

# Fruit & Vegetable news

QUEENSLAND'S FAR NORTH ON SHOW  
*at inaugural R&D Field Day*

FIVE-YEAR AGWORKFORCE STRATEGY LAUNCHED | HARNESSING AGTECH FOR  
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT | HORTICULTURAL NETTING PROGRAM EXPANDED |  
PINEAPPLE INDUSTRY ON SHOW AT 2022 FIELD DAYS



**USE EARLY  
AND LATE FOR  
SENSATIONAL  
RESULTS.**



**Luna<sup>®</sup>  
SENSATION**

**Use Luna<sup>®</sup> Sensation fungicide to protect your crops at flowering, when they're most vulnerable, and send your fruit into storage in better condition with a follow-up spray pre-harvest.**

- Broad spectrum in-field control of powdery mildew and black spot, as well as suppression of alternaria in pome fruit, plus shot hole, blossom blight and brown rot in stone fruit
- Short withholding period – 14-days in pome and 1-day in stone fruit
- Safe on most beneficial species and pollinators<sup>#</sup>

Visit [lunasensation.com.au](http://lunasensation.com.au) to view other growers' stories, or ask your reseller for more information.





## contents

---

### 6. Five-year Agworkforce Strategy launched

In July, Growcom attended the launch of the Queensland Agriculture Industry Workforce Plan 2022-27. Developed in partnership between the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) and Jobs Queensland, in collaboration with the Queensland Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance (RJSA) the Plan envisions that Queensland's agribusinesses aspire to be leaders in workforce planning and development; and that the state's sustainable, productive, and fair agriculture employers and training providers collaborate, engage, and develop a diverse and skilled workforce in Queensland's regions.

### 10. Harnessing AgTech for business improvement

From the creation of the plough to the irrigation system, mankind has always strived toward innovative solutions to meet the ever-increasing pressure to feed the world.

Considering the historically close relationship that exists between technology and agriculture, it's little surprise that within Queensland's present-day horticulture industry, fresh produce growers are trialing and relying on methods to take efficiency and productivity to the next level – with robots.

### 13. Horticultural netting program expanded

The Australian Government's Horticultural Netting Program, which offsets the cost of installing netting, has now been expanded from the initial trial of apple and pear production to include all horticultural industries.

### 14. Pineapple industry on show at 2022 Field Days

Over 160 pineapple growers and industry supply chain members converged on the Sunshine Coast in July to share knowledge and celebrate at the industry's annual Pineapple Field Days. While the pineapple industry, like horticulture generally, is dealing with its fair share of challenges right now, there is a strong sense of cohesion between growers and a shared commitment to staying at the cutting edge of technology and best practice.



## welcome

---

Chief Executive Officer  
**Rachel Chambers**

A role which combines my passion for advocacy, humans, horticulture, government, and problem solving into one giant, complex bucket.

How could I say no?

Although the change in career from local government to horticulture took a leap of faith, being on the ground speaking to growers about highly complicated problems that need solving, immediately felt like home.

As a lover of all things food, to be able to represent the industry which not only provides the raw product but also provides copious amounts of jobs right along the supply chain, is an honour and a privilege. Moving forward one of my main aims is to further understand and map the significance of the fresh produce supply chain as part of our state and national economies, to ensure its value is known by consumers and government alike.

Planting a crop is a decision taken that impacts the livelihoods of many people responsible for getting food onto the table. Without growers getting up each day, dealing with the issues of staff shortages, rising input costs, biosecurity concerns and unstable end markets, there would be immeasurable (almost!) losses in machinery sales, transport jobs, marketers and agents, fertiliser and nutrient companies, and the 55,000 restaurants and caterers across Australia. Not to mention, we would go hungry, a fact that seems lost on many.

Day two in the job I was delighted to discover that we get to throw a big party next year to celebrate 100 years of supporting horticulture, celebrating all your amazing work. How lovely it will be to stop and reflect on a century of farming innovation, ideas and progress and industry advocacy, to stop for a moment in time to reflect and be exceptionally proud of the horticultural industry and all its achievements.

How fortunate I am to represent such a vital industry and the people who do the hard yards everyday to feed generations of humans across the globe. I look forward to working with you to understand how Growcom can best support you into the next century.



5

QUEENSLAND'S FAR NORTH ON SHOW  
at inaugural R&D Field Day



## policy & advocacy

Manager, Policy & Advocacy  
**Richard Shannon**

### TURNING THE TABLES: WHY RETAILERS MUST DO BETTER

When growers supplying retailers are being asked to jump over ever higher packaging, quality, and other hurdles, can we not expect better treatment at the negotiating table?

There are few silver bullets when it comes to solving the inflationary pressures across the economy, and the costs of agricultural inputs, that have risen sharply.

We are told upward cost pressures are driven by a shortage of supply and yet hiking interest rates, the main tool we are relying on to turn inflation around, does nothing to improve supply but simply dampens demand.

So, until kinks in our global supply chains are ironed out there is an onus on fresh produce buyers to come back to the table to renegotiate prices that better reflect the new costs of production and keep otherwise profitable growers in the industry.

An increasing number of growers are directly supplying retailers, ALDI, Coles, Woolworths and Metcash, who are signatories to the Food and Grocery Code, designed to improve standards of business conduct in the food and grocery sector.

The Code consists of rules relating to important aspects of the commercial relationship between retailers and their suppliers including grocery supply agreements, the purchase and payment of products, good faith negotiations and an effective dispute resolution framework.

With regard negotiation, the Code requires retailers to accept or reject within 30 days any written price increase requests from suppliers. To keep buyers accountable for their conduct, the Code requires them to report annually on how they have responded to these price increase notices.

Latest reported figures for 2020-21 show less than stellar responsiveness from retailers.

Woolworths received 237 notifications of a price rise request and entered into negotiations with 94 of them. Of these, 75 negotiations were not concluded within 30 days of the initial request being made.

Coles received 1,101 notifications of a price rise request and entered into negotiations with 35. Of these negotiations, 32 did not conclude a position within 30 days.

Aldi received 45 notifications of a price rise request and did not enter into negotiations following the requests.

And Metcash failed to report due to a lack of records.

Growcom on behalf of its members is calling on signatories to the Food and Grocery Code to come back to the table and do better in meeting their own standards of fair dealing.

Growers with queries about the Code or need support through a dispute process are encouraged to contact Growcom for advice.

### GROWCOM BOARD DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS INVITED

Growcom is inviting applications from financial grower members wishing to be considered for appointment as a non-executive director of the company.

Next year marks 100 years of Growcom and its predecessor organisations. This is your opportunity to be part of that legacy and provide strategic input to drive industry growth and prosperity for the next 100 years.

Applications must be received no later than COB Friday 30 September 2022. Should the number of applications outnumber the available positions, a ballot will be held.

To obtain an application form or for further information regarding the role and duties of a Director, please contact Growcom Manager, Corporate Services Andre Adins on [aadins@growcom.com.au](mailto:aadins@growcom.com.au)

The Boards Governance Charter sets out the skills requirements and attributes that the Board seeks from nominees. Please visit: [www.growcom.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Corporate-Governance-Charter.pdf](http://www.growcom.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Corporate-Governance-Charter.pdf)





## QUEENSLAND'S FAR NORTH ON SHOW AT INAUGURAL R&D FIELD DAY

Great things are happening in the north of our great state, and from all the talk at the FNQ Growers R&D Field Day held in Mareeba at the end of July, even greater things are just around the corner.

Over 400 attendees filed through the gates at the Mareeba Turf Club for the inaugural R&D Field Day hosted by local industry group, FNQ Growers.

Industry took the opportunity to network and engage with an array of peak industry bodies, including Growcom, stakeholders and commercial operators to learn about the latest in horticulture.

FNQ Growers President Joe Moro said diversification had driven the industry's development as growers worked to remain sustainable and protect their enterprises from extreme weather events.

"The farming landscape in far north Queensland has change immensely," he said.

"Mainstay crops have made way for other commodities, helping position the region as a horticultural powerhouse in northern Australia.

The region's billion-dollar agricultural industry is headlined by bananas, with avocados, sugar, blueberries, and citrus including lemons and limes all featuring in the top 10.

"At the same time, traditional production areas in crops like bananas and sugar have expanded geographically, from the coast to the hinterland and further west."

Growcom Chief Executive Officer, Rachel Chambers attended the Field Day and said in listening to the grower forum comprising of mango, avocado, banana, lychee, papaya, and cotton not to mention investors, one couldn't help but respect the powerhouse of produce grown in this region.

"It wasn't only the willingness to share positive stories, it was also the attendee's willingness to share challenges in the hope of helping each other's farms and industries," she said.

"These growers had some real conversations. One such conversation involved a question as to whether industries should be regulated to stop oversupply. Quickly this was answered with a reminder that growers are indeed regulated, by profitability, and that the next few years would certainly see some growers struggle to stay in the game.

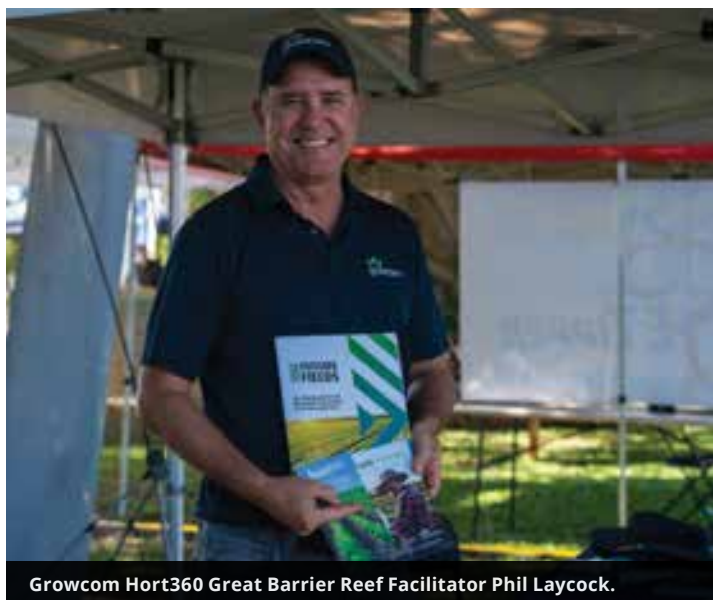
"The challenges in the far north are no different to what we hear from the rest of the state. Biosecurity, inputs costs, labour and unstable retail markets were all front and centre of discussions along with water and connectivity.

"One grower spoke of how they've used technology to save 25 - 30 percent of their water costs and then went on to make a plea to growers to start to use technology as a tool to get their farming knowledge out of their head, in order to leave a legacy of information for future generations.

"Export markets were also a topic of the day as many are looking further afield now the domestic market is feeling a little overwhelmed. For growers in this region the ability to export has been made that much better by the investment into the agricultural distribution hub at Cairns airport.

"With the far north already leveraging a very successful tourism brand, investors spoke of the unique opportunity which exists for growers to internationally brand their produce in a similar way. Capitalising on this far north niche."

The FNQ Growers R&D Field Day is a biannual event with the next to be held in 2024.



Growcom Hort360 Great Barrier Reef Facilitator Phil Laycock.



Growcom Chief Executive Officer Rachel Chambers.





(L-R) Blair Brown (Growcom Workforce Officer), Rachel Chambers (Growcom CEO), Minister Di Farmer (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development), Jo Sheppard (QFF CEO), and Sachin Ayachit (Fair Farms National Program Manager).

## Five-year Agworkforce Strategy launched

In July, Growcom attended the launch of the Queensland Agriculture Industry Workforce Plan 2022-27.

Developed in partnership between the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) and Jobs Queensland, in collaboration with the Queensland Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance (RJSA) the Plan envisions that Queensland's agribusinesses aspire to be leaders in workforce planning and development; and that the state's sustainable, productive, and fair agriculture employers and training providers collaborate, engage, and develop a diverse and skilled workforce in Queensland's regions.

To achieve this, four action areas are addressed:

- **Adaptability and business capability** – developing entrepreneurship and business capability for innovation and adaptation to change.
- **Workforce attraction and diversity** – developing a diverse and inclusive future agriculture workforce.
- **Workforce retention** – developing agriculture careers and opportunities and becoming employers of choice.
- **Workforce skilling** – developing future workforce skills in agriculture.

The actions that comprise the Plan seek to ensure that critical gaps and needs are addressed by strengthening agribusinesses, raising awareness of career and employment opportunities in a changing sector, embedding AgTech and innovation, and developing education, training, and career pathways.

Through consultations around the state, both online and in person, QFF's workforce planning team heard about the current and emerging workforce issues experienced by industry. The findings of this consultation informed a strategic five-year strategy.

The Plan was also informed by the Queensland Agriculture Industry Workforce Environmental Scan. The Scan highlighted four priority agriculture groups, based on gross value of production (GVP) and employment: grazing (beef cattle and grains), horticulture (fruit and nuts, vegetables, and nurseries), crops (sugar and cotton) and aquaculture.

National forecasts project that there will be changes in the composition of the agricultural workforce in the future with greater emphasis on professional and technical roles.

QFF Chief Executive Officer, Jo Sheppard says future sustainability and growth for Queensland agriculture is dependent on being able to attract and retain a highly trained and skilled workforce.

"As the sector continues to modernise, a skilled and appropriately trained workforce, prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, is critical for industry to remain competitive," she said.

"It is important that we work together closely to find effective ways forward in developing our future workforce."

For further information on the Queensland Agriculture Industry Workforce Plan 2022-2027 visit [www.qff.org.au/projects/agriculture-workforce-plan](http://www.qff.org.au/projects/agriculture-workforce-plan)

**Harvest Trail**  
INFORMATION SERVICE  
AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

Need a hand finding workers?  
We can help.

