



GROWING UNDERCOVER

MAY | 2025

UPDATES

Behind The Scenes

Julie Krieger

Big News for Protected Cropping Growers...

Australia is officially shifting from eradication to management of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV) — a change long advocated by PCA and our members.

"This outcome reflects what can be achieved when industry unites around a common goal," said Andrew Tout, Chair of PCA. "Growers have stood up, contributed time and resources, and brought practical on-farm knowledge into the national policy space."

This marks a more practical, evidence-based approach that puts grower experience and industry resilience at the centre.

"Growers have real skin in the game. They understand the risks and know how to manage viruses effectively on-farm." Says Michael Simonetta (Perfection Fresh).

We're proud to have led this advocacy work — and grateful to the growers, businesses, and stakeholders who made it possible.

Stay tuned as we continue to work on clear guidance and support for the next phase. [Read More.](#)

Projects Update

Tony Bundock

Last Friday the RMCG group delivered an IPM workshop which focused on reducing chemical use in the New South Wales cut flower industry, which was kindly hosted by Brimstone Waratahs, at their site at The Oaks, NSW, 2570.

The workshop itself was designed to Inform and upskill growers to manage pest and disease issues using an integrated approach (leading to a reduction in chemical use) and also advise on best practice chemical use and storage.

Presenters at the event included three well known industry identities, namely:

- Assoc. Prof Robert Spooner-Hart - Western Sydney University,
- Dr. Len Tesoriero - Crop Doc Consulting
- Tony Bundock MEd - Protected Cropping Australia | Genesis Horticulture
- Acting as MC for the event was Jesse Clune of RMCG group.
- The event was well attended with 15 growers and industry representatives on site.

Robert and Len opened the event with a presentation providing an introduction to IPDM, common pest and diseases, and their management, which then transitioned into a scouting field walk to take a practical look at the issues being faced by Gordon and the team at Brimstone Waratahs. This provided an excellent opportunity for the participants to examine first hand some specific disease and pest issues, and the control measures that could be utilised.

The event then proceeded with a presentation by Tony on chemical use and safe handling practices, and how an integrated pest management approach can utilise chemical applications as a control measure.

To further assist the growers, Garden City Plastics had kindly donated a number of 0.5 litre measuring jugs which the growers were able to take away with them from the event.

The day concluded with a bbq and networking session. There are plans for additional workshops in the next couple of months and these will be widely advertised.





CONFERENCE

Protected Cropping Australia Conference



CONNECT • SHARE • LEARN

28-30 JULY 2025
ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE

Growing profitably
and sustainably

REGISTER

Protected Cropping Australia Conference

Register Your
Attendance Now!

FULL REGISTRATION*	EARLYBIRD AVAILABLE UNTIL 1st APRIL 2025	STANDARD STARTS FROM 2nd APRIL 2025
PCA MEMBER	\$790	\$870
HFF MEMBER	\$920	\$995
NON MEMBER	\$1,020	\$1,100
STUDENT MEMBER	\$485	\$580
STUDENT NON-MEMBER	\$525	\$630

Register Now

[Learn More →](#)

PROGRAM

	Registration Open (arrival tea and coffee)	
07.00am – 8.00am	Sponsored Breakfast – Warren Davies – The I	
From 8.00am	Exhibition Open	
8.30am – 8.45am	Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country (C Session Chair: Andrew Tout (PCA Chair)	
8.45am – 8.55am	Opening Address: TBC Session Chair: Zak Iqbal (PCA Conference Chair)	
8.50am – 9.00am	Naming Rights Sponsor Address TBC	
9.00am – 10.30am	Keynote Panel Presentations & Panel: Godfrey Dol – (Virtual) Van Der Hoeven & Gla Levi Nupponen – Agrology Pty Ltd	
10.30am – 11.10am	Morning Tea and Exhibition	
11.10am – 12.45pm	Concurrent Sessions	
	Ag Tech (Robotics, AI, Automation)	CI
	Hall C	Hi
12.10pm – 12.45pm	Grower Panel discussion - Growing Profitably Session Chair: Jack Mooney, Giacomo Pippo, J	
12.45pm – 1.45pm	Lunch and Exhibition Open	
1.00pm - 1.45pm	Young Researcher R&D Presentations (spons Session Chair SP Singh	
1.45pm – 3.00pm	Concurrent Sessions	
	Building Resilient Profitable Businesses	Fc
	Hall C	Hi
3.00pm – 3.35pm	Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus Panel Disci Session Chair: Andrew Tout, Dr Len Tesoriero,	
3.35pm – 4.15pm	Afternoon Tea and Exhibition	
4.15pm – 5.30pm	Concurrent Sessions	
	IPDM & Biosecurity	Pc
	Hall C	Hi

