

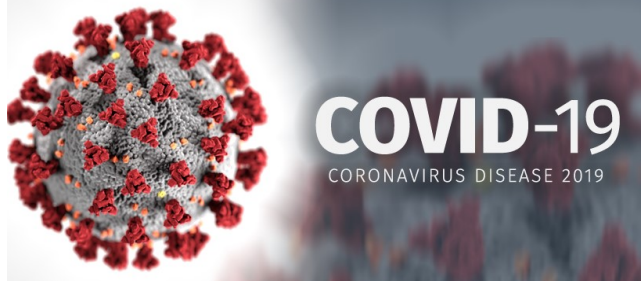


Hydroponic Farmers Federation Newsletter

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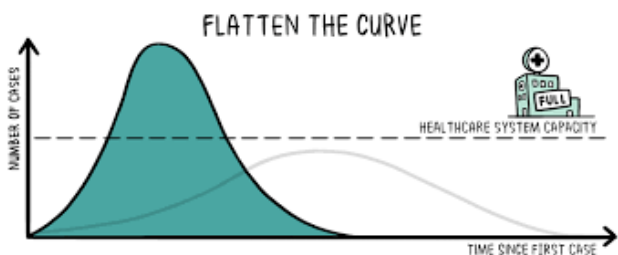
Volume 4, Issue 02

July 2020



COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019



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HFF CONFERENCE 2020

21 - 23 July | Hydroponics Tomorrow



INVITED SPEAKERS

- Jan de Smet, Van der Knaap, Mexico
- Paul Higgins, Emergent Futures, Australia
- Scott Matthew, Sijgenta Australia, Australia
- Markku Mupponen, Agrology, Australia
- James Materas, Modular Farms, Australia
- Emil Ringby, Cannatrek, Australia
- Michael Russo, Fresh Herb Company, Australia
- Yoni Sharon, Monash University, Australia
- Paul Simmonds, Rijk Zwaan, Netherlands
- Trevor Steinthal, Althea, USA
- Toby Wright, Tom d'Aqui, France

Join the HFF at a **total exclusive experience** at the Atura Dandenong in 2020, the 12th Biennial Conference is not to be missed!

EARLYBIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY 1 MAY 2020

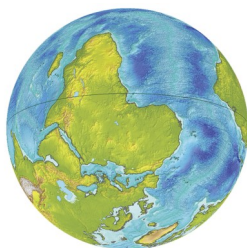


MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED!

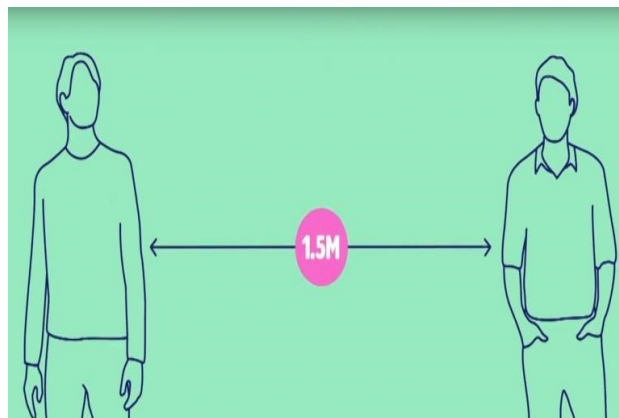
EXHIBITION ALMOST SOLD OUT!

ATURA DANDENONG, VICTORIA

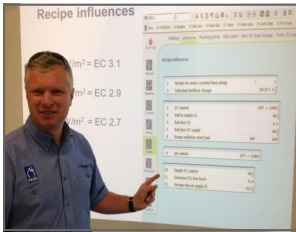
www.hffconference.org.au



Our World turned upside down



The Secretary



Well we didn't see this coming! Who would have thought that in March the world economies would start to grind to a halt because of a threat to our world as we know it from an enemy that we can't see, hear or easily locate. It's hard enough running a farm or any business without the huge raft of challenges that the Covid-19 crisis has thrown our way. On a personal note I had all my usual avenues of training people whipped away from me with the ban on travel, so the old cash flow took a hefty beating! In all of this we have seen sights that have left us all scratching our heads - I never did understand why people thought the world supply of toilet paper would run out - with panic buying of several commodities taking place. Meat was being stripped from supermarket shelves and apparently you couldn't buy a new freezer from stores such as 'The Good Guys' for love nor money as the hoarders got set for living in isolation for the next 12 months. In all of this our