1800 062 332  
[www.harvesttrail.gov.au](http://www.harvesttrail.gov.au)

made c





## HORT HACKS & APPS WORKSHOP SERIES

For resilient horticulture farming families and businesses

Join Growcom throughout October, Mental Health Awareness Month, for a half-day workshop in Yeppoon, Gayndah, Childers, and Gympie, where we will dish the dirt on horticulture apps and time slashing hacks.

Horticulture is a tough gig and Growcom is committed to supporting the industry in getting the jump on administrative overwhelm. The Hort Hacks and Apps workshop series is an opportunity to take some much-needed time out from the daily grind, to unearth tools, resources, short cuts, and fixes to assist you in dealing with those painstaking, day-to-day tasks in the daily life of an average, Australian horticulture grower.

All workshops feature intel from start-up entrepreneur and Future Fields Leader Jennifer McKee who has developed record keeping and compliance management software specifically for the horticulture industry. Jennifer McKee is passionate about sharing fixes, short-cuts and time slashing hacks that she has come across in her one-on-one work throughout Queensland in horticulture.

Other presenters will be growers from throughout the state, sharing their own experience with a hack or app they've adopted in their business to make life that little bit simpler.

Growcom's team of Resilience and Hort360 Facilitators as well as regional industry officers from other industry groups such as the Australian Macadamia Society, Isis Canegrowers and Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers will be on hand as well, to share a few of their own hacks, apps and fixes.

Pop these date claimers in your diary and RSVP today to secure your spot! Here's a hack to ensure this workshop is a great day out; bring a pal!



### EVENT DETAILS

#### YEPPOON

Tuesday, 11 October  
9am – 2pm  
<https://bit.ly/3c3hQB5>

#### GAYNDAH

Wednesday, 12 October  
9am – 2pm  
<https://bit.ly/3TceKMa>

#### CHILDERS

Thursday, 13 October  
9am – 2pm  
<https://bit.ly/3waK9oj>

#### GYMPIE

Friday, 14 October  
9am – 2pm  
<https://bit.ly/3c3O0g7>

#### COST

Free and includes delicious morning tea and lunch.

#### MORE INFO

Michelle Haase  
Growcom Hort360 Facilitator  
0428 586 890  
[mhaase@growcom.com.au](mailto:mhaase@growcom.com.au)



This workshop series is proudly brought to you by Growcom with the support of NBN and funding through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Queensland Government's Drought and Climate Adaptation Program.





DAF project lead, Yan Diczbalis introducing field day attendees to angled pruning and trellising of jackfruit.

## HIGH-DENSITY ORCHARD ON SHOW AT NQ FIELD DAY

The rain didn't stop over 30 farmers, industry supply chain members and researchers from attending a recent field day held in north Queensland to learn more about the Demonstrating Next-Generation Resilient Orchard Production Systems for Tropical Crops project.

Led by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and supported by the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia (CRCNA), the project is investigating a range of high-density production systems and trellis planting systems for not only their cyclone resilience but also their production capacity and profitability.

Presentations on the day concentrated on the project background, reasons for choosing jackfruit as the model crop and jackfruit propagation work. Field day attendees were able to tour the trial orchard and were taken through the different trellising and propagation treatments with time for questions and group discussion.

A lot of interest was generated around the potential to trellis jackfruit and how different methods of propagation may affect tree growth and vigor.

Now entering its second year, strategies investigated through the project are expected to provide growers with a production methodology which mitigates the risks associated with tropical cyclones, enabling expansion of the horticultural sector through new plantings across northern Australia.

Jackfruit is being used as a model tree crop for the project with high-density orchards developed at multiple trial sites across northern Australia. Data on growth rates, fertiliser and irrigation inputs, pest and disease issues, canopy development, flowering and harvest dates, yield and fruit aril (flesh) recovery will be collected.

If you would like to learn more about the project, visit: [www.crcna.com.au/research/projects/demonstrating-next-generation-resilient-orchard-production-systems-tropical-crops](http://www.crcna.com.au/research/projects/demonstrating-next-generation-resilient-orchard-production-systems-tropical-crops)

Alternatively, you can also keep up to date via the Facebook page @NextGenResilientOrchards

This three-year project is funded through the CRCNA as part of the Australian Government's CRC Program, and is being undertaken in collaboration with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (NT DITT), Western Australia Department of Primary Industries and regional development (DPIRD), Manbulloo Limited, Zappala Tropicals, Northern Territory Farmers Association (NT Farmers) and Growcom.



### A simple certification process...Guaranteed



[www.sciqual.com.au](http://www.sciqual.com.au) | 1800 998 999 | [contact@sciqual.com.au](mailto:contact@sciqual.com.au)



# USE EARLY AND LATE FOR SENSATIONAL RESULTS.



# Luna<sup>®</sup> SENSATION

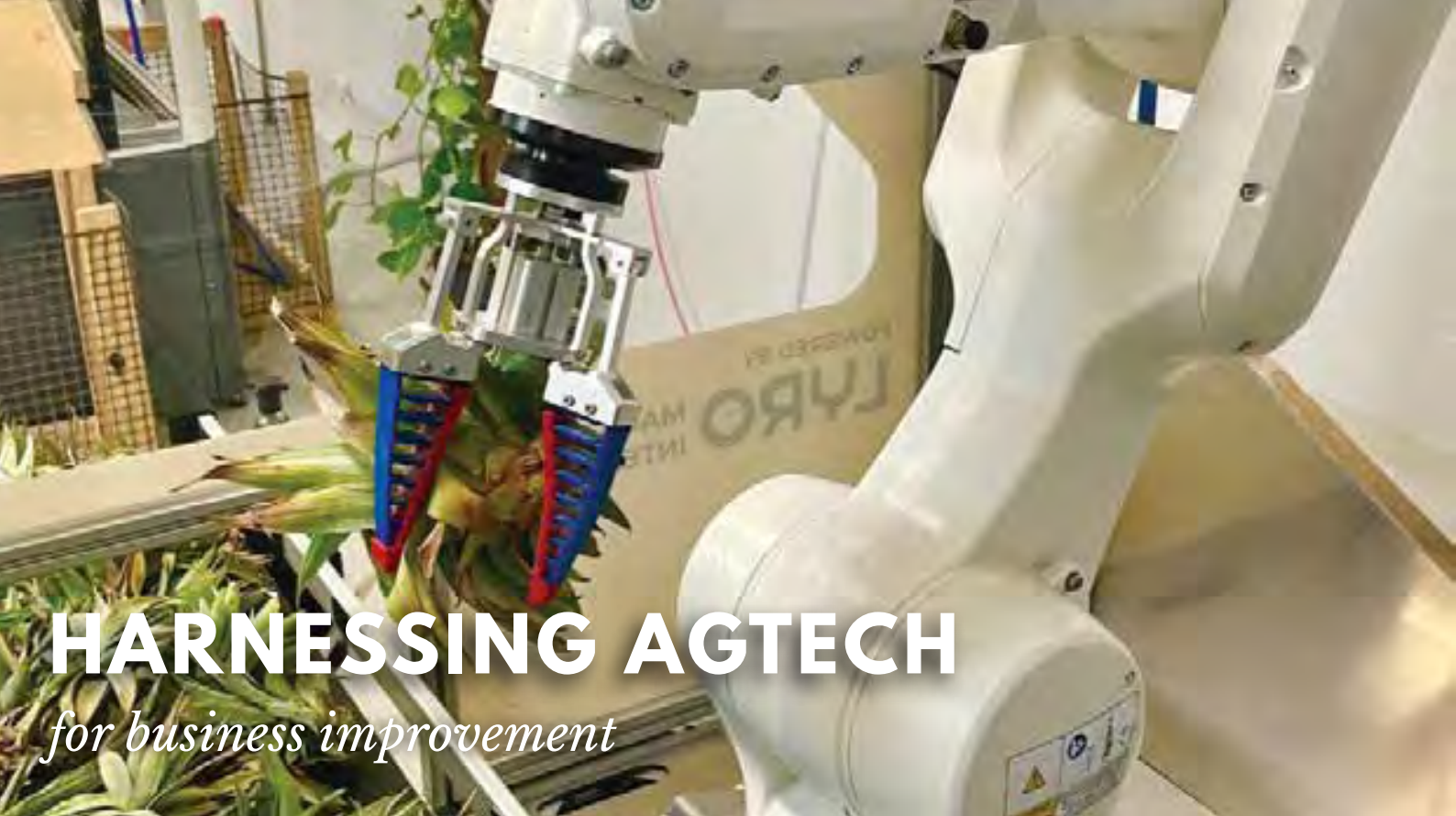
**Use Luna<sup>®</sup> Sensation fungicide to protect your crops at flowering, when they're most vulnerable, and send your fruit into storage in better condition with a follow-up spray pre-harvest.**

- Broad spectrum in-field control of powdery mildew and black spot, as well as suppression of alternaria in pome fruit, plus shot hole, blossom blight and brown rot in stone fruit
- Short withholding period – 14-days in pome and 1-day in stone fruit
- Safe on most beneficial species and pollinators<sup>#</sup>

Visit [lunasensation.com.au](http://lunasensation.com.au) to view other growers' stories, or ask your reseller for more information.







# HARNESSING AGTECH

*for business improvement*

From the creation of the plough to the irrigation system, mankind has always strived toward innovative solutions to meet the ever-increasing pressure to feed the world.

Considering the historically close relationship that exists between technology and agriculture, it's little surprise that within Queensland's present-day horticulture industry, fresh produce growers are trialling and relying on methods to take efficiency and productivity to the next level – with robots.

## Optimism about finding the right fit

When Fruit & Vegetable News visited Littabella Pines it was a hive of activity with pickers and machinery operators putting down tools for the day.

An early adapter who readily admits to looking to improve his pineapple farming operation every day, Littabella Pines owner John Steemson (pictured below right), recently trialled a robot on-farm, the LYRO Robotic Packer, created by LYRO Robotics.

John's goal - to see how mechanisation might work when sorting pineapple tops for planting.

The LYRO Robotic Packer first grabbed John's attention at a demonstration event held at another local farm where the robot was packing zucchinis.

"I was a little bit excited about the prospects," John said.

"My first thought for that robotic arm was to get a more even crop establishment through the sorting of pineapple tops."

John sees this as only the first step and maintains an optimism about the future of horticulture in the digital age – both as a producer, employer and for a farm's workforce.

"A robot arm is just one capability of the technology bundle," John explained.

"There's lots of emphasis or interest in the pineapple industry about mechanisation, in particular for harvesting.

"The COVID situation is amplifying people's needs for potential labour saving or reduction.

"This is going to create more than it will decrease [job] numbers.

"If we can increase our production by 10 percent that's 500t a year.

"If we're going to produce 500t more fruit, there's a need for that relative amount of labour."

However, John remains cautious about the direction AgTech is taking.

"Robots have been around for a long time, and I have been suitably unimpressed with the standard of robotic technology systems," John said.

Despite his scepticism about some of the robots in the field, John sees the LYRO Robotic Picker bringing success to many farms under the right circumstances.

"The machine that LYRO had here in the shed sorting pineapple tops, I'm sure it will be refined," John said.

"The robot arm will have a lot of potential for things like planting, when a plant has to be oriented in a particular way to be placed in the ground.

"The sky is the limit. It's all about creating situations that suit the mechanics as well as adapting the mechanism to suit the situation.

"There was some realisation at that point, tech engineers will sit in a lab and develop something that they think fits the market. LYRO are willing to come and meet the market and say, 'What can we do to fit the need?'

"I am impressed with their attitude, and it certainly suggests a profitable outcome will be available for both parties."

## Rebooting the workforce with robots

For LYRO Robotics co-founder, Nicole Robinson, merging technology with horticulture has been a goal since her days studying computer science at QUT.

"It was something I knew quite well, both agriculture and robotics," Nicole said.

"Fruit and vegetables are all different. You need something that's intelligent enough to pick up different types of shapes, sizes, weights and colours.

“So it was a really interesting technical problem to bring our software stack to address. That’s what the LYRO Robotic Packer excels at.”

With R&D trials completed and the LYRO Robotic Packer contracted directly with clients to help ease labour force pressures, adaptability of the robot is important for its future success, meeting the needs of different fruit and vegetable growers.

When Fruit and Vegetable News asked Nicole what sets LYRO Robotics apart on its path to a commercialised product, they said working with growers to solve problems has been key.

“We’re really driven to shape things in a way that is solving the right problem,” Nicole said.

“We’re focused to bring value in the fresh produce industry. Building the features that matter the most.”

The one-armed robot, with a hand – known as a gripper – could easily be mistaken for an automated machine instead of a robot.

The differences are subtle and in the process of packing shed operations, results can vary.

“Sometimes, the idea of a robot brings about a specific image that people create in their mind,” Nicole explained.

“A robot can be as simple as a piece of machinery that can perceive what it’s doing and has the ability to adapt in an intelligent way.

“We consider it [LYRO Robotic Packer] a robot because it can perceive the environment and react in a dynamic way - slightly different to a machine or automation - where everything is in the exact same routine and if anything changes along the process, the machine or automation might not have any capability to deal with it.”

### **The robots are coming for our jobs!**

Mark Adams, LYRO Robotics general manager, is confident that the digital revolution will lead to a whole new class of roles for farm workers.

He refers to historical data to back his case up, echoing the words of John Steemson, who says farmers have always adapted and utilised new technological breakthroughs to enhance their farming operations.

