



# GROWING UNDERCOVER

OCTOBER | 2024

## UPDATES

### New Membership System & Categories

#### Grower Individual, and Grower Corporate

Members, don't forget to log in and ensure all your details are up to date! Take some time to explore the new platform and discover the exciting features we've introduced.

For our subscribers, be sure to check out our newly updated membership options and find the one that best suits your needs!

If you haven't received your login details via email or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at: [admin@protectedcropping.net.au](mailto:admin@protectedcropping.net.au)

[JOIN NOW](#)

[LOG IN](#)

## Behind The Scenes

*Julie Krieger*

We are excited to introduce our brand new membership categories for growers: Grower Individual and Grower Corporate. This initiative is designed to ensure we reduce any barriers to membership so that we can hear, and represent more voices from the sector. These categories bring significantly reduced fees: Individual growers can now join for just \$50 p/a, while corporate growers can secure their membership - inclusive of up to 5 employees under the one membership - for \$220

The recent ToBRFV (Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus) challenge has highlighted the importance of having strong representation. The more growers we have on board, the louder and more influential our voice becomes when it comes to tackling key issues and advancing policies that benefit the entire sector.

With your membership, you'll also have the opportunity to engage in community discussions via our new online forum, collaborate on solutions,

p/a. Existing grower members will automatically have their fees amended at next renewal.

By joining PCA, you'll gain access to exclusive resources, including the latest industry updates, technical advice, networking opportunities, and training programs. More importantly, you'll be part of a collective voice that advocates for growers across Australia.

## Projects

*Tony Bundock*

On Thursday the 10th of October, PCA joined forces with the Victorian Hydroponic Farmers Federation (HFF) to host a Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus grower information day. The event was hosted by Agriculture Victoria at the AgriBio centre in Bundoora, Melbourne. The day was well attended and included a 'behind the scenes' tour of the research facility and the current work being undertaken there. This was led by Dr Fiona Constable and Prof Brendan Rodoni.

Following the tour the participants were treated to some very informative presentations which included the following:

- Update on the ToBRFV response – *Dr Stephen Dibley*
- ToBRFV – Biology, prevention and overseas outbreaks – *Dr Fiona Constable*
- Tomato Potato Psyllid area freedom response – *Lavinia Zimsak*
- ToBRFV awareness session, overseas experiences, hygiene best practice and seed development – *Darren Wood (Bayer)*

and shape the future of protected cropping in Australia. Together, we can ensure the sustainability, growth, and protection of our industry.

Now is the time to get involved! Take advantage of these reduced membership fees and join PCA as we work to represent and strengthen the grower community.

PCA Chair Andrew Tout was on hand to provide feedback on the latest industry awareness and response, which included an update on the PCA application to join Plant Health Australia and the deed development.

***“It’s always great to have direct interaction with our members and the wider Industry, and running this event in partnership with the HFF was a very positive step” said Andrew.***

***“Although our organizations are slightly different in that the HFF is state based and the PCA is National, on these matters it’s really great to see that we work as one” said HFF President John Elford.***

The event was also live streamed to allow interstate members to participate in the information sessions.





## GROWER UPDATES

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

The Industry Advisory Council (IAC) meets every second month 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.

### Angus Murray

IAC

With over seven years of experience in the cannabis industry and fifteen in horticulture, Angus is a cultivation manager at Cann Group, Australia's first licensed producer of medicinal cannabis. Angus oversees the cropping schedule, glasshouse environmental controls and irrigation strategies. With his team at Cann Group Mildura, Angus delivers year-round production of cannabis plants, through to finished flower, in compliance with regulatory and environmental standards. Angus is also involved in commercial phase breeding line assessment and genetic improvement of cannabis varieties. Using cutting-edge techniques and technologies in a world class hybrid semi-closed glasshouse Angus is passionate about everything people, plants, and procedure in controlled environment agriculture.

<https://angus-murray.carrd.co/>





# Josh Pirrone

IAC

Josh Pirrone is the Production Manager at Pirrone Brothers - a family run business in Ayr, North Queensland. A portion of the business moved into Greenhouse farming 6 years ago and have enjoyed the journey since. To this day, the brothers pride themselves on delivering you top quality vegetables with a great deal of passion and effort. Pirrone Brothers now grow multiple vegetable lines such as zucchini, eggplant, capsicum and cucumber, and look to develop great relationships with their customers and local community.

## EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

Sponsorship & Exhibitor Packages selling quickly \*\*\*  
BerryQuest International 2025 will be held 24-27 February 2025 at the West Point Hotel Casino, Hobart including 2 days of farm tours to both north and south growing regions.