Industry has kept moving forward. However with the closure of restaurants, the demand for fresh vegetables has certainly diminished over the past few weeks. But the one thing this event has shown us is that we can all adapt and start to look for other ways to run our businesses. Social distancing has now meant that meetings we would have previously travelled to, can be conducted via applications such as Zoom and Teams. And for many it is probably debatable if we will ever go back to formal face to face meetings. For me the Zoom account is now a major way I can deliver training and has become a very valuable tool to enable me to run my business, although having the dog sleeping under the desk and snoring, did cause some distractions in a recent session! John and I have been doing a large amount of work behind the scenes in an effort to get as much information out to growers as possible, and some of that information is highlighted in this edition of the newsletter. However, let's lose sight of the fact that Covid-19 is a dangerous health threat, so take care everyone, and let's look forward to seeing each other on the other side of this! **Regards Tony B**

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The President



Hi everyone, usually I'd be welcoming everyone to the conference which has become another short term casualty of this crisis. The committee have been working very hard behind the scenes to see how we may be able to stage the conference and at this stage we are looking to try and run the event on the 17th - 19th November 2020. I have to say a huge 'thank you' to all of our sponsors who have chosen to stick with us ASN events have sent out an email with all the details and we have included a separate flyer in this newsletter.

All of this is very dependent on government restrictions, but hopefully we will get the event off the ground. We will probably not have our usual overseas delegates joining us, but we still have a great potential speaker and trade show line up. So fingers crossed everyone! The HFF AGM was scheduled to take place at the last Grower Day - scheduled for our visit to Rijk Zwaan. For obvious reasons the event did not proceed. The committee has decided to postpone the AGM until we have clear guidance from the government about the feasibility of holding a meeting. In the short term, if we are unable to hold a face to face, we will be conducting the AGM via teleconferencing facility such as Zoom. This would also enable members to participate and add comment. As soon as we have more detail we will advise the membership of the process we will be adopting. Obviously everyone has been doing it tough, and this newsletter is packed with adverts from the trade who would certainly welcome your custom for a range of products. As part of the HFF's commitment to support the industry we have waved the fees for the trade adverts in this edition—just a small way we can say thank you to all our regular supporters. This has been very much a dynamic landscape with rules and regulations changing on a daily basis so it's been hard to keep up to date, however my thanks to the berry industry who supplied us with some great information, which we in turn could pass on to you. Otherwise life goes on! I am sure that like me you have all faced some difficult times, and hopefully with the restrictions on restaurant's opening again we will see the demand for fresh vegetables kick back in. If you, or you know of any growers that are struggling at the moment and you think that the HFF might be able to help, please get in touch with us. The aim of the HFF has always been to be a self help group for growers, and we are here to help if we can. So I am really hopeful that I can meet you all again at the end of the year where we can enjoy a great conference and a couple of beers together! Stay safe everyone—regards **John**

Membership

Hi everyone, usually at this time of year we are enjoying an increase in the membership as the conference is in full swing, but for obvious reasons things have changed this year. As you will have read in John's report, we are hopefully aiming to get the conference running later in the year, and whilst we look forward to seeing as many people as possible at the event (fingers crossed!) it would be great if we can see some new faces as well. I'm pleased to report that we have had a steady flow of members joining the HFF even in these difficult times, and it's good to see that growers and the allied trade still see membership of our organisation as being of value even when things are tight financially. And don't forget that Grower members can list other members of their farm as Grower Member Colleagues (giving them similar benefits to a grower membership) all for the bargain price of \$30.00. With a bit of luck I will see many of you towards the end of the year, but in the meantime stay safe! **Ian Mortlock—Membership Secretary**