“If you look historically, there were half a million people employed in agriculture feeding a population of about 4 million,” Mark said.

“Now we have about 350,000 people employed in agriculture feeding a population of 26 million and exporting.

“We don’t miss those 200,000 jobs – we celebrate efficiency and the advances in technology that allowed that to happen.”

Additionally, Mark refers to the fact that there is a huge mismatch between labour supply and demand, which is hugely affecting regional Australia.

“A lot of the people aren’t from the region, farmers are relying on backpackers and seasonal workers to do these jobs,” Mark said.

“I think far from actually taking jobs, it’s going to create a whole new class of jobs.

“In the long term it will be much cheaper to use the machines or robots instead of hiring people to pick and pack.”

LYRO Robotics expects its technology to continue to gain momentum as growers find solutions to deal with labour supply pressures and that in the long-term a robotic workforce will be cheaper than a human one.

The goals of this robot start-up set a high watermark.

“Our goal is to have robots around that contribute to packing a wide variety of produce, this would be a great outcome for anyone who is feeling the pressure of getting their crops picked and packed,” Nicole said.

LYRO have worked closely with fresh produce growers to optimise their technology and see a lot of strong parallels in key skills shared between techies and farmers.

“What we have in common with farmers is that they’re entrepreneurs, first and foremost, and they’re very good at solving their own problems,” Mark said.

“There are some very sophisticated engineers on these farms.

“Looking at some of the solutions that John Steemson and some other growers have created in their back shed is very interesting - to solve problems because the market hasn’t solved it.

“Ultimately in terms of problem solving there is more common ground than there are differences.”

LYRO Robotics forecasts that mechanisation through use of robots will increase output from a current rate of 1:2 versus output from a human.

“I think you’ll see that ratio creep up to a robot doing the output of two people,” Mark said.



Scan the QR Code to see the LYRO Robotics pineapple top sorter in action.







## YIELD PREDICTION GOPRO-STYLE; TO GUIDE DECISIONS ABOUT LABOUR NEEDS, MARKET SUPPLY

Walking through the tunnels of blueberry bushes at Perfection Fresh, Bundaberg, bees were abuzz, providing extra pollination support during the early stages of flowering, back in June.

At this farm, natural methods of production team up with data-driven technology to make informed business decisions.

Pollination helps more seed to grow in the individual berry, making it bigger and more appetising for the consumer.

For farm manager Shaun Corbett, once the bees have pollinated and been moved on by their beekeeper, and tiny berries start to form on the many laterals of the bush, Shaun will take video footage of each bush with a GoPro.

This side-on, plant-by-plant video footage is then loaded into a analysis system, called GreenView Portal, developed by BitWise Agronomy.

GreenView then identifies, counts and measures the growth stages of the blueberries and creates insight reports about the health of the crop, which Shaun uses to predict yield, workforce needs and consumer supply.

“According to that you can figure out how many people you will need for picking, how many punnets you will need for packaging,” he said.

“Tech is a profitable way to reduce input costs.

“Tech helps you look for where there are savings, because all supermarkets pay growers the same amount.”

It’s a welcome move for Perfection Fresh, whose Bundaberg operation alone employs about 220 workers in peak season (September till October) to harvest berries.

This season was off to a slow start with warmer than normal weather during May and rain affecting pollination, delaying the crop by three weeks.

Picking is expected to last through to October.



Farm Manger Shaun Corbett. PICTURE: Perfection Fresh.

Build Soil Health with Real Yield Results  
THAT'S SUSTAINABILITY

TriCal  
AUSTRALIA  
TriCal.com.au

**STRIKE**  
StrikeFumigants.com



Promotes native  
beneficial soil  
micro-organisms.



Supports growth  
of a healthy  
root system.



Improves water  
and nutrient-use  
efficiency.



Results in thriving  
plants with less  
crop stress.



Increases  
marketable crop  
yields.

FUMIGATION PARTNERSHIPS INNOVATION



## HORTICULTURAL NETTING PROGRAM EXPANDED

More horticulture producers across Queensland will benefit from an expanded trial of the Australian Government's Horticultural Netting Program, which offsets the cost of installing netting.

The Horticultural Netting Program - Trial has expanded from the initial trial of apple and pear production to include all horticultural industries except wine grapes.

Through the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA), producers can apply for a federal grant of 50 percent up to a maximum of \$300,000 to offset the cost of purchasing and installing horticultural netting on existing commercial horticulture crops.

This includes the associated infrastructure such as poles or costs associated with contractors installing or preparing for installation activities.

The Queensland Government will administer the Horticultural Netting Program - Trial Expansion in this state on behalf of the Australian Government.

QRIDA will assess applications in order of receipt, and subject to the available federal funding.

For more information or to apply visit the QRIDA online portal at [www.qrida.qld.gov.au/program/horticultural-netting-program-trial-expansion](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/program/horticultural-netting-program-trial-expansion) or phone 1800 623 946.



## RED GRANT HELPS MAREEBA CITRUS GROWERS MEET MARKET DEMAND FOR FRESH FRUIT

Mareeba producers, Galati Farming are turning down the temperature on their fresh citrus produce and creating good jobs with the help of a Rural Economic Development (RED) Grant.

As one of 16 businesses to receive a grant of up to \$200,000, Galati Farming will use the funding to install an additional cold room to support the expansion of their orchard to help meet consumer demand for fresh fruit.

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries Mark Furner MP said fresh, locally grown produce is what the market is demanding, and this grant will help Galati Farming meet that demand by funding a project that will help them increase their fruit production.

Director of Galati Farming, Gina Galati owns and runs the business with her husband, Giovanni, who is the second generation to own the business, said she looks forward to seeing the business grow with the help of the grant.

"We currently grow lemons, grapefruit, mandarins and pomelos but are struggling to keep up with the increasing demand for fresh fruit," Ms Galati said.

"After much consultation with multiple agents in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne we knew that we needed to expand our orchard and the new cold room will help us accommodate the extra produce."

Galati Farming is one of 16 businesses approved in the fourth round of the RED Grants program with total funding of just over \$3 million. Overall, these 16 projects are expected to create more than 217 direct long-term good jobs across regional Queensland.

The initial three rounds of the RED Grants program have seen funding of \$10 million over three years to support more than 30 projects which have created 1,800 jobs across regional Queensland.

The Palaszczuk Government has continued its investment with a further \$6.6 million to be delivered in two rounds over the next two years to generate even more jobs, expand agricultural supply chains and provide significant economic benefit to rural areas.

The Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) administer the RED Grant scheme on behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.



## PINEAPPLE INDUSTRY ON SHOW AT 2022 FIELD DAYS

Over 160 pineapple growers and industry supply chain members converged on the Sunshine Coast in July to share knowledge and celebrate at the industry's annual Pineapple Field Days.

Attracting keen interest this year was the implementation of a farm-wide bioreactor – a joint project between Growcom, the Department of Environment and Science (DES), Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and Healthy Land and Water.

Over the years, the Australian pineapple industry has implemented and trialled new practices to help keep nutrients in the soil where the crops need them.

However large duration, high intensity, or unseasonal rainfall events cause soil water drainage which rapidly removes nitrogen from the crop root zone to shallow ground water tables. To address the issue of nitrate transfer from farms into the surrounding aquatic environment, denitrification bioreactors are being constructed.

The scientific goal behind the bioreactor is to achieve denitrification. The bioreactor creates a home for naturally occurring bacteria, which use the woodchips as a food source and due to the anaerobic – underwater – situation, they use the nitrate in the water to respire or breath. The bacteria convert the nitrate in the water into normal nitrogen gas.

Australian Pineapple industry operators continue to show commitment to making improvements in the way in which they farm, so that they can demonstrate to their consumers that they are striving towards more sustainable farming practices.

Other farm trials and demonstrations on show at the Field Days included pineapple plant material collectors, a geopolymer soil erosion demonstration trial, precision boom sprayers, alternative fumigation application methods, an overview of Favco's pineapple varieties and demonstration of a robotic plant material size grader developed by LYRO Robotics.

At the industry Gala Dinner, young growers Rian Pace, Jeffrey Pace, Hayden Marshall and Caitlin Marshall from Pace Farming in North Queensland jointly received the Rudy Wassman Award, recognising their achievements as the next generation of growers.

Garth Sanewski from the DAF was awarded the Col Scott Award for his outstanding contribution to the Australian pineapple industry.

Garth has worked in the industry for over 40 years and is recognised as a leading pineapple agronomist internationally. Garth's many career achievements include breeding three commercial pineapple varieties – Aus-Jubilee, Aus-Carnival and Aus-Festival; the publication of the second edition of the international CABI book 'The pineapple – botany production and uses'; and developing genetic markers for out-of-season flowering, phytophthora resistance and smooth leaves – all world leading.

Also recognised at the Gala Dinner were former Growcom staff members Janine Clark and Rowena Beveridge who both received Industry Appreciation Awards – Janine for her invaluable support to the industry around all things biosecurity, pest management and chemicals and Rowena for bringing the industry together to put the focus on sustainable farming practices.

Thank you to this year's sponsors, without your support the Pineapple Field Days would be impossible to hold: Favco, Golden Circle, Smyth Financial, Agrichem, TriCal Australia, Tropical Pines, Mineral Mulch, RDO Equipment, Opal ANZ, Elders, ATC Group, Nutrien Ag Solutions, FW Agronomy, Imtrade Crop Science, Swancorp, Australian Retirement Trust, Moreton Bay Regional Council, EE Muir & Sons, Queensland Farmers' Federation, Harvest Trail Information Services, Organic Crop Protectants, Bio Organic Sustainable Solutions (BOSS), Qld Organics, Agripower, Fair Farms, Hort360 and LYRO Robotics. A special thank you also to the Member for Glass House Andrew Powell for once again supporting the industry.











Dr Stuart Irvine-Brown, DAF with Growcom Hort360 SEQ Project Manager Tim Wolens.

## Woodchips at the centre of bioreactor project

Nitrogen gas. It makes up 79 percent of the atmosphere and on the Sunshine Coast, pineapple growers are relying on a natural nitrogen cycling process to transform nitrate in ground water into nitrogen gas.

Amongst the peaks of the Glass House Mountains, a sea of pineapple heads point toward the sky. Beneath the crop, the sandy/loamy soil holds the nutrients, including nitrogen that the pineapples need to grow.

However, heavy rainfall can lead to leaching that flushes nitrogen from the soil in the form of nitrate into the local waterways of the Pumicestone Passage and Moreton Bay, a Ramsar listed and internationally protected wetland.

Excessive nitrate in waterways leads to algal bloom, which can be toxic. Such algal blooms can block sunlight impacting other flora and fauna by removing oxygen from the water. Too much nitrate can affect the balance of the whole ecosystem and severely degrade the health and diversity of the natural waterways.

Over the years, growers have implemented and trialled new practices to help keep nutrients in the soil where the crops need them. These include improved targeted practices for pre- and post-plant nutrient application, precision boom spraying, and use of polymers for erosion control.

However, large duration, high intensity, or unseasonal rainfall events cause soil water drainage which rapidly removes nitrogen from the crop root zone by transfers to shallow ground water tables.

To address the issue of nitrate transfer from farms into the surrounding aquatic environment, denitrification bioreactors are being constructed. This is so that farmers like Sam Pike, of Sandy Creek Pineapples, can continue to grow premium pineapples, while improving the sustainability of practices used on their farm.

On Mr Pike's farm, wall bioreactors are being installed at the perimeter of the farm. They are strategically placed where there is a lot of subsurface water movement and high nitrate concentrations. This water will now run through the bioreactors before reaching the local waterways.

Inside the bioreactors, denitrification microbes are doing the hard work and conditions need to favour them. The three main requirements for the microbes are a carbon source, anaerobic (without air) conditions in saturated soil and nitrate.

Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' (DAF) Dr Stuart Irvine-Brown explained the scientific goal behind the bioreactors is to achieve de-nitrification.

"The bioreactor creates a home for naturally occurring bacteria, which use the woodchips as a food source and due to the anerobic

- underwater - situation, they use the nitrate in the water to respire or breathe like we do," Dr Irvine-Brown said.

"The bacteria convert the nitrate in the water into normal nitrogen gas."

Growcom's Hort360 South East Queensland Project Manager Tim Wolens said the implementation of bioreactors is a pragmatic and effective choice to reduce nitrate runoff into some of South East Queensland's most used and relied-on waterways.

"Australian pineapple industry operators are showing commitment to making improvements in the way in which they farm, so that they can demonstrate to their consumers that they are striving towards more sustainable farming practices and improve water quality in the Pumicestone Passage and Moreton Bay, which have important ecological significance," Mr Wolens said.

The Department of Environment and Sciences' (DES) Stephanie Cooper said the bioreactor is a win for the pineapple industry, Glass House communities, and the Pumicestone Passage and Moreton Bay catchments.

"Pumicestone Passage is an internationally important wetland and Moreton Bay is an internationally recognised Ramsar wetland," Ms Cooper said.

"This bioreactor implementation is important for maintaining water assets for social, cultural and economic uses that South-East Queenslanders enjoy."

South-East Queensland pineapple grower and Australian Pineapple's Chair Sam Pike.



