



GROWING UNDERCOVER

SEPTEMBER | 2024

UPDATES

Call For PCA Board Members

We are seeking expressions of interest from those keen to join the Protected Cropping Australia (PCA) Board! A vacancy will soon be available, and we encourage anyone interested to reach out. If you are passionate about PCA and have specific areas of interest or skills that you believe could benefit the board, we'd love to hear from you.

To apply, please email Julie with:

- Your areas of interest and focus for PCA
- The skillsets you could bring to the Board

Deadline for expressions of interest: 11/10/24

eo@protectedcropping.net.au

IDO Update

Matt Plunkett

Over the last few months, the Conference Committee together with All Occasions Group (AOG) have been working hard planning the next PCA conference to be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from the 28-30 July 2025. This exciting not to be missed event is a great opportunity to share, connect and learn with your industry colleagues.

The theme of next years conference is "Growing Profitably and Sustainably." It will feature a range of presentations and panel discussions on current trends here in Australia but also what is happening overseas. Whilst the major focus of recent

A range of thought-provoking panels will keep you entertained and like Hort Connections, the Committee are looking at introducing a networking breakfast on the Tuesday morning to inspire delegates in addition to the ever-popular farm tours on the Thursday.

The first day of the conference will offer training and the exhibition space will feature and Ag Tech alley and networking lounge. PCA will also be running buses to and from Virginia throughout the conference and marketing material is being developed to assist the allied trade with promotion of the event.

conferences has been on sustainability, it is also important to look at ways to run your business more efficiently and profitably. The popular grower streams will return with a range of practical and insightful talks to be given by industry experts.

PCA have been building strong connections with a range of industry groups and partners including AUSVEG SA, Berries Australia, Regional Development Australia, Nursery & Garden Industry SA, Ironwood Institute & the Northern Adelaide Plains Food Cluster to name a few.

In exciting news, PCA are partnering with the SA Produce Market to highlight all that the South Australian horticulture industry has to offer as part of the exhibition space, and encourage any companies and corporate partners considering becoming a Naming Rights sponsor to reach out.

In the coming weeks, the Expression of Interest will go out for speakers and presenters wishing to share their knowledge and work. In addition, the Exhibition and Sponsorship prospectus is nearing completing and will also be released soon.

Some of the themes for presentations will include, but not limited to:

- Ag tech (including the application of AI & Robotics)
- Grower stream
- Labour efficiency
- Pollination
- Integrated Pest & Disease Management
- Biosecurity
- Irrigation and Climate control
- Nutrient Management
- Food Safety
- Marketing and supply chain
- Emerging crops

Due to popular demand, the Committee have agreed to sponsor 150 free grower passes with first preference given to PCA Grower financial members, followed by an allocation to PCA Corporate partners.

Our students are also encouraged to attend and PCA will again be partnering with the Australian Society of Horticultural Science(AUSHS) to facilitate their involvement.

As PCA moves to a more functional and interactive online training and membership platform, all growers are encouraged to take advantage of the new grower membership categories and bundles which includes 2 years of membership and a free conference registration.

Stay tuned for further details in the coming weeks and please visit the website for further information which can be found here:

[Home- PCA2025](#)

Until next month, happy growing and stay safe.



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.

Job Roskam

IAC

Job was born on a flower farm and has experienced a long history of working in the horticulture industry. The first 15 years of his working life he was a flower grower in the Netherlands (growing gerberas, breeding new varieties, and propagating plants). In 2000 he moved with his family to Melbourne, Australia and started Roskam Young Plants (supplier of plants and horticultural products). In 2011 Roskam Young Plants became a dealer of Royal Brinkman, and early 2015 he setup a branch of Brinkman Australia. Since July 2019 Job is semi-retired but still active as a greenhouse consultant and horticultural supplier (Gerbera cups and Multigrow rockwool). His hobbies include cycling and traveling.