Program Out Now

[Learn More →](#)

SPEAKERS

PCA 2025

ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE



Tristan Kitchener



Warren Davies



Levi Nupponen



Godfrey Dol



Lee Stiles

Meet Our Speakers

[Learn More →](#)

Protected Cropping Australia Conference

28-30 JULY 2025

ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE

Growing profitably and sustainably

FREE GROWER PASS

WHEN YOU PURCHASE 2 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

CORPORATE

\$440 + GST

- 2 years of corporate grower membership
- 2 FREE conference grower passes*

INDIVIDUAL

\$100 + GST

- 2 years of corporate grower membership
- 1 FREE conference grower passes*

EVENTS

OCTOBER



Vertical Farming World Congress 2025

[Learn More →](#)

JULY

Protected Cropping Australia Conference

28-30 JULY 2025
ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE
Growing profitably and sustainably

CONNECT • SHARE • LEARN

Last Chance to Secure the Earlybird Rates!

Final opportunity to take advantage of the Earlybird rates, ending 1 May 2025! [Register at pca2025.com](https://pca2025.com)

Conference: Monday 28 July - Wednesday 30 July 2025
Post-Conference Farm Tours: Thursday 31 July 2025

[VIEW THE PROGRAM](#) [SPONSORSHIP & EXHIBITION](#)

The rates below are only available until 1st May 2025.

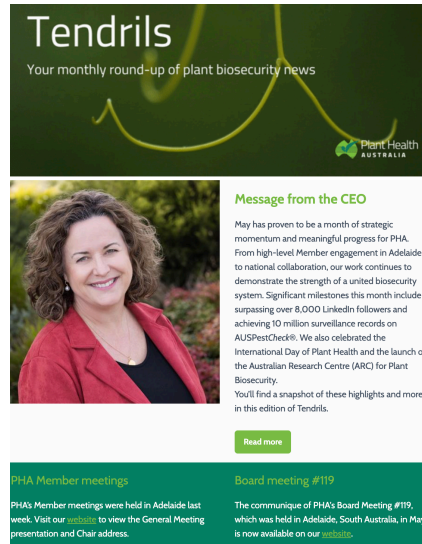
FULL REGISTRATION*	EARLYBIRD AVAILABLE UNTIL 1st MAY 2025	STANDARD STARTS FROM 2nd MAY 2025
PCA MEMBER	\$790	\$870
HFF MEMBER	\$920	\$995
NON MEMBER	\$1,020	\$1,100
STUDENT MEMBER	\$485	\$580
STUDENT NON-MEMBER	\$525	\$630

PCA2025 - Earlybird Closing Soon

[Learn More →](#)

AUGUST

NEWS



Plant Health Australia - Tendrils May 25

[Learn More →](#)

RESOURCE



Can Far-Red Light Boost Growth In Lettuce

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS



OME ▾ ENERGY OPTIONS ▾ CASE STUD

Growing horticulture protected cropping

Published - 16 May 2025 By [Alessio Scalisi, Agriculture Victoria](#)



Growing Horticulture Through PC Innovation

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS



Have Your Say - The Future Of Food & Fibre Education

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS



The National Vegetable Protected Cropping Centre

[Learn More →](#)

MEMBER ADVERTISEMENTS

AIPH - FLORACULTURE INTERNATIONAL

fci

WWW.FLORACULTUREINTERNATIONAL.COM

MAY 2025



UNITED KINGDOM: POLICY TAKES ROOT

**Peat bans drive urgency—
and innovation**

EUROPE: ONE GOAL, MANY PATHS

**How different countries are
rethinking substrates**

COLOMBIA: SOIL-FREE SUCCESS

**Refining the model of
alternative substrates**

THE SUBSTRATE SHIFT

The transition to sustainable substrates is transforming
the ground rules of global production



[Unsubscribe](#)

Protected Cropping Australia
PO Box 470, Roseville

Sydney, Australia
+61 2 9037 3166
admin@protectedcropping.net.au