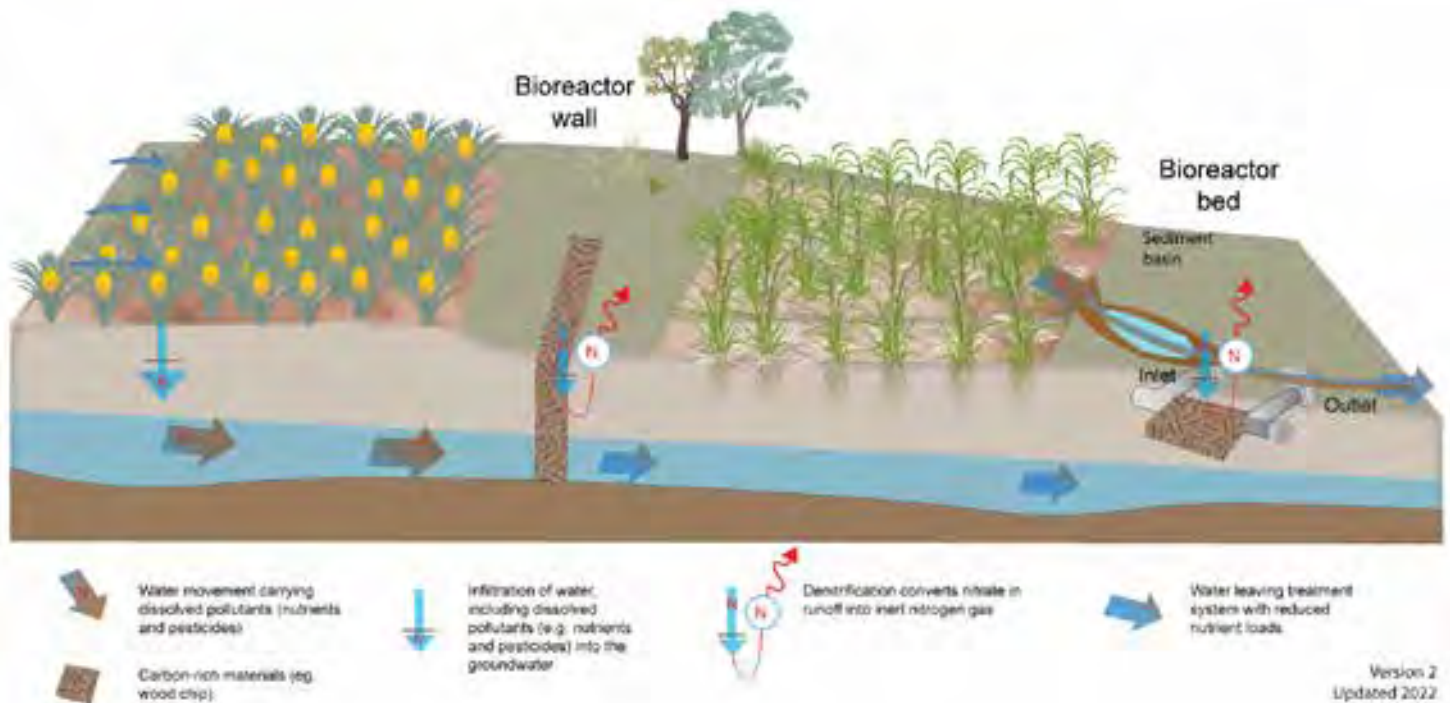


Figure: Illustration of two bioreactor types (wall and bed) and the movement of Nitrogen (N).

Department of Environment and Science, Queensland (2022) Bioreactors, WetlandInfo website, accessed 6 July 2022. Available at: <https://wetlandinfo.des.qld.gov.au/wetlands/management/treatment-systems/for-agriculture/treatment-sys-nav-page/bioreactors/>

Ms Cooper went on to say that the efforts of Sam Pike and the Australian pineapple industry, Growcom, as well as DES and DAF will go a long way to help set a standard for businesses to reduce nitrate in runoff into the Pumicestone Passage and Moreton Bay catchments.

“The 2021 South-East Queensland report card showed there were increasing pollutant loads in the Pumicestone Passage region,” Ms Cooper said.

For pineapple grower, Mr Pike, who is also the chair of the industry group, Australian Pineapples, maintaining the land his family farms on, is at the heart of what they do every day.

Mr Pike’s farm, now in its fourth generation, looks after and works the land for the next generation and said he sees the establishment of a bioreactor as a way to do something good for the land, the waterways and the community that his family helped pioneer.

“Our farm has gone on 100 years, I’ve got kids coming on – they might do farming, they might not,” Mr Pike said.

“This is a step toward helping our environment and helping reduce our footprint.”

The practical nature of bioreactors also means that not much maintenance is involved once construction finishes.

There are examples of bioreactors in New Zealand going on 25 years. The warmer temperatures and heavy rainfalls in South-East Queensland might shorten the lifespan of a bioreactor to a degree.

Regular monitoring and measuring of nitrate in runoff water will ensure the bioreactors are functioning properly and further guide their placement and use to intercept agricultural N leaving the farm in groundwater.

While the bioreactors are not solving the problem of keeping nitrogen in the soil under the pineapples where it is needed, it is stopping the dissolved nitrogen from exiting the farm, entering the local waterways, and impacting the environment.

Mr Pike said all stakeholders involved with the bioreactor trial – Growcom, DES, DAF & Healthy Land and Water – play important roles and bring in special expertise to develop the bioreactors.

The Pineapple Environmental Team (PET) is continuing to work with growers on solutions that will improve efficiency around fertiliser use and improvement of sustainable practices.

The PET was established to work on improving practices in pineapple production and to consolidate the work and resources in different areas and organisations. First and foremost, the group is headed by Australian Pineapples’ Chair Sam Pike, representing the growers. Other growers are also being consulted and participate in the meetings to provide input. Several growers across Queensland are hosting field trials and are actively involved in the work.

Growcom, as the peak industry body for pineapples, is providing extension support along with technical inputs and support for on-ground trials.

Healthy Land and Water is the local Natural Resource Management group in the region and thus provides NRM advice along with on-farm trial work on geopolymers for erosion control.

DAF is contributing with trial work and technical support. DES provides scientific advice and is the funding body for Growcom’s SEQ water quality project and the bioreactor implementation.





## workplace relations

Focus HR Founding Director  
**Naomi Wilson**

### Leadership and the Art of Influence

If you Google 'what is leadership', you will find a multitude of different responses. Let's keep it simple here – leadership is the art of influence. And it is attained through internal power, not positional power.

Each of us has the ability to influence others. Some are, without a doubt, more effective than others. And some use their ability to influence for good and others, well... not so much.

If we look at leadership within business, I believe that effective leaders learn the art of influence. And they achieve that influence through focusing on the people, their engagement, their connectivity, and their drive towards a common goal.

In today's employment landscape, it feels like we are backed into putting far too much emphasis on compliance and process and, let's be honest, covering our butts. All of this is sapping a leader's true power of influence. We need to be better. We need to make sure our focus as leaders is on influencing others to realise the best possible outcomes for all.

How do we do that? Let me share six key lessons that I've picked up along the way through trial and more error than I care to remember.

#### 1. Leaders are value and purpose-driven

In his book 'Good to Great,' Jim Collins studied the attributes of top performing companies that had both great cultures AND delivered consistently strong financial performance. He identified that great companies did three things consistently:

- They had the right people on the bus (in the business);
- The right people were doing the RIGHT things (focused on the most important priorities and not unimportant activities); and
- The right people would do the RIGHT things RIGHT (they would execute with excellence).

In order to have the right people on the bus, doing the right things, and doing them right – it is vital that a business has clarity in their Core Purpose (why they exist) and in their Core Values (a handful of cultural rules that they will not compromise on). Enduring companies have clear plans for how they will advance into an uncertain future – that is to say, their strategy. But they are equally clear about how they will remain steadfast; about the values and purpose they will always stand for.

#### 2. Leaders give themselves permission

Permission to expect more from others, to engage great people, and to make tough calls. They also give themselves permission to be the best version of themselves – to shine. I'm not talking about egotistical chest-beating, but a genuine, authentic and humble comfort in striving for excellence.

#### 3. Leaders understand there is always a different perspective

They know that their own perspective is not gospel and in fact, there are multiple other perspectives. They also know that to truly understand and connect with their people, they need to be able to understand their perspective. Particularly when the going gets tough. When managing people, I have learnt that if we look at a person's behaviours, performance, or communication in isolation, we are likely to only see one small piece of a very complex puzzle. If we keep our vision limited and react only to that single layer, we lose our ability to positively influence the outcome through understanding and empathy.

#### 4. Leaders know when to put their own oxygen mask on first

This one is tough! Great leaders are often highly invested in their people, which means that they automatically put their people's needs above their own. But effective leaders understand that if they don't have enough oxygen for themselves, they are simply no use to others. So, leaders need to prioritise their own mental and physical health to ensure they continue to be able to give to others.

#### 5. Leaders are fearlessly authentic

Authenticity means being self-aware (knowing your strengths, limitations and emotions), behaving consistently no matter who is watching, balancing heart and head, and paying attention to the journey, not just the end destination. The main value that underpins authentic leadership is building trust with others through being open, honest and genuine. Authentic leaders empower their people, create a safe environment for new ideas, make it safe to fail, and take pleasure in others' success.

#### 6. Leaders act with composure

Leadership is not about being invincible, it is not about being emotionless, and it is not about knowing everything and having a crystal ball to see what is coming. It is about handling challenges, about sharing vulnerability with your people, and about dealing with whatever comes with decisiveness and trust in your team that 'we've got this'. It is about doing all of that with composure.

A final caution... If leadership is the art of influence, and influence brings with it 'power', remember the words of wise Uncle Ben - 'with great power comes great responsibility'. Leaders, worthy of being followed are influencing others for the greater good (not just their own).



THIS MONTH

*Barden Produce innovates with Fair Farms*

FAIR FARMS PROGRAM UPDATE  
REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN – FAIR FARMS NATIONAL CONFERENCE & AWARDS

## Fair Farms National Conference & Awards

**14 October 2022**

Opal Cove Resort, Coffs Harbour

**REGISTER NOW**

[www.fairfarms.com.au/fair-farms-conference](http://www.fairfarms.com.au/fair-farms-conference)

Major Partner

**AUSVEG**







## program update

Fair Farms National Program Manager  
**Sachin Ayachit**

# Staying busy, updated, connected, and in the know with Fair Farms

Welcome to another edition of Fair Farms News. As we continue to work towards what will certainly be a fulfilling second half of the year it's also a perfect time to recap what the program has been up to over the past couple of months.

Fair Farms was fortunate enough to venture all around Australia. We were invited to speak at some key industry events including the Australian Certified Organics Conference and Berry Quest International. Fair Farms also travelled to the busy cosmopolitan landscape that is Sydney for the Fresh Produce Safety Conference 2022.

A common theme in being present at these events I've found is that Fair Farms plays an integral part in all aspects of horticulture. While this isn't exactly a new concept, it became clear that the program has evolved to cover and offer value to all aspects of horticulture in Australia whether it be sustainability, organics, berries, or even food safety.

At the Australian Certified Organics Conference where the theme was 'embracing change and transformation,' Fair Farms presented about why it was important for organics growers to embrace Fair Farms and why being a member helped prepare growers for the transformation that is happening in the compliance space.

Presenting at the Australian Certified Organics Conference was an important milestone for the program as it officially marked the first interaction between the program and organic growers. The organics industry, like Fair Farms, is built on the success of its members, is built upon authentic, credible operators who strive to protect the integrity of organic practices. The event also shone a spotlight on the successes, challenges and opportunities that currently define organics.

Moving from the world of organics into berries, Fair Farms was proud to be a sponsor for berries most important event - Berry Quest International 2022. It was a pleasure to be in the presence of so many berry growers and industry experts and a big plus was being able to meet some of our Fair Farms members in person. At Berry Quest, Fair Farms presented on the importance of

certification schemes and ethical sourcing and how this related to alleviating workforce challenges.

We also cannot forget how great it was to be present at the Pineapple Field Days. The entire Fair Farms team were in attendance for what was an amazing two days of celebrating pineapple growers on the Sunshine Coast. A highlight of the event was the Gala Dinner where pineapple industry members, some of whom were Fair Farms members, were recognised for their accomplishments.

After being present at these events the Fair Farms team is now even more excited for our inaugural Fair Farms National Conference & Awards 2022 which will be at Opal Cove Resort, Coffs Harbour on 14 October 2022. Registrations are now open, and we invite all Fair Farms members to register and attend what will be a first for the horticulture industry. Coffs Harbour will become the epicentre for discussion about workplace relations, workplace health and safety and ethical employment practices on farm. Over the next couple of weeks Fair Farms will announce speakers, sponsors, and details about how our members can nominate for our Fair Farmer of the Year Award.

### **New Workplace Relations Specialist**

Before I sign off for this edition of Fair Farms News, I just wanted to let you know that the program recently welcomed a new team member. Amanda Higgins recently came onboard as Fair Farms Workplace Relations Specialist. With a diverse background in HR & workplace relations, training and development and small business management, Amanda is prepared and ready to help shape the program for its grower members.

Amanda is looking forward to assisting Fair Farm members to achieve certification and, in the process, gain a clearer understanding of workplace relations and workplace health and safety.

Finally, to keep up to date on where the Fair Farms team will be next visit [www.fairfarms.com.au/events-workshops](http://www.fairfarms.com.au/events-workshops) and watch out for the next edition of the Fair Farms Newsletter.

## COMPLIANCE NOTICE: NEW LEARNING RESOURCE AVAILABLE FOR GROWERS

You may have noticed the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) is increasingly using Compliance Notices as a tool to recover unpaid wages.

The FWO issued more than 2000 Compliance Notices in the previous financial year. They also commenced legal proceedings against more than 150 companies for failing to comply with these Notices. Non-compliance with a Compliance Notice carries with it a significant financial penalty and cost to employers, so it's important to understand what to do if you receive such a notice.