The conference offers a unique opportunity to promote your company and market your products and services to growers, wholesalers, marketers, retailers, researchers, nursery, and allied trade suppliers across the Australian berry industries.

Don't miss out - secure your Sponsorship or Exhibitor package today online  
<https://lnkd.in/g/wxtUikn>



BerryQuest International Packages

Learn more →

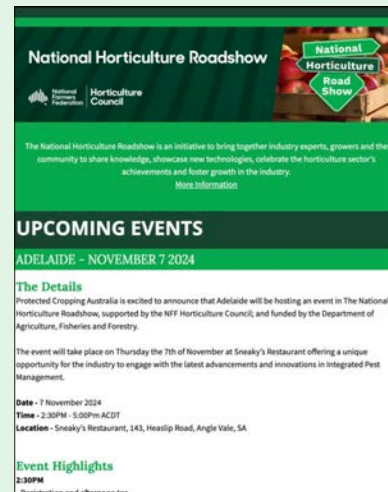
### FEBRUARY



Greenlife Conference - Early Bird Tickets

Learn more →

### NOVEMBER



NFF Hort Roadshow - Adelaide

Learn more →

### FEBRUARY

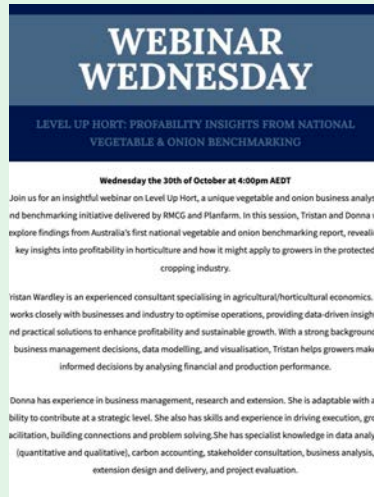
### OCTOBER

### MAY



## Greenlife Industry Australia Conference

Learn more →



## Webinar - Level Up Hort Profitability

Learn more →



## AGENTIAL AI AgBio 2025 in Bangkok

Learn more →

## NOVEMBER



## Rethink Food Challenge - Register

Learn more →

# INFORMATION

## NATIONAL

### RESOURCE

### RESOURCE

### RESOURCES

Here is what you need to know

# New horticulture standards

If your business grows or processes (packs) berries, leafy vegetables or melons, new food safety standards may apply from 12 February 2025.

FOOD STANDARDS  
Australia • New Zealand  
Te Mātauranga Kai • Antipodians ke Aotearoa

## New Horticulture Food Safety Standards

Learn more →

## NEWS

Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry

Agriculture and land      Biosecurity and trade

Home / Biosecurity and trade / Export / Controlled export goods / Plants and plant products / Export

Industry Notices

2024  
2023  
2022  
2021

### 2024-54: Horticulture – S to New Zealand

23 August 2024

Purpose

This Industry Advice Notice (IAN) is to advise industry to the detection of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV).

Summary of changes and key points

- The New Zealand National Plant Protection Organisation effective as of 24 August 2024, the export of all tomatoes is suspended.
- Commodities affected:
  - Tomatoes (*Solanum lycopersicum*, also known as tomato)
- MiCoK has been updated to reflect the suspension.
- New Zealand have undertaken to review this decision.

**IMPORTANT:** Consignments of tomatoes that have recently been permitted for export to New Zealand.

## Tomato Exports to NZ Suspended

Learn more →

## COURSE

QFVG QUEENSLAND FRUIT & VEGETABLE GROWERS

# 30% OFF

EXCLUSIVELY FOR YOU

QFVG continues to support the Queensland horticulture industry understand recent IR changes and provide practical guidance on what they mean for your agribusiness.

We've recently updated a range of products within our Workplace Relations Shop, including:

- Parental Leave Kit
- Casual Conversion Kit
- Contractor Agreement Kit
- Family & Domestic Violence Leave Kit
- Recruitment Kit
- Right to Disconnect Information Sheet


## QFVG - 30% Off For PCA Members

Learn more →

## NEWS

## PCA ToBRFV UPDATE

26/09/2024



Following a call from a concerned CEA grower yesterday evening, I am writing to provide an update on the Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV) outbreak and the efforts being undertaken across Australia to combat this threat. The situation is critical for the Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) sector.

communication highlights the importance of our involvement in the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP) and consolidates the various actions, meetings, advocacy, and responses that have occurred over the last few months. Despite a lack of visibility in some security measures, PCA has been at the forefront of efforts, advocating strongly for the interests of growers while coordinating with national and state bodies. This letter includes the roles played by our stakeholders and government entities in shaping biosecurity responses and outlines PCA's next steps in addressing this challenge and ongoing reassurance of a coordinated approach."