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/gwxtUikn>

BERRIES AUSTRALIA
BerryQuest International
24-27 February 2025
West Point Hotel Casino, Hobart

berries AUSTRALIA

BQ
25

SPONSORSHIP & EXHIBITOR PACKAGES SELLING QUICKLY

BerryQuest International Packages

[Learn more →](#)

OCTOBER

FEBRUARY

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

BRING US TOGETHER

GREENLIFE INDUSTRY CONFERENCE
19-21 FEBRUARY 2025
MELBOURNE CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE

Greenlife Conference - Early Bird Tickets

[Learn more →](#)

OCTOBER

MAY



Agential AI AgBio - Super Early Bird Tickets

[Learn more →](#)

SEPTEMBER



Nanobubbles and Their Impact on Agriculture

Time Oct 10, 2024 02:30 AM in Adelaide

Agriecture, in collaboration with Moleaer, is pleased to present a webinar focused on the innovative use of nanobubble technology in agriculture. Nanobubbles, tiny gas bubbles with unique physical properties, are revolutionizing the way we approach irrigation and water treatment in farming. This webinar will explore the science behind nanobubbles, their practical applications, and the measurable benefits they bring to sustainable agriculture practices. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from leading experts in the field, including key representatives from Moleaer, who will share insights on how nanobubbles are transforming agricultural practices globally. The session will include case studies, technical discussions, and a Q&A segment to provide participants with a comprehensive

Webinar - Nanobubbles in Agriculture

[Learn more →](#)



Transforming Strawberry Cultivation with Grodan Solutions & Advanced Irrigation

Wednesday the 2nd of October at 4:00pm
This webinar presentation highlights the "Higher value" that Grodan solutions and knowledge generation trials can bring to the strawberry industry. The presentation by Thomas Peters aims to address the challenges faced by strawberry growers and propagators, focusing on how the application of Grodan's solutions can transform the market.

The presentation showcases conducted trials, describing the advantages of indoor propagation, and presents an approach for structured irrigation management in high-tech greenhouses. Taking advantage of controlled environments, propagators and growers can enhance productivity throughout the year. The advantages of indoor propagation and cultivation in controlled environment, such as minimizing weather-related risks and diseases, extending the growing season and enabling efficient cultivation practices are a few of the advantages for the strawberry industry that will be discussed.

Furthermore, the presentation emphasizes the significance of a structured irrigation management to maximise strawberry production. By implementing precise irrigation strategies, growers can achieve efficient resource utilization, and promote healthy plant growth for higher yields and high quality fruits.

Webinar - Transforming Strawberry Cultivation

[Learn more →](#)



Tricks of the Trade - Negotiation Tactics Masterclass

Negotiate a better deal for your business with this funded practical masterclass where you and your staff will be supported to build your business skills.

- Negotiate better deals:** Principles of negotiation. Know your costs, know your levers. What's in the toolbox?
- Leverage the tools available:** Leverage the Hort Code and Grocery Code to create commercial advantage.
- Needs & power:** How to reclaim your power and create advantage? Tactics to improve your position. When to say no or walk away.

Date / Time

- 7am - 3pm | Friday 20 September
- 8am - 12pm | Wednesday 25 / Thursday 26 September (a/cit session)
- 9am - 4pm | Thursday 3 October

Added Value

As a bonus, attendees can access:

- one-on-one confidential coaching, customised to your business's specific negotiation challenges.
- the NextGen Group's members only area which contains templates, materials and examples.