Royal Brinkman



The outbreak of Covid-19 has caused widespread disruption and chaos globally, these are unprecedented, turbulent times for us all. The health and safety of our colleagues, customers and partners is our primary concern, We have taken measures in order to prevent further spreading of the virus (Advice COVID-19). In not wanting to jeopardise the health of any of our customers, we have stopped all visits for the foreseeable future. Technical support and guidance will be provided by mail or phone as usual, and we endeavour to offer you our full support as best we can during these difficult times. **Our goal is clear:** to protect the health of our people and partners. However, as an essential link in the food supply chain, we are committed to ensuring that professional growers receive a timely supply of products to continue providing citizens with healthy food throughout the covid-19 crisis. This responsibility is at the heart of our daily commitment. We will of course stay abreast of all changes to local regulations and keep our customers updated as the situation evolves. We will do our utmost to keep things as close to normal as possible, but due to the seriousness of the pandemic, this may not always be easy or possible, and we are counting on your support as we tackle these trying times together. Our team will keep you informed and updated by phone or email, should you have any queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch. This is a difficult time for us all, and it's essential that we stand united, work together and support each other to the best of our abilities. Most importantly, please stay healthy, take good care of yourselves and each other, and stay strong. **David Sobevski—Managing Director Royal Brinkman Australia +61 0429 706 659**

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Advantages

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- No harmful substances
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- Algae prevention
- Odourless and colourless
- Non-corrosive

For further details contact David Sobevski and the team at Royal Brinkman

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Farm worker checklist

This guide is to help workplaces reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus (COVID-19). All workers who have symptoms like those seen with coronavirus (COVID-19) should not go to work and should get tested. This will help prevent outbreaks of coronavirus in the workplace, protecting not only fellow workers, but also the broader Victorian community. This document provides guidance to workplaces about worker health checks.

For more information about coronavirus (COVID-19) including in the workplace, see the department's website: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>.

Protecting workplaces and the community from coronavirus (COVID-19)

Employers have a key role to play encouraging workers with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) to stay away from work and get tested.

Everyone who feels unwell and is tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) is helping us understand how the virus is spreading. All workers with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) should be tested. A full list of symptoms is provided below in the checklist.

Checking for coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms

Workers need to know the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should be aware they must stay away from work if they have symptoms, and they should have information on how to get tested.

Checking workers for coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms **before entering the workplace** is an important way to raise awareness and prevent the spread of the infection through the workforce and broader community.

A coronavirus (COVID-19) checklist for workers, for use in the workplace, is shown on the next page.

This checklist should be regularly completed by workers, ideally prior to the start of every shift in a workplace other than their home.

The checklist should be conducted, while maintaining safe distances or over the phone, before entering a worksite, via text message system, or other non-contact methods. It is advisable to have a system in place that limits the sharing of equipment, tools, pens, notebooks and computers. Workplaces should ensure that any collection of information adheres to relevant privacy legislation.

The checklist itself does not need to be submitted. It can be used by workplaces as an assurance that they are conducting the right checks for their workers.

Testing for coronavirus (COVID-19)

If a worker's checklist indicates they may have symptoms which could be caused by coronavirus (COVID-19), they should be encouraged to seek medical advice and a test.

People can get tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) at many places across Victoria. To find out what's available near you, call the 24-hour coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398.

If you have symptoms, you can visit:

- **Your local general practitioner.** Call them before you visit. They may perform a test or refer you to a pathology provider for swab collection.

A GP respiratory clinic. Visit the [Australian Government coronavirus \(COVID-19\) site](#) for a full list of GP respiratory clinics and how to book an appointment.

- **A Victorian hospital** respiratory clinic.
- **A Community Health Centre** respiratory clinic.
- **A mobile drive-through clinic** at a shopping centre.

Farm worker checklist

For respiratory clinic locations in Victoria see the department's website:

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/getting-tested-coronavirus-covid-19>

After being tested workers should not attend work whilst awaiting their result. The worker will need to remain isolated, away from the workplace, until a negative result is received. If the result is positive, then the patient will be managed by their doctor until recovered. They will also be contacted by a Public Health Officer to find out more information and to provide the worker with further advice about what they need to do.

For any person diagnosed with coronavirus it is important they stay in their home or accommodation until a Public Health Officer advises they are no longer infectious, and it is safe to return to normal activities.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) checklist for workers

This checklist is to assess whether you may have risk factors for, or symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).

