulture students in Sunraysia are growing almonds and avocados working smarter, not harder, with support from the Allan Labor Government.

Minister for Skills and TAFE Gayle Tierney today officially opened the redeveloped SuniTAFE SMART Farm campus in Cardross, made possible by a \$3.9 million investment from the Labor Government.

The Labor Government's \$2 million investment to upgrade facilities such as a new potting shed with automated seeding and potting machines, a modular farm for controlled climate cropping with hydroponics, new irrigation systems, and upgraded hydraulic valves.

More crops have been planted including patches of almonds, olives, tall grapes, citrus and avocados, further cementing Sunraysia's renowned reputation as Australia's horticultural food bowl.

In addition, SuniTAFE received \$1.9 million through the Agriculture TAFE and Training Fund for its 'Protective Cropping - Building an Industry Workforce' project. This initiative supports training in protected cropping.

TAFE Students Get Smart With Farming In Sunraysia

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS



Dear Matt Plunkett,

This week, we delve into the data-driven future of horticulture, how advanced greenhouse sensors optimise LED lighting for higher yields. Also, tune into our podcast where we connect these innovations in the exciting world of new crop cultivation, revealing the practical cutting-edge technology.



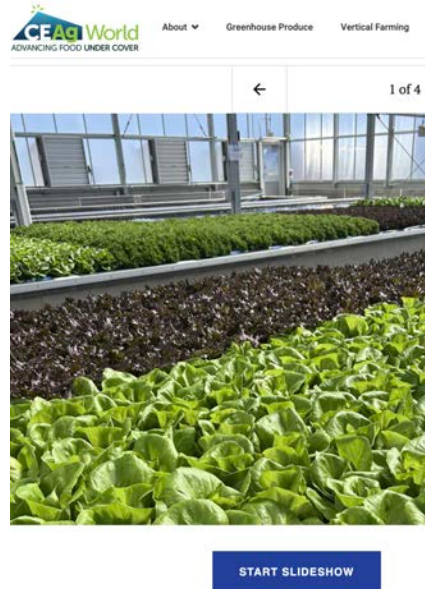
How to get even better results with your LED lighting

Due to rising energy prices and the ambition of many companies to become more sustainable, more and more growers are switching to LED lighting. Although LED lamps require an investment, they also offer considerable energy savings. Find out how to get the most out of your greenhouse, to lower your costs and maximise results.

GreenTech - Monthly Newsletter

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS



CEA Leafy Crops Event - Takeaways

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS



Hard Truths - Achieving Greenhouse Success

[Learn More →](#)

PROGRAM

Supporting horticulture to navigate the carbon space

As a horticultural grower you may have heard about:

- the opportunity to diversify your income by generating carbon credit projects and selling these offsets in carbon markets
- a range of confusing terms including sequestration, mitigation and ir
- concerns that carbon account reporting might simply be part of a br

A new Carbon Outreach project, delivered by the Department of Primary been established to provide independent information about what is happ

Project Lead Liz King said, "It was important that producers had access to them make an informed decision about their involvement in carbon farmir as steps they might take to decarbonise their businesses."

Key messages for primary producers:

1. A range of industry specific calculators are available free on the inte
2. Producers with basic farm records at hand should be able to calcula account and carbon intensity of their produce in 10-15 minutes.

The project team has developed a six-part video series covering:

- [Why report on my carbon?](#)
- [Climate science update](#)
- [What's my carbon number?](#)

QLD - Farm Resillience program

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS



Horticulture Happenings



The latest horticulture technology insights!



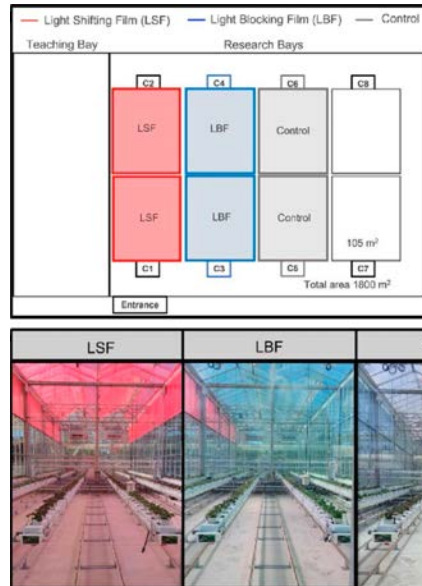
March 20, 2025

This year's theme 'Passion' embodies our unlimited commitment to people, and technology, driving innovation across the horticulture se upcoming newsletters, the passion within horticulture worldwide will highlighted from different angles to facilitate collaboration within the This time, we focus on the horticultural developments in Asia and th

The Latest Horticulture Technology Insights

[Learn More →](#)

RESEARCH



Optimal Energy-Efficient Shade Screen

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MARCH 2025

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service for growers
and consumers**

IRAN LILY GROWERS

**Resilience amid a
challenging business
environment**

EXPO-SURE

**Reviews of recent
Dutch and Italian
trade shows**

COUNTRY REPORT

Industry insights and innovations from Thailand



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