[READ THE UPDATE](#)

## PCA Update - 26/09/2024

Learn more →

## NEWS

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### TOMATO BROWN RUGOSE FRUIT VIRUS DETECTED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Biosecurity Advice

Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV) is a devastating virus that affects tomatoes and other plants in the Solanaceae family. It is highly contagious and can spread through contact with infected plants, insects, and contaminated tools. The virus causes symptoms such as leaf curling, yellowing, and stunted growth, which can significantly reduce yields and quality. Growers should be vigilant in monitoring their crops for signs of infection and take immediate action if detected. Biosecurity measures include isolating infected plants, using clean tools, and avoiding movement of plants between sites. For more information, visit the Queensland Government website.

Basic Hygiene Practices


Information Sheet

## PCA Hygiene & Information Resources

Learn more →

## NEWS

Edition 9-2024



Hi <<First Name>>

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Berries Australia team for 2024

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

**IN THIS EDITION**

Dear <<First Name>>,

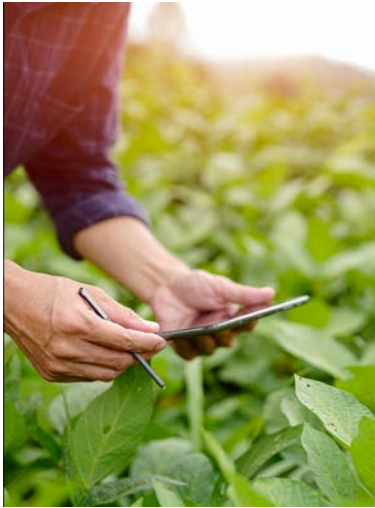
Welcome to the September edition of The Burst. I appreciate this is a busy time of year for many of you and I hope you are reaping the rewards of your hard work.

The Berries Australia Board met earlier this month and the committees will be taking the next steps towards greater consolidation in the near future. The **FIB AGMs will be held in the next few weeks** and these changes will be discussed. Please keep an eye out for the official AGM notices. The AGMs will be held online to ensure all growers can attend if they wish.

## The Burst Newsletter - September 2024

Learn more →


## NEWS



## PHA Mobile Pest Reporting Course

[Learn more →](#)

## NEWS



**AGRICULTURE VICTORIA**

**Biosecurity Update**

**Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus**

28 August 2024

Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV) is a highly infectious plant virus that can affect tomato and capsicum production, reducing yields in affected crops up to 70%.

On 18 August 2024, South Australia advised that ToBRFV was confirmed at two commercial properties in the Northern Adelaide Plains region. The impacted businesses are currently operating under biosecurity requirements aimed at preventing the virus spreading from facilities whilst the full extent of the detection is being determined.

Agriculture Victoria is aware of the situation and is working closely with Biosecurity South Australia, and other state biosecurity agencies, to determine whether the virus has spread. Any linkages to Victoria will be investigated to understand the risk to our producers.

Symptoms of the disease in tomato and capsicum fruits include yellow spots, brown wrinkled patches, and deformation/weeping. Symptoms on leaves include mottled/vein clearing, deformation and puckering, as well as wilting.

The risk of entry and spread of ToBRFV can be reduced through production systems by ensuring staff and visitors comply with on-site biosecurity and hygiene practices such as:

1. Avoiding unnecessary visits and contact with crops
2. Reducing equipment and materials shared between facilities, such as reusable plastic fruit crates
3. Monitor crops for disease symptoms
4. Disinfect tools, propagating material, and equipment.

If you suspect the presence of ToBRFV in crops in Victoria, please report this to Agriculture Victoria using the online reporting form at <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/reporttostructure>. Reports can also be made by calling the DCECA Customer Contact Centre at 136 188 or the Exotic Plant Pest Helpline at 1800 084 881.

Any Victorian businesses with questions on international trade and reports should contact the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry at [tostructure@df.gov.au](mailto:tostructure@df.gov.au). Any businesses with questions about domestic trade can contact Agriculture Victoria at [market.access@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:market.access@agriculture.vic.gov.au).