You should complete this checklist before the start of any shift where you are entering a workplace.

	Yes	No
Have you been diagnosed with coronavirus and are currently in isolation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you in a period of 14-day quarantine as directed by a health professional?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you been identified as a close contact* with anyone who has coronavirus?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

** A close contact is someone who has spent greater than 15 minutes face-to-face, cumulative, or the sharing of a closed space for more than two hours, cumulative, with a confirmed case of coronavirus*

If you answered YES to any of the above questions you should not attend the workplace until advised to do so by a health professional.

If you answered NO to all the above questions, proceed to the symptom checklist below. Are you experiencing these symptoms:

	Yes	No
Fever	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cough	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sore throat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shortness of breath	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Runny nose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loss of sense of taste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have ANY of the above symptom, you should tell your employer. You should not enter your workplace (or should leave work), and you should seek medical advice and get tested for coronavirus (Covid-19)

If you answered NO to all the above questions, you can enter the workplace. If you develop symptoms, complete a new checklist. For further advice call the 24 hour coronavirus hotline **1800 675 398**

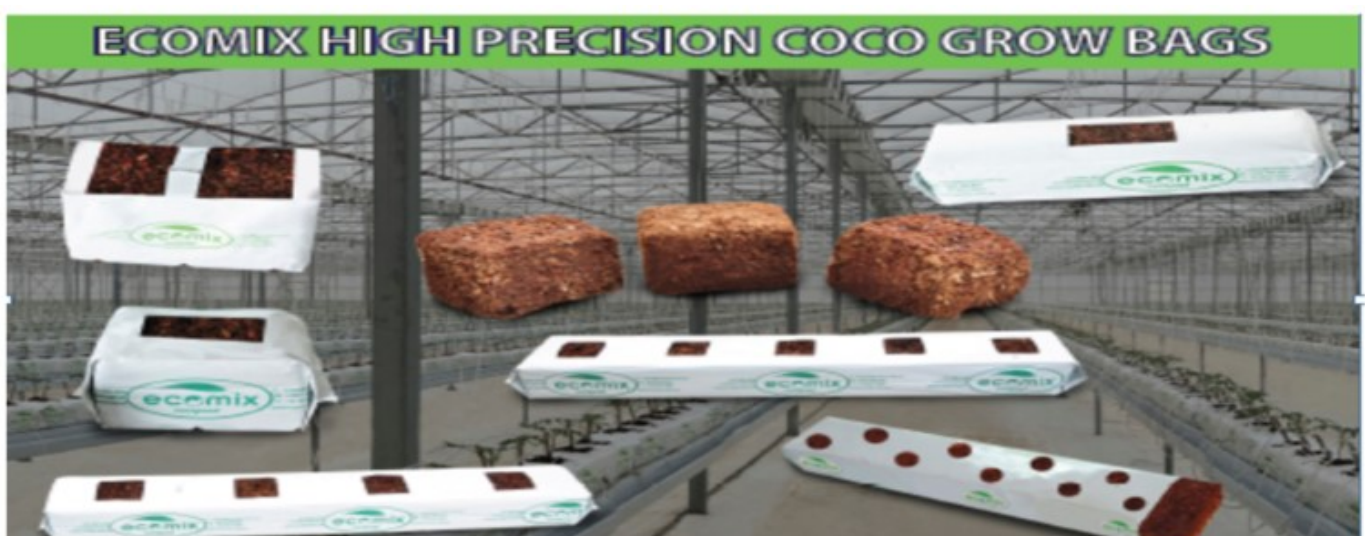
Diversifying To Survive

Long term HFF member and herb grower—George Bobbin—has been forced to go back to basics as he strives to keep his business afloat in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Prior to the issues associated with Corona virus, George was servicing the micro herb market with restaurants making up a large sector of his market, and was sending around 30,000 pots of micro herbs Australia wide and overseas. “Most of our product is sent around Australia, but some is sent to Hong Kong and Singapore. I just received a phone call from an agent, that supplies overseas, with a cancellation of orders because