The FWO has developed a new online course to assist employers and their professional advisers in better understanding the requirements of a Compliance Notice.

The interactive short course provides step-by-step guidance, video scenarios and real-life case studies to help employers understand: what a compliance notice is; why they are issued; and the possible consequences if they don't respond to a compliance notice

The course takes about 30 minutes to complete. Learners who complete the course can download a completion certificate, which may count towards professional development activities.

To access the FWO learning centre, visit: [www.fairwork.gov.au/tools-and-resources/online-learning-centre/compliance-notices](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/tools-and-resources/online-learning-centre/compliance-notices)



# Barden Produce innovates *with Fair Farms*

Barden Produce has more than 20 years' experience in the fresh produce industry and supplies several major supermarkets, independent grocers, and market agents along the east coast of Australia. They're also a Fair Farms Certified Grower.

Human Resource Manager and long-time employee Marie Exelby sat down with Fair Farms News recently to talk about Barden Produce and why being Fair Farms Certified was an important aspect of their business.

"I began working for Barden Produce when I was 15 over the weekends and on school holidays," Marie said.

"I initially started in the packing shed as a general packer, before progressing to a line leader and then Shed Supervisor."

Marie, who has worked with Barden Produce for seven years, credits her longevity with the business to the way they treat their staff.

"Whether that be staff bonuses, Christmas parties or a simple staff BBQ our staff play a pivotal role in our business and without them we couldn't operate," she said.

"I thoroughly enjoy the fast-paced environment of the business and helping build a strong workforce to achieve the businesses goals in supplying fresh, quality produce nationwide."

As a market leader in the herb, specialty vegetable and leaf line categories, Barden Produce invests heavily in new product development and technology to ensure that their customers experience their business philosophy with every purchase - Freshness and Quality without Compromise.

Most recently Barden Produce installed a Redpath fully automated greenhouse which enables them to grow a variety of herbs all year-round.

"This fully automated structure maintains an appropriate growing temperature and light density using high technology sensors and automatic heating and cooling," Marie said.

"This new technology has enabled us to grow 28,000 basil plants in a 21-day period during winter, which is just as quick as the summer production period."

As innovators and leaders in the industry, Barden Produce saw Fair Farms as a value-add to their business and therefore decided to pursue certification with the program.

"At Barden Produce we are committed to continuous improvement and were attracted to the Fair Farms program as it was a way for us to enhance our overall ethical practices," Marie said.

"Fair Farms was also more relevant to our business.

"We have transitioned into a farming company so implementing this certification program made sense to us - it's a program developed by the horticultural Industry for the horticultural Industry.

"The best part about Fair Farms is that its prescriptive- its black and white.

"You are given audit guides and a set standard to follow which are developed in line with Fair Work and workplace health and safety regulations.

"Not only are they easy to follow, but it gives you confidence that the business is doing the right thing."

Marie said she would recommend the program to anyone in the horticulture industry looking to add-value to their ethical and human resource practices.

"It's a great program aimed at supporting the horticultural Industry to comply with workplace relations and workplace health and safety laws."





# Fair Farms National Conference & Awards

**14 October 2022**  
Opal Cove Resort, Coffs Harbour



**You're invited to join Fair Farms this October for the inaugural Fair Farms Conference & Awards.**

The Fair Farms National Conference & Awards has been organised as an annual event to celebrate the program, its grower-members and the horticulture industry. This year's event will be at Opal Cove Resort at Coffs Harbour NSW on Friday 14 October 2022.

This exciting landmark event will be a first for the horticulture industry. Industry experts, growers, workplace relations specialists, and peak industry bodies will come together in one place to discuss the current state of workplace relations in Australian horticulture.

The Conference will include sessions covering everything from legislative changes in the industry and key focus areas for the Australian and State Governments to workplace relations, labour retention and attraction, and the current challenges growers are facing.

**REGISTER NOW**

[www.fairfarms.com.au/fair-farms-conference](http://www.fairfarms.com.au/fair-farms-conference)

Major Partner

**AUSVEG**





## VARROA-TARGETING PESTICIDE UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Amid Australia's first Varroa Destructor Mite outbreak, the grower-owned research and development corporation Hort Innovation has joined forces with the University of Sydney to develop a world-first hormone-based pesticide that is safe for honey bees but fatal to Varroa mite.

As part of the \$1.2M initiative, scientists will create molecules that selectively bind to and interfere with the hormone receptors of Varroa mite and fellow honey bee pest, small hive beetle, interfering with reproduction, development, and behaviour. The target receptors are absent from vertebrates, making the pesticide safe for other beneficial animals in the environment.

Hort Innovation Chief Executive Brett Fifield said the project aims to help safeguard Australian honey bees and will have positive impacts to horticulture production.

"Thirty per cent of global agricultural production is reliant on pollination by honey bees," he said. "And across the board, this production is currently under threat from pests including the Varroa mite and the small hive beetle."

Mr Fifield said pesticides are a crucial aspect of sustainable agriculture and disease control. However, there is a pressing need for more environmentally-friendly pesticides that have selective action against 'bad' versus 'good' insects."

University of Sydney project lead Professor Joel Mackay said insecticides that target Varroa mite and small hive beetle receptors have not been successfully created before.

"There has been international recognition of the potential value of insect hormone receptors as targets for safer selective control agents," he said. "Several companies have tried and encountered technical difficulties largely because these proteins are challenging to express, purify and characterise.

"However, our team has had over a decade of experience tackling and overcoming these technical challenges. We have one of only two laboratories in the world that have determined atomic structures of the hormone proteins of the receptors we are targeting. We have also developed a unique receptor-based

chemical library screen for discovery of new pesticide leads molecules."

La Trobe University and the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute are also contributing to the five-year project.

Currently, Hort Innovation is investing more than \$61M into research and development projects that aim to enhance and protect pollination security in Australia – from work with flies and native bees that are not affected by Varroa mite to mechanical methods of pollination.

### CHEMICAL ACCREDITATION

#### One day new and refresher course

GLASSHOUSE MOUNTAINS - 06/09 GYMPIE - 07/09 BUNDABERG - 8/09 MIRIAM VALE - 09/09  
 MAREEBA - 12/09 TULLY - 14/09 BOWEN - 15/09 AYR - 16/09 MACKAY - 19/09  
 ROCKHAMPTON - 20/09 TOOWOOMBA - 04/10 GATTON - 05/10 STANTHORPE - 06/10  
 BOONAH - 11/10 MAREEBA - 14/11 TULLY/INNISFAIL - 15/11 AYR - 16/11 BOWEN - 17/11  
 MACKAY - 18/11 MUNDUBBERA - 22/11 BUNDABERG - 23/11 GYMPIE - 24/11  
 KINGAROY - 25/11 TOOWOOMBA - 01/12

If dates/location do not suit please advise of your requirements to enable future planning. Courses can be arranged elsewhere if required.

**Accreditation valid for five years • One day new and update courses**

#### CLIENT FEEDBACK:

**ROB'S COURSE WAS WELL CONSTRUCTED AND CATERES FOR PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT SKILL LEVELS AND USES RELEVANT REAL CASE STORIES TO ACCENTUATE RELATIVE POINTS. ADRIAN S**

**RELEVANT TO OUR INDUSTRY, PRACTICAL INFORMATION THAT WE WILL USE WITHIN OUR BUSINESS. GREAT INFO. JESS M**

**GREAT INFORMATION AND EASY TO LISTEN TO INSTRUCTOR WHO WAS ABLE TO IMPART HIS KNOWLEDGE TO ME EASILY. VERY GOOD COURSE. I LEARNED A LOT. RODNEY W**

**1800 626 681**  
**WWW.COUNTRYCO.COM.AU**  
**ROB BARTLEY** Countryco Ag Services Pty Ltd  
 admin@countryco.com.au

# Country Kitchens makes veggies the heroes

Diane Donaldson is a Queensland Country Women's Association (QCWA) member at Herberton Branch in the Atherton Tablelands Division. She is also one of the dedicated team of Country Kitchens facilitators and now also, Division Convenor.

The QCWA's Country Kitchens program is a health promotion program supporting communities across Queensland to adopt healthier lifestyle behaviours.

It is a partnership between the QCWA and Health and Wellbeing Queensland and the flagship program of the Association.

The Country Kitchens program supports QCWA volunteer Branch and Supporter members, who already have a wealth of cooking knowledge and skills, with training and support to help improve the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders, particularly those living in rural, regional and remote locations.

Joining the QCWA in 2017, Diane was inspired to become a Country Kitchens facilitator over a year ago.

"At a Division meeting one weekend at Forsyth Branch, Country Kitchens Health Promotion Team Leader, Katy Li, demonstrated a couple of Country Kitchens recipes, and I decided to sign up," Diane said.

"I love cooking, and I cook everything from scratch, having done so for many years. I got involved with the Country Kitchens program to promote and raise awareness of the importance of consuming a healthy, balanced diet, and to show how easy it can be to make great tasting healthy meals at home."

The Country Kitchens team of dietitians and nutritionists provide a training PATHway and assistance to QCWA members – Supporter members and Branch members - who volunteer to become facilitators of the program.

Country Kitchens facilitators deliver health promotion activities in their local communities and partner with organisations such as schools, local councils, and a wide range of community groups.

A central part of the program is the creation of healthy recipes.

This is how the Country Kitchens program is improving food and nutrition literacy, and importantly, influencing behaviour change at a grass roots level.

"I have been involved in a range of Country Kitchens community activities and have recently completed my Level 5 facilitator training. I have assisted with a showcase at the Atherton Show for the past two years, and also helped deliver hands on nutrition workshops for Year 10 students at Malanda High School in conjunction with other facilitators," Diane said.

If you or someone you know is keen to work with the QCWA Country Kitchens program, we are always looking to increase our volunteer workforce. To learn more about what we do, please get in touch with the team on 0417 539 663, or visit our website [qcwacountrykitchens.com.au](http://qcwacountrykitchens.com.au)

You can also join the QCWA here [qcwa.org.au/join-us](http://qcwa.org.au/join-us)



## Cauliflower Pasta Sauce

**SERVES 5 PREP TIME 5 MIN COOK TIME: 15 MIN**

*Recipe courtesy of Lyn Kelly, Ipswich Branch*

1	cauliflower
1 tablespoon	margarine
1/4 Cup	milk, reduced fat
	Pepper to taste
150 g	blue cheese (or to taste)
500 g	pasta, prepared as per packet instructions

### METHOD

**STEAM** cauliflower until soft and then mash.

**HEAT** a frying pan over medium heat and add mashed cauliflower.

Add margarine and milk and stir until it forms a smooth consistency.

**ADD** pepper and blue cheese to taste.

**MIX** sauce through cooked pasta and serve.

Empowering women through education and health is a priority for the Queensland Country Women's Association (QCWA). The QCWA Country Kitchens program, funded by the Queensland Government through Health and Wellbeing Queensland, supports Queenslanders to adopt healthier lifestyles.





# Farm Business Resilience Program

Growcom's Farm Business Resilience Program has seen high levels of engagement over the past six months with over 300 growers participating in Growcom provided activities across the state. To date 50 growers have taken advantage of Growcom's extension services to analyse their whole farm business performance and develop farm business resilience plans, while 13 others have updated existing plans.

Project Manager Karen George said Growcom's Farm Business Resilience Program was about assisting growers to prepare for and effectively manage climate and business risks.

"Through the Farm Business Resilience Program growers can access resources and information to assist them to improve their long-term business resilience and recover from challenges that have had a negative impact on production and financial returns," Ms George said.

A key part of the program is the development of a Farm Business Resilience Plan.

"Growcom is utilising our best management practice program, Hort360 to assist in the development of business plans. We have brought all the tools into a central platform to save growers time and make it easier for them to make business decisions," Ms George said.

"A check list of questions, which guide growers to review all aspects of their business planning is presented as a module in Hort360. Upon completion of the Farm Business Management module, you will be provided with a downloadable risk report, which includes a list of actions that can be applied directly to your Farm Business Resilience Plan, which is a prerequisite for QRIDA funded capital expenditure grants and loans that aid drought preparedness and resilience.

"A well-developed plan, that sets out annual goals and actions allows for projects to be funded and implemented in a sustainable manner. It is also a great tool to assist with conversations with your financial planner or banking institution," Ms George added.

Access to and participation in the Farm Business Resilience Program is free and open to all horticultural growers in Queensland. QRIDA grants and loans are available to assist you to implement plans for

capital infrastructure to assist drought preparedness and climate resilience. A drought declaration is not required to participate in this program.

## Out and about

Growcom's Resilience Facilitators have been active across the state over the past two months. Project Manager, Karen George has recently presented at local workshops, attended the FNQ Growers R&D Field Days in Mareeba and spoken to several grower and commodity groups.



Karen George, speaking at Cassowary Coast Banana Growers meeting.

Central Queensland Resilience Facilitator John Targett and Southern Queensland Resilience Facilitator Brock McDonald attended the Australian pineapple industry's annual Pineapple Field Days to provide an update on the program, presented and held workshops in Gayndah, Stanthorpe, Rosmoyer and have attended grower and commodity group meetings across the regions.



Brock & John speaking at the pineapple industry's annual Pineapple Field Days.



## Contact Growcom today

Our Facilitators are available to work with you and your group across the state to help you be more resilient, plan and access funding. Get in contact to start your resilience journey.



