Subject: Growing Undercover - September 26
Date: Friday, 25 September 2026 at 3:00:54 pm Australian Central Standard Time
From: PCA
To: Jade Lewis



GROWING UNDERCOVER

SEPTEMEBER | 2026

UPDATES

IDO UPDATE

Matt Plunkett

Welcome to the September edition of Growing Undercover.

It has been a warm dry start to spring across many of our growing regions and the industry is preparing for an extremely hot summer.

It has been a busy month within PCA on a range of targeted activities including a membership drive and increasing our presence and visibility on social media. Advocacy is a key part of what PCA do and your membership ensures your voices are heard. I encourage anyone who is not a financial member to join or put your hand up for one of our committees. It is extremely rewarding to support and give back to the sector to help shape the future of our industry.

This month, PCA progressed several key initiatives across advocacy, training, and industry development .
PCA met with the Australian Building Codes Board to advance work on concessions within the National Construction Code. While this is a long-term project, a targeted advocacy campaign will soon begin to help move this forward.

Board nominations have now closed, and all financial members are encouraged to vote and help shape the future leadership of PCA. Alongside this, Tony Bundock has been developing new training resources for members on the Member365 platform, and PCA is actively seeking funding to deliver national roadshows and training events. Members or partners interested in sponsoring these activities are invited to contact the team.

PCA has also partnered with Hort Innovation to apply for funding to support up to 10

levy-paying vegetable growers to attend the Greentech study tour in Holland next year. Expressions of interest and sponsorship enquiries can be directed to Tony Bundock at projects@protectedcropping.net.au.

Our webinar program recommences in October, and planning for the PCA Conference is well underway. Conference details and registration information can be found at: www.pca2027.com.au Please note that submissions for abstracts for the PCA 2027 conference close on the 31st of October.

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



JULY 2027



PCA 2027 Conference - Gold Coast - Register Now!

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JULY - OCTOBER 2026



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS TIMELINE:
1 July 2026: Call for Abstracts Opens
31 October 2026: Abstract submissions Close
Mid November 2026: Outcome Notification
November 2026: Preliminary Program Announced
28 February 2027: Speaker Registration Deadline
April 2027: Full Program Released

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EVENTS

JULY - OCTOBER



Global Events for IFPA Members

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NOVEMBER



Save The Date - Hort Business Summit 2026

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OCTOBER



Myplant & Garden Middle East

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JUNE



ISHS Greensys 2027 - Abstracts Closing Soon

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JANUARY



Vertifarm 2027 - January - February In Ghent, Belgium

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SEPTEMBER



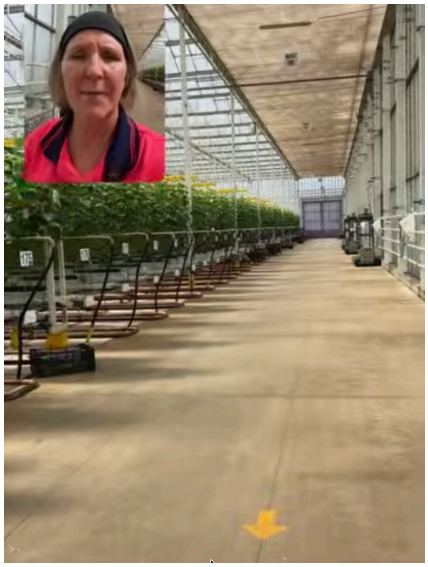
Strawberry Biosecurity Workshop

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INFORMATION

NATIONAL

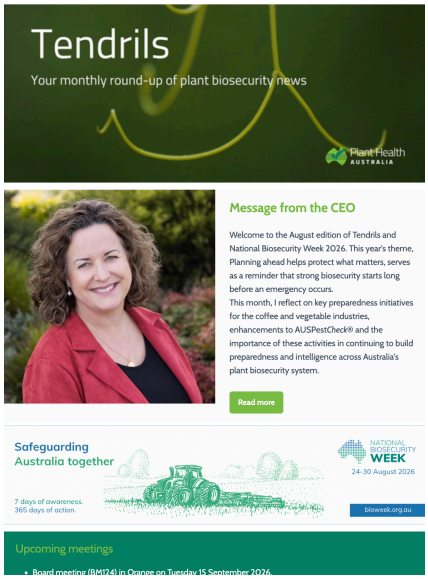
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Update in GH1 At Family Fresh Farms

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NEWS



PHA - Tendrils Newsletter August 2026

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NEWS



Australian Horticulture Sets Sights On $7B Export Future

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NEWS



Seven practical takeaways from Canada’s greenhouse sector

“This has been the biggest game changer in the sector for as long as I can remember.