Singapore has closed their borders,” said George. With the restaurants closing down, the demand for micro herbs soon started to dry up, and added to this, micro herbs are a very young and tender product so they are difficult to store for supermarket sales. George has seen his cash flow fall to almost zero from a weekly gross income of around \$50,000. To diversify, George decided to take things back to where the business all began before the niche micro herb market emerged. He has recommenced growing larger pots of herbs such as Coriander and Basil, to sell to local supermarkets, allowing him to get by on a small profit. “We hope by the end of the month to have some larger product—it’s what we started off doing 20 years ago” said George. In the meantime George is still faced with some hefty operating costs to remain in business. “We spend around \$60,000 on heating alone and our wage bill runs at about \$24,000 a week, plus water and rates—it all adds up.” But George is optimistic at getting through the issues - and like many others is just having to wait and see what happens. *(Story courtesy of ABC News)*

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Safework Resource Site

Safework Australia has set up a really useful website with a large amount of resources for growers to access in the ongoing Covid-19 crisis. The site can be accessed via the URL of: <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/collection/business-resource-kit-covid-19> The site has a huge range of useful resources that can be downloaded and is updated on a regular basis. Also located on the web site are some great resources such as checklists and some really useful info graphics resources Make sure you log on and check the site out!



safe work australia

COVID-19 Information for workplaces About us Law and regulation Workers' compensation Statistics and research Media Centre

Search COVID-19 related information

Search COVID-19

Home » COVID-19 resource kit

COVID-19 resource kit



Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

This section includes a range of resources for business to download and display in their workplaces, including checklists, infographics, fact sheets for industry and posters on handwashing, hygiene and physical distancing.

Related information

Fact sheets

How to keep workers safe - COVID-19

2 Apr 2020

This fact sheet provides an overview about what employers can do to keep their workers safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

pdf (128.67 KB)

Fact sheets

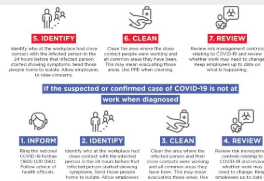
Workplace Checklist - COVID-19

6 Apr 2020

This checklist will help employers to identify how they can keep their workers safe and limit the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.

pdf (124.64 KB)

Infographic



What to do if a worker has COVID-19 - Infographic

30 Mar 2020

What to do if a worker has COVID-

- National COVID-19 safe workplace principles
- Workplace checklist
- Signage and posters
- Translated information
- Officer duties
- Manufacture of hand sanitiser
- Travel information
- COVID-19 resource kit

If the suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 is at work



1. ISOLATE

Isolate the person from others and provide a disposable surgical mask, if available, for the person to wear.



2. INFORM

Ring the national COVID-19 hotline (1800 020 080). Follow the advice of health officials.



3. TRANSPORT

Ensure the person has transport to their home or to a medical facility.



4. CLEAN

Clean the area where the person was working and all places they have been. This may mean evacuating those areas. Use PPE when cleaning.



5. IDENTIFY

Identify who at the workplace had close contact with the infected person in the 24 hours before that infected person started showing symptoms. Send those people home to isolate. Allow employees to raise concerns.



6. CLEAN

Clean the area where the close contact people were working and all common areas they have been. This may mean evacuating those areas. Use PPE when cleaning.

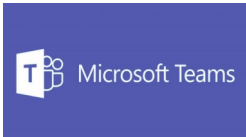


7. REVIEW

Review risk management controls relating to COVID-19 and review whether work may need to change. Keep employees up to date on what is happening.