**Karen George**  
Manager, Resilience  
0408 135 003

[kgeorge@growcom.com.au](mailto:kgeorge@growcom.com.au)



**John Targett**  
Central Queensland  
0418 803 997

[jtargett@growcom.com.au](mailto:jtargett@growcom.com.au)



**Brock McDonald**  
Southern Queensland  
0418 893 442

[wmcdonald@growcom.com.au](mailto:wmcdonald@growcom.com.au)



# Brisbane monthly summary for August 2022

Compiled by Market Information Services. Ph (07) 3379 4576. Fax (07) 3379 4103.  
E: adminmis@marketinfo.com.au W: marketinfo.com.au

Growcom and Ausmarket Consultants have entered into a partnership providing Growcom members with access to monthly fruit and vegetable market price information and data. Through this partnership, members also have the opportunity to access daily market reports at a discounted rate.

Visit Growcom's website to download your monthly market data report: [growcom.com.au/news-information/ausmarket](http://growcom.com.au/news-information/ausmarket)

Market Information Services shall not be liable to any party in respect to any loss or damage arising from the reliance on this information. The information contained in this Market Report is provided as a guide only and should not be regarded as a record of every sale from the Brisbane Market.

**WARNING - It is important that you read this message.**

The terms and conditions under which our Reports are supplied are clearly outlined in our Subscription/Order Form. These conditions include

*The subscriber acknowledges that Market Information Services is the owner of copyright in the Reports. The subscription is for a single user and the subscriber must not copy or permit the copying of the Reports (which includes but is not limited to e-mailing, photocopying and faxing) without prior written consent from Market Information Services.*

*The subscriber must not permit the creation of a derivative work, including a database (in electronic form or otherwise) from the Reports.*

There are instances where we have authorised multiple distribution of an e-mail Report under a single subscription. However, authorisation is limited to certain circumstances, needs our written approval, and requires that all e-mail Reports are sent by us including those to the nominated parties.

Any variation from the terms of the Subscription Agreement is in breach of copyright and could result in legal action if detected.

## Fruits

### Brisbane Monthly Special 6 - 10 Crop Summary

Page No 1

Species/Group/Variety	Tonnes	Pack	Low	High	Best	Avg	Species/Group/Variety	Tonnes	Pack	Low	High	Best	Avg
APPLES,Granny Smith	1912.18	AACtn	24.00	45.00	45.00	32.00	Red Imperial		13KgCtn	30.00	39.00	39.00	34.50
Pink Lady		AACtn	24.00	48.00	60.00	36.00	Tangold		13KgCtn	30.00	34.00	34.00	31.90
Red Delicious		AACtn	24.00	36.00	36.00	28.64	Dekopon		6KgTray	24.00	30.00	30.00	27.00
Royal Gala		AACtn	30.00	40.00	45.00	35.00	Afourer		BulkCP	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
Ambrosia		DLCtn	24.00	32.00	32.00	27.27	Hickson		BulkCP	16.00	24.00	24.00	20.00
Bravo		DLCtn	36.00	45.00	45.00	40.55	Murcott		BulkCP	24.00	40.00	40.00	30.65
Fuji		DLCtn	36.00	44.00	44.00	37.42	RH Murcott		BulkCP	15.00	36.00	36.00	21.01
Granny Smith		DLCtn	16.00	36.00	36.00	22.50	Hickson		CP	15.00	24.00	24.00	18.50
Jazz		DLCtn	38.00	52.00	52.00	46.09	Murcott		CP	20.00	60.00	60.00	31.89
Kanzi		DLCtn	32.00	44.00	44.00	39.09	RH Murcott		CP	20.00	50.00	55.00	32.56
Pink Lady		DLCtn	18.00	40.00	42.00	26.95	Taylor Lee		DLTray	6.00	15.00	15.00	10.50
Red Delicious		DLCtn	18.00	32.00	32.00	24.05	Imperial		Kg	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80
Royal Gala		DLCtn	28.00	40.00	40.00	34.00	Murcott		Kg	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Sundowner		DLCtn	18.00	24.00	24.00	21.00	Imperial		TLTray	20.00	34.00	34.00	27.00
Yello		SLTray	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	STRAWBERRIES	344.80	250g	2.00	3.00	3.00	2.50
Toffee		SLTray	17.00	18.00	18.00	17.50			250gLP	1.00	5.00	5.00	2.54
BANANAS,Cavendish	1568.91	15KgCtn	8.00	38.00	40.00	25.38			350g	3.00	4.00	4.00	3.32
Lady Finger		8KgCtn	24.00	48.00	48.00	34.00			500g	0.75	6.50	6.50	2.88
Cavendish		Carton	6.00	38.00	40.00	23.41	TAMARILLOS,Red	7.74	9LCtn	65.00	85.00	85.00	70.23
Lady Finger		Carton	12.00	66.00	72.00	35.15	Red		SLTray	40.00	45.00	45.00	42.50
FIGS,Dark Skin	15.77	300gLP	5.00	9.00	9.00	7.45							
Dark Skin		SLTray	50.00	90.00	90.00	71.93	STATE: A=ACT, N=NSW, Q=QLD, S=SA, T=TAS, V=VIC, W=WA, Y=NT, I=IMPORTED						
FINGER LIMES	2.85	250g	5.00	6.00	6.00	5.50	IMPORTANT NOTICE: Reproducing, publishing, emailing or re-FAXing this report is prohibited as is the creation of a derivative work eg. database.						
Buddah Hand		Kg	45.00	48.00	48.00	46.50							
		Kg	4.00	10.00	10.00	7.00							
GRAPES,Dark Seeded,Black America	456.65	18LCtn	36.00	45.00	45.00	41.41							
Dark Seeded,Black Supreme		18LCtn	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00							
Dark Seedless,Crimson		18LCtn	46.00	46.00	46.00	46.00							
Dark Seedless,Melody		18LCtn	25.00	36.00	36.00	30.50							
White Seeded,Calmeria		18LCtn	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00							
White Seedless,Arra Sweetee		18LCtn	120.00	125.00	125.00	122.50							
Dark Seedless,Flame		9KgCtn	100.00	150.00	150.00	127.27							
Dark Seedless,Midnight Beauty		9KgCtn	130.00	150.00	150.00	141.67							
Dark Seedless,Sapphire		9KgCtn	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00							
Dark Seedless,Scarlett Royal		9KgCtn	120.00	150.00	150.00	140.00							
White Seedless,Sugarone		9KgCtn	60.00	150.00	150.00	115.63							
White Seedless,Timpson Green		9KgCtn	85.00	140.00	140.00	122.00							
White Seedless,Unspecified		9KgCtn	120.00	150.00	150.00	147.27							
White Seedless,Lusico		9LCtn	30.00	40.00	40.00	35.00							
JAKFRUIT	4.36	Kg	10.00	17.00	17.00	12.23							
LIMES,Tahitian	274.87	18LCtn	20.00	55.00	60.00	35.75							
Aus.Native,Blood		1Kg	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00							
Tahitian		9LCtn	10.00	40.00	40.00	25.82							
MANDARINS,Afourer	3926.73	1/2CP	10.00	40.00	40.00	20.48							
Amigo		1/2CP	18.00	60.00	60.00	34.08							
Avana		1/2CP	12.00	18.00	18.00	15.00							
Clementine		1/2CP	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00							
Daisy		1/2CP	6.00	20.00	20.00	12.75							
Gold Nugget		1/2CP	14.00	16.00	16.00	15.00							
Hickson		1/2CP	20.00	24.00	24.00	22.00							
Imperial		1/2CP	8.00	30.00	30.00	16.63							
Murcott		1/2CP	12.00	30.00	30.00	16.59							
Red Imperial		1/2CP	14.00	50.00	50.00	23.18							
RH Murcott		1/2CP	8.00	24.00	24.00	14.43							
Tangold		1/2CP	16.00	20.00	20.00	18.00							
Afourer		10KgCtn	30.00	50.00	50.00	44.66							
Afourer		13KgCtn	20.00	40.00	40.00	28.12							
Gold Nugget		13KgCtn	30.00	40.00	40.00	33.33							
Imperial		13KgCtn	30.00	40.00	40.00	35.00							



# Vegetables

## Brisbane Monthly Special 6 - 10 Crop Summary

Page No 1

Species/Group/Variety	Tonnes	Pack	Low	High	Best	Avg	Species/Group/Variety	Tonnes	Pack	Low	High	Best	Avg
ASPARAGUS,Green	214.33	5KgCtn	90.00	160.00	160.00	117.84	Asian,Shimeji	150g	3.00	4.00	4.00	3.39	
BRUSSELS SPROUTS	239.77	10KgBag	40.00	50.00	50.00	45.00	Swiss Brown	200g	3.00	4.00	5.00	3.50	
		3.5lPk	15.00	20.00	20.00	17.50	Asian,King Oyster	300g	3.60	4.00	4.00	3.80	
		4.5KgCt	30.00	36.00	36.00	32.45	Asian,Enoki	330g	2.00	2.20	2.20	2.10	
		5KgIPk	20.00	40.00	50.00	34.17	Asian,King Oyster	400g	3.60	4.00	4.00	3.80	
CARROTS,Purple	1107.08	10KgCtn	24.00	30.00	30.00	28.00	Swiss Brown	Kg	10.00	14.00	14.00	12.00	
		15KgCtn	16.00	26.00	26.00	20.18	Asian,King Brown	Kg	12.00	14.00	14.00	13.00	
Baby		250gLP	1.80	2.00	2.00	1.90	Asian,Shitake	Kg	16.00	20.00	20.00	18.00	
		Bag	16.00	26.00	26.00	21.73	Buttons	Kg	8.00	12.00	12.00	9.55	
Dutch		Bunch	1.40	3.00	3.00	2.61	Cups	Kg	7.00	11.00	11.00	9.50	
		Carton	18.00	30.00	30.00	24.23	Flats	Kg	9.00	12.00	12.00	10.50	
CELERIAC	29.16	Each	4.00	5.00	5.00	4.50	TOMATOES,Egg	2568.79	10KgCtn	20.00	70.00	75.00	42.63
CHILLIES,Sweet Mixed Col.	109.29	6KgCtn	20.00	30.00	36.00	28.00	Field Gourmet	10KgCtn	12.00	60.00	60.00	35.41	
Sweet Red		6KgCtn	20.00	40.00	40.00	33.00	Baby Egg,Grape	200gLP	2.00	3.00	3.00	2.63	
Sweet Yellow		6KgCtn	20.00	40.00	40.00	27.55	Cherry & Grape,Medley Mix	200gLP	2.25	3.50	3.50	2.74	
Birdseye Red		Kg	25.00	35.00	35.00	28.93	Cherry Red Truss	250g	3.00	5.00	5.00	3.86	
Hot Green		Kg	8.00	14.00	14.00	11.25	Baby Egg,Golden Grape	250gLP	2.50	3.00	3.00	2.70	
Hot Green,Jalapeno		Kg	8.00	14.00	14.00	11.00	Cherry & Grape,Medley Mix	250gLP	3.00	4.00	4.00	3.48	
Hot Green,Thai		Kg	18.00	28.00	35.00	23.05	Cherry Red	250gLP	2.00	3.20	3.20	2.78	
Hot Orange,Habanero		Kg	8.00	14.00	14.00	12.50	Cherry Red Truss	3.5KgTr	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	
Hot Red		Kg	16.00	30.00	30.00	22.52	Cherry & Grape,Medley Mix	400gLP	4.80	5.00	5.00	4.90	
Hot Red,Habanero		Kg	8.00	18.00	18.00	12.00	Cherry Red	5KgCtn	24.00	45.00	45.00	32.05	
EGG PLANT,White,Thai Apple	200.07	5KgCtn	38.00	50.00	50.00	42.27	Gourmet Trusses	5KgTray	30.00	45.00	45.00	38.16	
Thai Apple		6KgCtn	24.00	40.00	40.00	31.82	Baby Egg,Grape	7KgTray	30.00	45.00	45.00	39.32	
Continental		6KgCtn	24.00	40.00	45.00	30.36	Cherry Red Truss	9LCtn	40.00	60.00	60.00	45.00	
Continental		7KgCtn	28.00	40.00	42.00	34.82	STATE: A=ACT, N=NSW, Q=QLD, S=SA, T=TAS, V=VIC, W=WA, Y=NT, I=IMPORTED						
Thai Apple		7KgTray	34.00	46.00	46.00	40.18	IMPORTANT NOTICE: Reproducing, publishing, emailing or re-FAXing this report is prohibited as is the creation of a derivative work eg. database.						
Purple		7KgTray	14.00	50.00	55.00	33.07							
Purple		8KgCtn	12.00	36.00	36.00	25.41							
GARLIC	316.96	18LCtn	20.00	120.00	120.00	65.21							
Aussie		2.5KgTr	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00							
		Kg	25.00	30.00	30.00	27.50							
Aussie		Kg	14.00	36.00	36.00	25.50							
Russian		Kg	14.00	30.00	30.00	27.50							
HERBS,Lemongrass	107.98	100g	2.40	4.00	4.00	2.97							
Basil		Bunch	3.50	6.00	6.00	4.66							
Chervil		Bunch	2.60	3.50	3.50	2.87							
Chives Garlic		Bunch	3.50	4.50	4.50	4.03							
Chives Onion		Bunch	3.80	4.50	4.50	4.17							
Corriander		Bunch	1.40	4.50	4.50	3.12							
Dill		Bunch	3.00	4.50	4.50	4.15							
Garden Thyme		Bunch	5.00	5.50	6.00	5.25							
Lemon Myrtle		Bunch	4.00	4.50	4.50	4.25							
Lemon Thyme		Bunch	4.00	4.50	4.50	4.25							
Marjoram		Bunch	2.50	3.20	3.20	2.79							
Mint		Bunch	3.00	5.00	5.00	3.93							
Oregano		Bunch	3.50	5.00	5.00	4.27							
Rosemary		Bunch	4.00	5.00	5.00	4.36							
Sage		Bunch	3.80	5.00	5.00	4.22							
Sorrel		Bunch	1.80	5.00	5.00	2.73							
Spearmint		Bunch	2.00	2.50	2.50	2.02							
Tarragon		Bunch	4.00	4.50	4.50	4.25							
Thai Basil		Bunch	3.80	4.50	4.50	4.15							
Vietnamese Mint		Bunch	2.60	4.00	4.00	3.26							
Lemongrass		Kg	8.00	15.00	15.00	13.05							
MUSHROOMS,Asian,Black Fungus	88.46	100g	3.00	3.20	3.20	3.10							
Asian,Enoki		100g	2.20	2.50	3.20	2.35							
Asian,Shitake		100g	3.30	3.60	3.60	3.45							
Asian,Oyster		150g	3.00	4.00	4.00	3.45							



## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE WHOLESALE MARKET PRICE REPORTING

Ausmarket Consultants is an independently owned and operated business located in the Brisbane Produce Markets, Queensland. Ausmarket has been servicing the Horticulture Industry since 1996.