GFVG - Tricks of the Trade Masterclasses

[Learn more →](#)

OCTOBER



AusVeg - Horticulture Visa Options Webinar

[Learn more →](#)

FEBRUARY



Greenlife Industry Australia Conference

[Learn more →](#)

INFORMATION

NATIONAL

NEWS

SUPPORT

RESOURCES



Robocrop Will Soon Be In Use In Australia

[Learn more →](#)

NEWS

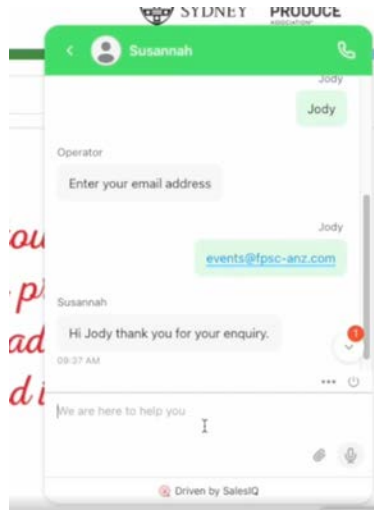


Home > Essentials > People, vehicles & equipment
If it can move, it can carry diseases, pests and weeds. For this reason, pose a high biosecurity risk and should be managed accordingly.

Implementing Effective Biosecurity Practices

[Learn more →](#)

RESOURCE



Fresh Produce Safety Centre Helpdesk

[Learn more →](#)

NEWS



Biosecurity Response - Red Imported Fire Ant

[Learn more →](#)

NEWS



National Construction Code - Tutor Videos

[Learn more →](#)

NEWS



NSW - Business Debt Support

[Learn more →](#)

RESOURCE

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
To More Range Kai - Anticipate the Anticipation

New Horticulture Food Safety Standards

Learn more →



Fully Automated Greenhouse in Virginia

Learn more →

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 →

TOMATO BROWN RUGOSE FRUIT VIRUS (ToBRFV)

RESOURCES

ANNOUNCEMENT

TOMATO BROWN RUGOSE FRUIT VIRUS DETECTED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Biosecurity Advice

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 19 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 deformed/uneven ripening. Symptoms on leaves include mottled/mosaic patterning, 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. Reusing 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/biosecurity>. Reports can also be made by calling the DEECA Customer Contact Centre at 136 136 or the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline at 1800 084 881.

Any Victorian businesses with questions on international trade and exports should contact the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry at horticulture@dfat.gov.au. Any businesses with questions about domestic trade can contact Agriculture Victoria at market.access@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

For more information on ToBRFV please visit the Agriculture Victoria website agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-diseases/vegetable-diseases/tomato-brown-rugose-fruit-virus

BASIC HYGIENE PRACTICES INFORMATION SHEET

PCA Hygiene & Information Resources

Learn more →

NEWS

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

Biosecurity Update

Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus

28 August 2024

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For more information on ToBRFV please visit the Agriculture Victoria website agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-diseases/vegetable-diseases/tomato-brown-rugose-fruit-virus

Agriculture VIC Biosecurity Update

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 / Exp

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 (T-

Summary of changes and key p

- The New Zealand National Plant Protection Organ effective as of 24 August 2024, the export of all tor suspended.
- Commodities affected:
 - Tomatoes (*Solanum lycopersicum*, also known a
- MiCoR has been updated to reflect the suspension.
- New Zealand have undertaken to review this decis

IMPORTANT: Consignments of tomatoes that have rec permitted for export to New Zealand.

Tomato Exports to NZ Suspended

Learn more →

NEWS

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](#)

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You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:
Protected Cropping Australia
PO Box 476
Berrumbidgee, NSW 2589

NSW Government Biosecurity Update

[Learn more →](#)

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.

This communication highlights the importance of our involvement in the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP) and consolidates the various actions, meetings, advocacy, and correspondence 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 intersectoral communication 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 →](#)

MEMBER ADVERTISEMENTS

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AIPH

WWW.FLORACULTUREINTERNATIONAL.COM

SEPTEMBER 2024

POST HARVEST

RipeLocker aims to revolutionise profit potential in cut flowers

PLANTARIUMIGROEN-DIREKT 2024

Inside Europe's largest nursery stock trade show

LANDSCAPE FAIR ISTANBUL2024

High-profile endorsements will elevate the show to new heights

BIOCONTROL BOOM!

Regulatory limitations, improved product effectiveness, and global commitment to sustainability are all driving the growth of the biocontrol market

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