For more information on ToBRFV please visit the Agriculture Victoria website [agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/plant-diseases/vegetable-diseases/tomato-brown-rugose-fruit-virus](https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/plant-diseases/vegetable-diseases/tomato-brown-rugose-fruit-virus)

## Agriculture VIC Biosecurity Update

[Learn more →](#)

## NEWS



## Horticulture Happenings



October 1, 2024

### The latest horticulture technology insights!

GreenTech is shining a spotlight on the transitions happening in the w With numerous challenges such as climate change, water scarcity, an for more sustainable practices, the current food production systems a greatly affected. In a series of articles, we will delve into the challenge opportunities of these transitions in the horticulture industry. Check o

## Greentech New LinkedIn Newsletter

[Learn more →](#)

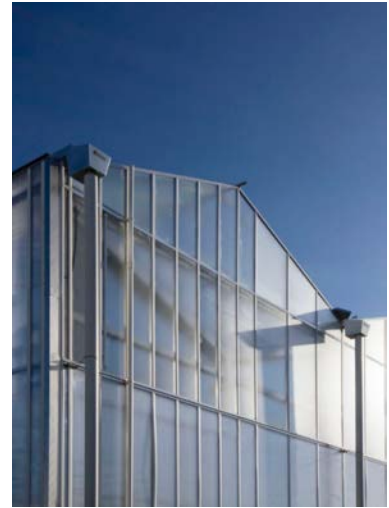
## NEWS



## APVMA Final Regulatory Decision - Chlorpyrifos

[Learn more →](#)

## NEWS



## Greenhouse of 2040 - Sustainable Innovation

[Learn more →](#)

## RESOURCE



**Free workplace mental health training**



**Hello Protected Cropping Australia Ltd**

A mentally healthy workplace boosts productivity and an employee's wellbeing. To help support workplace mental health, **SafeWork NSW** and the **Black Dog Institute** are offering free mental health training to eligible businesses.

There are 3 evidence-based programs for you and your team to choose from:

- Leading a Mentally Healthy Workplace
- Managing for Team Wellbeing
- Your Mental Health at Work

Over 49,000 individuals have completed the training. See how your workplace can also benefit from learning practical strategies to support mental health at work.

[Check eligibility and register](#)

## NSW - Workplace Mental Health Training

[Learn more →](#)

## NEWS

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

NSW GOVERNMENT BIOSECURITY UPDATE



reduce the risk of ToBRFV entering the state, NSW has issued a **Control Order** - which prevents the movement of risk items, including tomatoes, capsicums and chillies, from infested properties into the state.

Restrictions, including testing and surveillance, are required from properties that are linked to infested properties. Unlinked properties can continue to trade as normal.

[READ THE UPDATE](#)

## NSW Government Biosecurity Update

[Learn more →](#)

## RESOURCE



**Level Up Hort**  
Link - Learn - Leverage

**Level Up Your Farming Business**

Every business has a vision—whether it's growth, maximising profits, or both. To transform that vision into reality, it's crucial to understand the key drivers of success.

Level Up Hort is here to help you identify and leverage these critical elements to achieve your goals. Are you looking to boost your profits and strengthen the resilience of the vegetable industry in Australia?

Let us guide you on your path to success.

[Link](#)

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[leveluphort.com.au](https://leveluphort.com.au)



## Level Up Your Farming Business

[Learn more →](#)


## NEWS



## Bumble Bees In Tasmania

[Learn more →](#)

## NEWS



## Grower Saves \$6,000 On Energy Costs

[Learn more →](#)


## NEWS



## Berry & Grape Growers Ebrace The Latest Tech

[Learn more →](#)

## RESEARCH




**Future Food Systems**  
3,517 followers  
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Habitat interventions to support wild insect pollinators production systems.

In an **#FFSCRC** collaborative research project with the **England (AU)**, PhD student, Jelena Preradovic, with int supervisor, Dr **Romina Rader**, will test the efficacy of tl nesting substrates (manure, raspberry roots in discard raspberry canes) in supporting wild pollinator flower vi: efficiency and fruit quality in the zone of the Varroa mit NSW.

To learn more about the research team and for project visit: [https://lnkd.in/gwd5F\\_5y](https://lnkd.in/gwd5F_5y)

[#wildpollinators](#) [#agriculture](#) [#protectedcropping](#) <#>



**Supporting wild pollinators in p**  
[futurefoodsystems.com.au](https://futurefoodsystems.com.au)

## Supporting Wild Pollinators In PC

[Learn more →](#)

## NEWS



15 October 2024

**Industry update: Tomato brown rugose fruit virus response in South Australia**

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) continues to respond to the detection of Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) in the Northern Adelaide Plains.

**Current situation**

PIRSA is becoming confident that it has determined the extent of the virus, although we will continue with surveillance and tracing.