Ausmarket has been supplying price data to all sectors of the Horticulture Industry for 20+ Years. Clients include State and Federal Government, Grower Organisations, Financial Institutions, Business Consultants, Educational Facilities, Industry Organisations, Restaurants/Hotels, Independent and Major Retailers, Primary and Secondary Wholesalers, Transport Companies, and Individual Growers.

Our primary business activity is the supply of Australian Fruit and Vegetable Market Price Data.

- Daily, Weekly, Monthly and Annual Historic Fruit and Vegetable Price Data for 20+ Years
- Industry and Grower Organisation Projects, Programs and Market Activity Reporting
- Grower Subsidised Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market Price Reports
- Price Data from Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide Markets

### AUSMARKET CONSULTANTS CAN BE CONTACTED BY:

E: [admin@ausmarket.com.au](mailto:admin@ausmarket.com.au)  
E: [ausinspect@outlook.com](mailto:ausinspect@outlook.com)

W: [www.ausmarket.com.au](http://www.ausmarket.com.au)  
P: (07) 3379 4576  
M: 0400 719 941



# Insurance that's down to earth

**Find your Local Area Manager at [wfi.com.au](https://www.wfi.com.au) or call 1300 934 934**

Insurance issued by Insurance Australia Limited trading as WFI. To see if a product is right for you, always consider the Product Disclosure Statement and Target Market Determinations available from [wfi.com.au](https://www.wfi.com.au)





At WFI, we're experts in insuring people who live in regional Australia because that's where our people live too. We think it's important to get to know our customers. So, give your Local Area Manager a call and they'll be happy to chat over the phone, at your property or at a WFI branch. It's how we've been doing business for over 100 years.

**Good people to know.**



## A REGIONAL APPROACH

The Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme is helping local businesses fill labour gaps in rural and regional areas.

PALM now encompasses 25,000 workers previously under the Australian Government's Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP) and Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS). The government is committed to scaling up labour mobility to fill workforce shortages in Australia and has introduced a new regional approach to manage the sustainability of this growth.

PALM relationship managers are now in several regions across Australia and will be the first point of contact with stakeholders. The regional approach has been supplemented by a series of community engagement activities bringing together local governments, community groups and employers to create a support network for workers.

### What is gained from a regional approach?

The regional approach sees four main benefits:

**Improved communication** – placing staff in regions across Australia will allow program partners to better communicate their needs and improve relationships among stakeholders.

**Capacity building** – relationship managers aim to provide greater education and boost the capacity of PALM Approved Employers by helping with worker wellbeing, support and community integration, as well as with the effective resolution of issues.

**Local ownership** – improving relationships among stakeholders, including the government, business and community groups within the regions fosters local ownership of the program and will ensure further involvement of local businesses.

**Relationship building** – relationship managers can improve bonds and relationships between Pacific and Timorese country representatives and PALM scheme Approved Employers, further contributing to worker support and effective issues resolution.

### Introducing the Queensland team

Queensland remains home to the largest number of PALM scheme workers and has four regional relationship managers in place.

Ben McCafferty (Toowoomba), Alex Bushnell (Caboolture) and Saga Selsby (Cairns) have been on the ground for three months, working to establish relationships with local employers and stakeholders.

They are the key points of contact for PALM approved employers in their areas and are also supporting PALM's community of care model, whereby a support network for workers is built involving employers, local governments and social groups, sporting, community organisations and churches.

A relationship manager has also recently been appointed in Bundaberg, with Queensland moving towards having a regional presence in all parts of the state within the next year.

To find out how to contact a relationship manager in your area, call the PALM support service line on 1800 51 51 31 during business hours or email to [support@pacificlabourfacility.com.au](mailto:support@pacificlabourfacility.com.au)

More information about the PALM scheme is available at: [www.palmscheme.gov.au](http://www.palmscheme.gov.au)



## SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme employers can apply for funding through the skills development program to support their workers' training needs.

**Do you require your workers to use chemicals in the workplace, drive forklifts, use chainsaws or work at heights?**

The skills development program provides funding support for accredited and non-accredited training as well as activities to support worker wellbeing and community engagement.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

[training@pacificlabourfacility.com.au](mailto:training@pacificlabourfacility.com.au)

or phone (07) 3557 7766

[www.palmscheme.gov.au/skills-development](http://www.palmscheme.gov.au/skills-development)

**PALM**  
Pacific Australia Labour Mobility

**Australian Aid**



# Grower — Versys® — Aphids

# Versys®

Insecticide

Celebrate a big win



## Switch to 5-star protection



### NEW CHEMISTRY

Highly effective Group 9D chemistry targeting aphids and silverleaf whitefly



### LOW IMPACT

Low impact on beneficials and bee colonies



### LESS VIRUS RISK

Stops feeding in as little as 15 minutes to restrict viral transmission



### AFFECTS ALL STAGES

Controls adult aphids, nymphs and affects eggs



### SHORT WHPs

1 day in most vegetable crops including cucurbits; 7 days in potatoes, sweet potatoes, cotton and ginger



Find out more about Versys at [crop-solutions.basf.com.au](https://crop-solutions.basf.com.au) or contact your local BASF representative on **1800 558 399**

 **BASF**

We create chemistry

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS.

© Copyright BASF 2022 © Registered trademark of BASF. 212278 08.2022





Farm Debt Restructure Office Manager, Daniel Elder.

## Free and independent advice gives producers fruitful future

Horticulture producers whose finances may be wilting have access to free and independent advice through the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA).

QRIDA's Farm Debt Restructure Office administers the Farm Business Analysis Assistance (FBAA) program. FBAA connects producers with financial experts who can review their business and offer recommendations to help it to thrive.

FDRO Manager, Daniel Elder said extreme weather conditions or adverse market conditions could push farm balance sheets into challenging situations.

"Over the past 12 months, we've witnessed many parts of Queensland inundated by floodwaters, and before that over 60 per cent of the state was in drought," he said.

"We are also still seeing ripples of COVID across the ag sector which could take years to recover from and not to mention on going biosecurity threats."

The program has lifted some of the weight off producer's shoulders who needed support to move forward with confidence in their rural enterprise.

"Producers have told me the professional assistance provided was essential in helping them put their plans on paper and regain support from their lender," he said.

"Others have told me the process has given them the confidence to question their activities and focus on the key drivers of their business."

When a producer engages with the FBAA program, they have the opportunity to choose an independent consultant from QRIDA's panel.

This consultant spends up to eight weeks communicating with the producer to review their business and identify any underlying problems at no cost to the producer. The consultant will then provide their findings and recommendations in a comprehensive report at the discretion of the producer.

To find out more about how FBAA could help you visit [qrída.qld.gov.au](http://qrída.qld.gov.au) or call 1800 623 946.

## Natural disaster assistance

Primary producers impacted by flooding throughout mid-May can now access grants of up to \$75,000.

Eligible Local Government Areas (LGAs) include:

- Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Southern Downs Regional Council
- Somerset Regional Council
- Western Downs Regional Council
- Gympie Regional Council
- Balonne Shire Council

A range of disaster assistance packages including grants and low-interest loans are still available to primary producers following several natural disaster events. For more information or to apply visit [www.qrída.qld.gov.au/primary-producers](http://www.qrída.qld.gov.au/primary-producers) or freecall 1800 623 946.

Natural Disaster Assistance is administered by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) on behalf of the Queensland and Australian Governments.

Advertisement

Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority

## + Restock, Replant, Repair your farm business

Are you a primary producer who was affected by the North and Far North Queensland monsoon trough in early 2019?

Applications for the \$400,000 co-contribution **North Queensland Restocking, Replanting and On-farm Infrastructure Grants** close **30 June 2022**.

These grants can help primary producers recover costs from **replanting lost crops, replacing lost livestock and rebuilding or repairing damaged or lost infrastructure\***. Eligibility criteria applies.

**Apply now at [qrída.qld.gov.au](http://qrída.qld.gov.au)**

*The North Queensland Restocking, Replanting & On-farm Infrastructure Grants are funded by the Australian Government and administered by QRIDA.*

*\*The information contained herein is for general information purposes only. You should not rely upon this information as a basis for making any business, legal or any other decisions.*



Australian Government

1800 623 946  
[qrída.qld.gov.au](http://qrída.qld.gov.au)

✓ /QRIDAmidia  
f /QRIDAmidia

@we.are.qrída  
in /company/QRIDA



Queensland Government

Authorised by the Queensland Government, Turbot St, Brisbane



**Coragen<sup>®</sup>**  
INSECTICIDE

## Realise a better selection in pest management.

Growing immaculate looking and tasting vegetables takes hard work and know-how. Equally so is the job of protecting them against nasty caterpillar pests such as Diamondback moth, Heliothis and Cabbage white butterfly.

Coragen<sup>®</sup> acts very quickly to stop these pests feeding and damaging your crops, but is friendly beneficial bugs making it an ideal partner for any integrated pest management strategy. Coragen<sup>®</sup> can now be used in aerial, as well as ground applications giving you more ways to protect your crop.

Visit [www.fmccrop.com.au](http://www.fmccrop.com.au) for more information.



ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS. Copyright © 2019. All rights reserved. Coragen<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of FMC Corporation or its affiliates.

**FMC**

An Agricultural  
Sciences Company



FMC Australasia Pty Ltd  
Phone: 1800 066 355  
[www.fmccrop.com.au](http://www.fmccrop.com.au)



# HOW TO MANAGE RISING LABOUR COSTS TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE

People remain at the heart of fruit and vegetable growing in Australia. Labourers, machinery operators, pickers, managers and so on are vital for crops to be grown efficiently, healthily and profitably each season.

Equally, workers require a lot of management, administration and investment. It's not easy to manage a team and keep everyone pulling in the same direction season after season and it is not cheap either. According to studies, labour makes up 50-80 percent of growing costs in horticulture (depending on the crop).

With an acute skills shortage and rising wages, management of labour costs requires immediate attention in order to remain competitive. Whilst other areas of agriculture have made the digital transition, people management often remains dependent on pen and paper which in turn holds businesses back from making the changes needed to navigate current labour challenges.

Workforce data is key to understanding and optimising labour expenditure. Insights into worker output and cost allow growers to identify opportunities for cost savings and improvements to deliver on time and on budget.

The team at Tātou specialise in workforce management software for farms, vineyards and orchards, giving growers the tools required to capture workforce data. Tātou empowers workers to capture data live in the field. Their easy-to-use app collects job information in whatever detail you need; bins picked, trees worked - down to the row level.

Immediate access to this data allows growers to monitor task progress and costs at block or variety level and enables effective decision making immediately before a problem occurs. It also provides insights into individual worker performance to allow for appropriate management and support. Additionally, Tātou manages piecework payments, with many users reporting increases in productivity of up to 30 percent in comparison to hourly payment.

Get in touch with Tātou today to learn more about how we can help your team become more efficient and productive.

Email: [hello@tatou.app](mailto:hello@tatou.app)

Website: [www.tatou.app](http://www.tatou.app)

Overview video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5cRkyy1gKk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5cRkyy1gKk)



**edp australia Pty Ltd specialise in the supply of fresh Fruit and Vegetable preparation and packaging machinery. edp australia Pty Ltd encompasses five divisions:**

**Packaging, Grading and Handling, Palletising, Orchard Equipment and Consumables.**

Being an Australian manufacturer, gives edp the edge in equipment supply to the local market.

**CONTACT US:**

**[edp.com.au](http://edp.com.au)**

**(03) 5820 5337**

**[sales@edp.com.au](mailto:sales@edp.com.au)**





COMING SOON

## A brighter future. MIRAVis® Duo\*.

Whatever your vision of the future, MIRAVis® Duo fungicide can help bring it to life. MIRAVis® Duo combines two active ingredients to provide best-in-class protection of powdery mildew and leaf spot diseases in a wide range of horticultural crops.

With dual modes of action it offers robust residual protection while reducing the risk of fungicide resistance. MIRAVis® Duo offers a powerful new tool for growers who want peace of mind, high yields and quality that really stands out.

Innovation, powered by MIRAVis®. For further information talk to your local Syngenta representative or visit [syngenta.com.au/miravis-duo](https://www.syngenta.com.au/miravis-duo)

 **Miravis® Duo**

**syngenta®**



© Registered trademark of a Syngenta Group Company. © 2022 Syngenta. \*MIRAVis Duo is not registered. An application has been submitted to the APVMA. AD22-172

®

## Finding a fix in the era of the great resignation

Attracting and retaining staff in the age of the great resignation – it's a goal Growcom's Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network (QAWN) staff strive toward by supporting employers and employees across the supply chain to develop new skillsets.