That was how Guido van het Hof, President of Great Northern Hydroponics in Ontario Canada, described tomato brown rugose fruit virus during a recent Protected Croppi Australia webinar hosted in partnership with Achmea Farm Insurance and Hagelunie the global horticulture insurer within the Achmea group.

Drawing on experience across Canada and the Netherlands, Guido shared first-hand lessons on virus management, trade pressure, labour, logistics, data, AI and automat and the specialist skills needed to run increasingly complex greenhouse businesses.

While Canada and Australia are on opposite sides of the world, many of the pressure and opportunities facing greenhouse growers are familiar: biosecurity, rising costs, labour, market uncertainty and fast-moving technology.

Guido’s experience offers useful reference points for growers and industry partners thinking about what comes next.

7 Practical Takeaways From Canada's Greenhouse Sector

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Glasshouse Storm Damage - Practical Risk Mitigation

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Media Release

New pollination report warns of potential 290,000-hive shortfall

Tuesday 2 June: Australia's pollination system could face a potential shortfall of 290,000 commer honey bee hives during peak pollination periods under the most likely future scenarios, according a new national report.

The *Pollination Security Status Report 2026* identifies growing pressure on Australia's pollination system, with new modelling showing how varroa mite and rising demand for pollination services could widen gaps between hive supply and crop requirements in key agricultural regions.

Wheen Bee Foundation Chair Peter Knoblanche said the report provides an integrated national holistic assessment of pollination in Australia.

"This is the first time Australia has looked at pollination as a whole system, not just for agricultur but also for biodiversity, ecosystems and socio-cultural values," Mr Knoblanche said.

"Pollination is often invisible because when it works, everything functions as expected. Yet it is essential to Australia's food production, natural environment and the economy."

He said the findings highlight the need for coordinated long-term planning.

"The new modelling in this report is a major step forward. For the first time, we can begin to understand the scale of future pressure on Australia's pollination system as varroa mite impacts both feral and managed honey bee populations."

The modelling compares demand for pollination services from key horticultural industries with th estimated availability of managed honey bee hives during peak flowering periods.

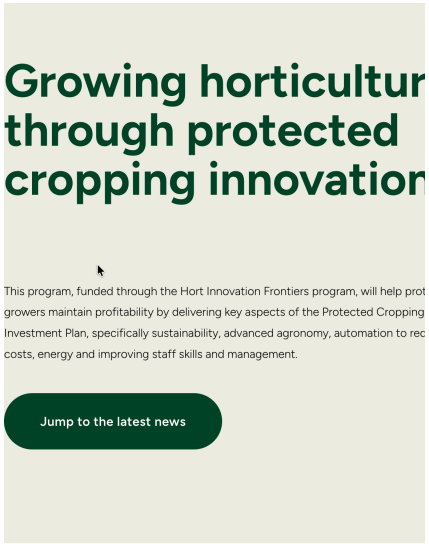
One scenario modelled in the report, based on the US experience, suggests Australia could face a shortfall of 290,000 commercial honey bee hives during peak pollination periods across eastern Australia if feral populations decline and managed hive numbers fall significantly.

"The scenarios in this report highlight why Australia needs coordinated planning, investment and action to strengthen pollination security and prepare for future risks."

Media Release - Pollination Security Status Report 2026

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RESEARCH



Growing horticultur through protected cropping innovation

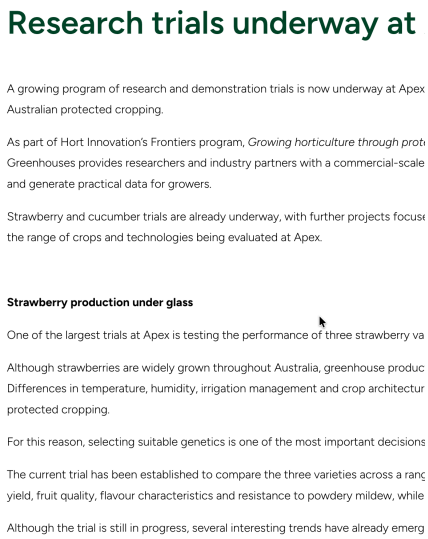
This program, funded through the Hort Innovation Frontiers program, will help prot growers maintain profitability by delivering key aspects of the Protected Cropping Investment Plan, specifically sustainability, advanced agronomy, automation to red costs, energy and improving staff skills and management.

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