Three businesses are still confirmed with ToBRFV in South Australia and are under quarantine to prevent the spread of virus from those properties. 14 properties have now been advised that ToBRFV has **not** been detected in their test samples.

We have now received test results for over 3,000 samples and our Case Managers will continue to contact businesses with results as they come in.

**Are you waiting on results?**

We would like to remind growers who have had samples taken and are waiting on results, that if you plan to remove or destroy tomato or capsicum plant material, it is important you let us know before you do this. Let us know by contacting our Incident Controller on [8429.0135](tel:8429.0135).

In some instances, if an inconclusive test result is received we may need to collect



**Protecting Cherries From Adverse Climates**

[Learn more →](#)



**Protected Cropping Australia**

Free Profile Registration Form

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First Name  Last Name

Company Name

E-mail  Phone Number

example@example.com Area Code Phone Number

Product Category

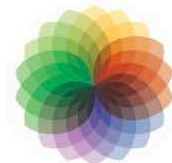
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# MEMBER ADVERTISEMENTS

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OCTOBER 2024



GREENHOUSE 4

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FLOWERTRIALS CHAPTER 2

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On the eve of IFTF's rose showcase,  
FCI takes the pulse of the industry

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## Member Update

HAIFA - DOWN UNDER NEWSLETTER



**Haifa** **DownUnder**  
YOUR LATEST SPECIAL BULLETIN FROM HAIFA AUSTRALIA

- ▶ Calls to ramp up precision ag
- ▶ The benefits of foliar feeding
- ▶ Maximising Sunraysia citrus productivity

**PLUS MUCH MORE**

**CLICK TO READ ONLINE**

**Global call to fast-track precision ag, sustainable practices**

**Haifa** SPECIAL BULLETIN FROM HAIFA AUSTRALIA

October 2022

AGENTIAL AI AGBIO - EXCLUSIVE PCA MEMBER \$400 DISCOUNT



Supporting Association



# AGENTIAL AI AgBio

# 2025

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*Understand and leverage AI to reduce labour, increase efficiencies, enhance sales and revenue for your business.*

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MAY 6-8, 2025



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*(ends Oct 31st)*



CEA



Robotics



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Steve Kean, World renowned "visionary" investor in AI & AgTech; Hsaki Kaga, Co-founder & CEO, Oishi; Arif van de Kraak, Founder & CEO, Givify; Bryan Eblyne, CEO, Anusara; Ruel Janssen, Head of Product & Business Development, Flower Farm; Daniel Tavelkoff, Founder & Chief Architect, Shook Farm; Kih Louwmanmark, Director, Medical Cannabis Institute, The Ministry of Public Health, Indonesia; Natsuko Hironaka, Deputy Director, NAKA Jishi Y. Specialty Spices, Japan



Matthew Gibham, Director, Plant for Space PSL; Eri Hayashi, President, Japan Plant Factory Association (JPFA); Francois Laurens, President, International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS); Silke Henning, Head of Research Team, Greenhouse Technology Wageningen University & Research; Leo Marouli, Horticulture & Product Development Group, Wageningen University & Research; Francesco Orini, Professor, Dept of Agricultural & Food Sciences, University of Bologna, Italy; Teeratt Kwanfornit, Associate Professor, AI in Agriculture, Kasartit University, Thailand; Murali Kairat, Director, Commercial Environment Agriculture Centre, Thailand, Director, Centre for Agri-robotics, The University of Arizona



Paul Long, CEO, LEM Green Phoenix; Dirk Beelen, CEO, Mafic Phoenix; Jack Hooney, CEO, Precision Propagation; Christian Prokocha, Co-founder, Silesi Farms; Karthik Rajan, CEO, Lufthansa Farms; Javaco Fahg, Founder & CEO, Canopus Farms; Nozlan Hematyshik, Founder & CEO, Data Project; Miralay Hristak, Founder & CEO, Vaku Farming



Ty Dickson, Co-founder & Director, April Sun Farms; Sonaja Castray, Co-founder & CEO, Harvest Green; Greene Smith, Head of Dept, AGENTIAL AI AgBio; Jesse Diaz, Sales & Marketing, Carolina Willow Farm Spcs; Brennan Mourville, Founder, AGENTIAL AI AgBio; Ben Nihhaus, Founder & CEO, Sankit; Valerio Kagan, Founder & CEO, Farnex

As of Sept 24, more speakers to be announced soon.

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Ends Oct 31st, 23:59 AEST



MAY 6-8, 2025



BITEC, Bangkok





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