With this in mind Growcom's QAWN Officer Kym Wessling created the Ag Leaders Development Program, giving agribusinesses an opportunity to support the needs of their staff to upskill and, ultimately, work more productively, efficiently and collaboratively.

Through the series of five, two-hour online workshops, agribusinesses from across all agricultural commodity groups nominated leading hands, managers and supervisors to take part.

Each session focused on specific soft skills, including: Communication, Day to Day Leadership Habits, Delivering Feedback, Managing Poor Performance and Conduct and Time Management.

For Kym, targeting soft skills was a motivation brought about from research published in the National Agricultural Workforce Strategy: "Soft skills enable agile thinking and complex problem solving... more and more jobs will require social and emotional skills."

Additionally, putting together the program to assist staff in leading roles on-farm was a no-brainer.

"I have received feedback as a QAWN officer where gaps have been identified in leadership skills that focus on incorporating soft skills," Kym said.

"Businesses indicated to me they want a method of training that does not impact the business by taking workers offline for long periods."

The series of workshops support staff to upskill, perform more effectively in their roles, as well as an opportunity to reflect on their own leadership actions and styles.

"The goal was always to make staff more effective leaders in their roles, to build the skills, know-how and confidence to make some

tough decisions and set standards that give everyone on the floor a boost," Kym said.

Training staff in what is coined a job seekers market is a strategic action for businesses too.

It's this kind of training that may help retain staff – currently, 60 percent of employees are planning a career change because of the pandemic.

In an effort to stem that tide and attract and retain staff, investing in the development of employees' skills is key.

"In the long run, if you provide training, you're equipping your staff with skills," Kym said.

"No matter if they are a short-term employee or there for a longer period, when push comes to shove, your team will work more efficiently, and productivity is key and the current labour pressures have proven this to be accurate.

"Leadership is important not only for morale and creation of a quality workplace but also for the end-product you send to markets.

"Without leadership, employees move on quickly in search of better workplaces.

"A lack of career growth is also a top reason why an employee leaves their job.

To promote longevity in your team and to build capacity in employees when their workmate moves on, upskilling is key.

"This boosts problem-solving skills, confidence and creates a higher level of productivity."

The Ag Leaders Development Program saw about 50 participants from across 46 agribusinesses take part and brainstorm solutions to challenges using the tools from each webinar.

Focus HR presented the series and feedback suggests another round of training may be on the horizon.

How likely are you to recommend this Leading Teams Workshop to other managers in our industry?

# 90%

responded absolutely likely.

### What is the most useful thing you learnt in the workshop?

**Workshop 1:** Simple strategies that make you think and plan first before committing to communication.

**Workshop 2:** Prioritising my time.

**Workshop 3:** Embrace feedback as one of the important tools in providing a conducive work environment.

**Workshop 4:** The setting of expectations is currently my favourite phrase. This can be for all employees and middle management, to know how to remain relevant and useful.

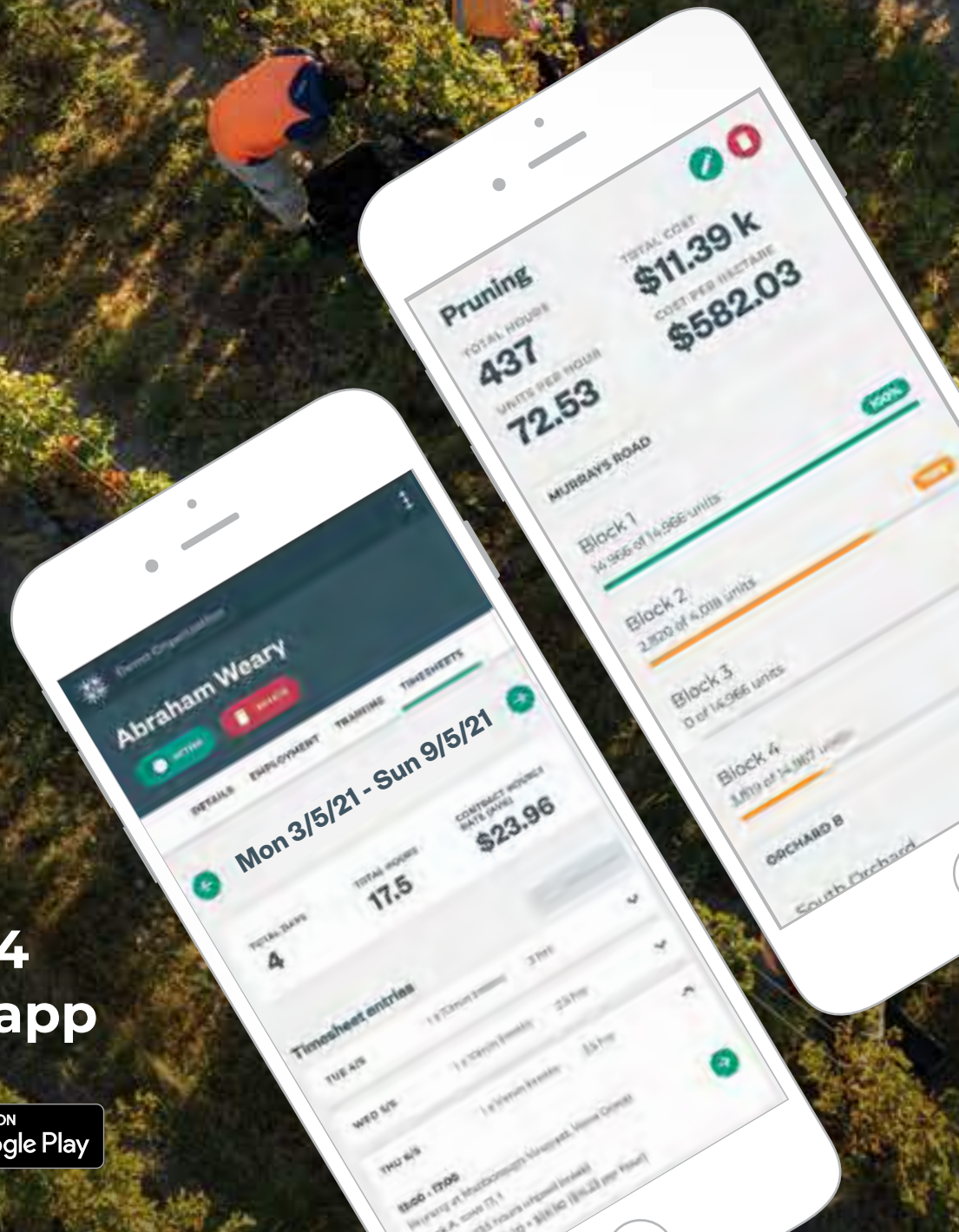
**Workshop 5:** How important it is to stick to a time management tool... being realistic as to what you can achieve.



# TĀTOU

A workforce  
management app to  
boost productivity

- DIGITAL TIMESHEETS
- PIECEWORK & TOP-UPS
- PROJECT MANAGEMENT & SCHEDULING
- BUDGETS, INVOICING, REPORTING & MORE...



GET IN TOUCH

1800 950 764

[www.tatou.app](http://www.tatou.app)







New Pink variety of strawberry has a rich aroma and is sweet in flavour.

## New strawberry varieties soon to hit Aussie market

Two new home-grown strawberry varieties, Pink and White, will soon be available to Australian growers and consumers after Hort Innovation put the call out for a commercial partner to fast-track the products to market.

The announcement was made at the premier gathering for the berry industry worldwide, BerryQuest International 2022 recently held on the Gold Coast.

BerryQuest host Berries Australia Executive Director Rachel Mackenzie said new varieties are the way of the future for the strawberry industry and support growing domestic and export demand.

"It's really exciting to see these new varieties reach this stage in the commercialisation process," she said. "This is growers' levy funding coming to life before our eyes."

Ms Mackenzie said the Australian breeding program is a real success story: "Armed with all these bespoke varieties and a genuine interest in applying the latest research and development on farm, along with a drive to increase trade opportunities, the strawberry industry is in a positive position."

The new strawberries are the first 'novelty' varieties to be developed and commercialised through a Hort Innovation and DAF partnership.

Hort Innovation Chief Executive Brett Fifield said both varieties have an intense strawberry aroma and an unusual appearance that is expected to appeal to

consumers. They have been specially bred for the Australian environment and offer superior overall quality.

"Pink and White strawberries are like nothing else on Aussie retail shelves," he said. "They're exceptional, and so they should be. They are the culmination of years of research, field trials, consumer preference testing and industry engagement."

The new White strawberries are true to their name. On the inside, they are brilliant white. On the outside, they are white with a pale pink blush and speckled with red seeds.

The Pink strawberries have a peach pink exterior and also feature a white inside. Both have a rich aroma and are sweet in flavour.

DAF project lead Dr Jodi Neal said more than 40 per cent of strawberry fruit sold nationally in retail outlets had been developed through the research work of DAF as part of its partnership with Hort Innovation.

"Over the past 10 years, we have developed 16 strawberry varieties that are bespoke to our Australian growing conditions and consumer palettes," Dr Neal said.

"It is great to see grower adoption of these varieties has grown over the past five years. In 2021, 45 per cent of the national planting was attributable to varieties developed by the program led by DAF."

Hort Innovation and DAF are currently seeking a suitable partner to commercialise the varieties, foster grower adoption and deliver marketing efforts to support consumer awareness. The commercial partner Expression of Interest will close in late September.

# Fruit & Vegetable news

Vol 93, No 5 September / October 2022

Fruit & Vegetable News is Queensland's premier horticultural magazine, read by Queensland's commercial fruit and vegetable growers and their families.

It is the official journal of Growcom, the voice of the horticulture industry. Fruit & Vegetable News is published using Growcom membership funds.

Published bi-monthly by Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers Ltd, trading as Growcom Australia.

Level 2, 231 George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000  
ACN 090 816 827  
Phone: 07 3620 3844  
Email: [growcom@growcom.com.au](mailto:growcom@growcom.com.au)  
Website: [www.growcom.com.au](http://www.growcom.com.au)  
Postal address: PO Box 12101,  
George Street QLD 4003

Fruit & Vegetable News is researched, written and designed by Growcom Communications with support from staff.

**PRODUCTION TEAM**  
Natalie Brady (Managing Editor)  
Martin Volz (Journalist)  
Lachlan Mitcherson (Graphic Design)

**ADVERTISING BOOKINGS**  
Pulse - Media Sales  
Steve Luxford  
[steve.luxford@pulsehub.com.au](mailto:steve.luxford@pulsehub.com.au)  
0429 699 553  
66-68 Sackville St, Collingwood, VIC 3066  
[www.pulsehub.com.au](http://www.pulsehub.com.au)

**SUBSCRIPTION COST**  
Annual subscription within Australia for 6 issues (postage included)  
\$220

**KEY CONTRIBUTORS**  
Samtui Selave, Richard Shannon,  
and Naomi Wilson.

**COVER PHOTO**  
FNQ Growers

**COVER STORY**  
Martin Volz

Articles appearing in Fruit & Vegetable News do not necessarily represent the policies or views of Growcom.

Products and services advertised in Fruit & Vegetable News are not necessarily endorsed by Growcom.

-  @growcom
-  @growcomaustralia
-  @growcom
-  @growcomaustralia





# Benevia®

INSECTICIDE

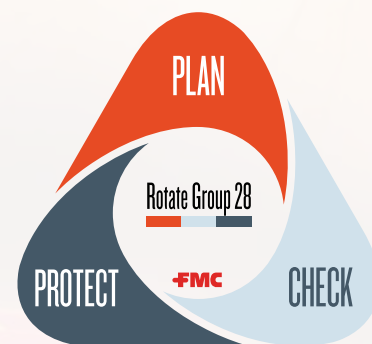
## Expand your horizons

Benevia® provides highly effective cross spectrum protection that rapidly stops insects feeding. Further damage to the plant is reduced, ensuring maximum marketability of your crop.

Benevia® is specifically designed for use in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) schemes, in fact, it's so effective on pests in Fruiting vegetable and Cucurbit crops that we're expanding the label to cover Bulb vegetables, Potatoes and Strawberries.

Being a Group 28 insecticide tool to fight pests, it's important to use Benevia® in accordance with the current Insecticide Resistance Management (IRM) strategy in your area. Remember to rotate with a different mode of action insecticide, as required.

Visit [www.fmccrop.com.au](http://www.fmccrop.com.au) for more information.



ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS. Copyright © 2019. All rights reserved. Benevia® is a registered trademark of FMC Corporation or its affiliates.

# FMC

An Agricultural  
Sciences Company



FMC Australasia Pty Ltd  
Phone: 1800 066 355  
[www.fmccrop.com.au](http://www.fmccrop.com.au)



# A new dawn. A new standard.

New Miravis<sup>®</sup> Prime combines the strengths of proven fludioxonil (Group 12) and new pydiflumetofen (Group 7) to manage hard-to-control diseases.

These complementary active ingredients attack fungal pathogens in different areas of the plant. They target four different stages of disease development to effectively break the disease life cycle, while aiding resistance management.

There's a new dawn in protectant fungicide technology, powered by MIRAVis. Miravis Prime. For further information talk to your local Syngenta representative or visit [syngenta.com.au/miravis-prime](https://syngenta.com.au/miravis-prime).

 **Miravis<sup>®</sup> Prime**

**syngenta<sup>®</sup>**



**IS YOUR  
CROP  
PROTECTED?  
SCAN HERE**