Useful e-Tools

zoom

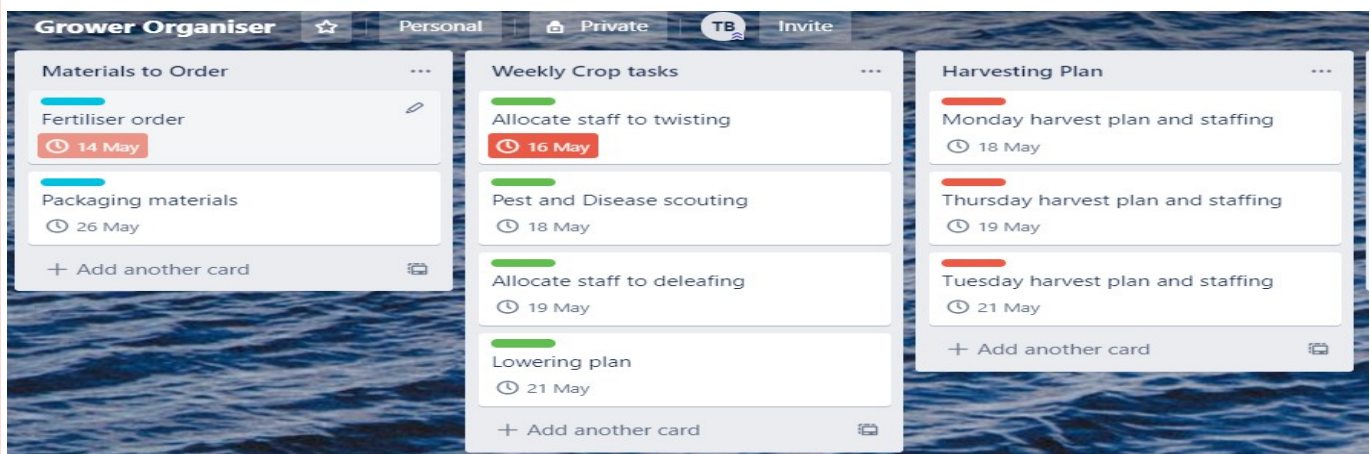


One of the side effects of the Covid-19 pandemic has been that all industries have had the time to look at how things can be done in a 'smarter' way to get around the restrictions on travel and face to face meeting, as well as becoming better organised as an industry. In terms of meetings, we have seen many companies use internet based solutions such as **Zoom** or **Microsoft Teams**. These programs allow you to have a virtual face to face meeting or invite a number of people to the same event. Both of these programs are free but do have some limitations. The free version of Zoom limits you to 40 minute meetings, but the next paid version at \$20.99 per month gives you up to 24 hour duration meeting times—if you really want to spend that long in a meeting! Microsoft teams works on a similar basis. But where as this type of technology was seen as something in the 'too hard' basket before Covid—19, companies are now embracing this technology as the norm. Another really useful set of e-tools come with a package called **iAuditor**. This is software that lets you

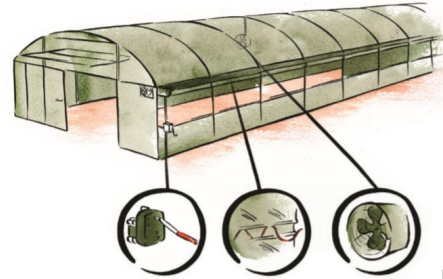
generate your own audit and has been predominantly designed for safety checks. However, you can easily customise pre made audits, and/or generate your own audits and use them for any type of check list/recording purpose you like. The audits themselves can be used from a phone or tablet/ipad and allow the user to directly input data into the program via these hand held devices. We have witnessed growers using these edited audits to record crop registration data directly into the program. On top of the numeric data, you can also take photos of various factors which also are stored in the program. At the end of the audit process, the data is stored in a document that you can date and sign, and this can be exported as pdf. Really useful stuff. iAuditor are currently providing pre designed audits for work force Covid-19 safety that you can use. Again the initial program is free and will suit most growers needs. When

Trello

it comes to organising tasks and routines, it's probably fair to say that this is an area that we could all do with some help in. The 'to do' list can often either take the form of a complicated spreadsheet or several scraps of paper depending on your computer based skills! Trello is a free computer based task organiser that gives you a complete overview of all the tasks you have to attend to. The dashboard of Trello is made up of lists that you generate. They can be steps in a workflow categories or whatever you want them to be. You can then add cards to the lists to keep track of everything you need to do or remember. The cards can be dragged from list to list if required, but more importantly is the ability to set 'due by' dates for each task, which will automatically be indicated when the date is due. The boards can also be shared between end users and an email is generated each day highlighting various changes that have occurred. So as a famous music personality often says, 'Do yourselves a favour' and take the time to have a look at these products—now is probably the time when you have some availability to examine these options, and even better, they are all free!



Monbulk Rural



Monbulk Rural Enterprises

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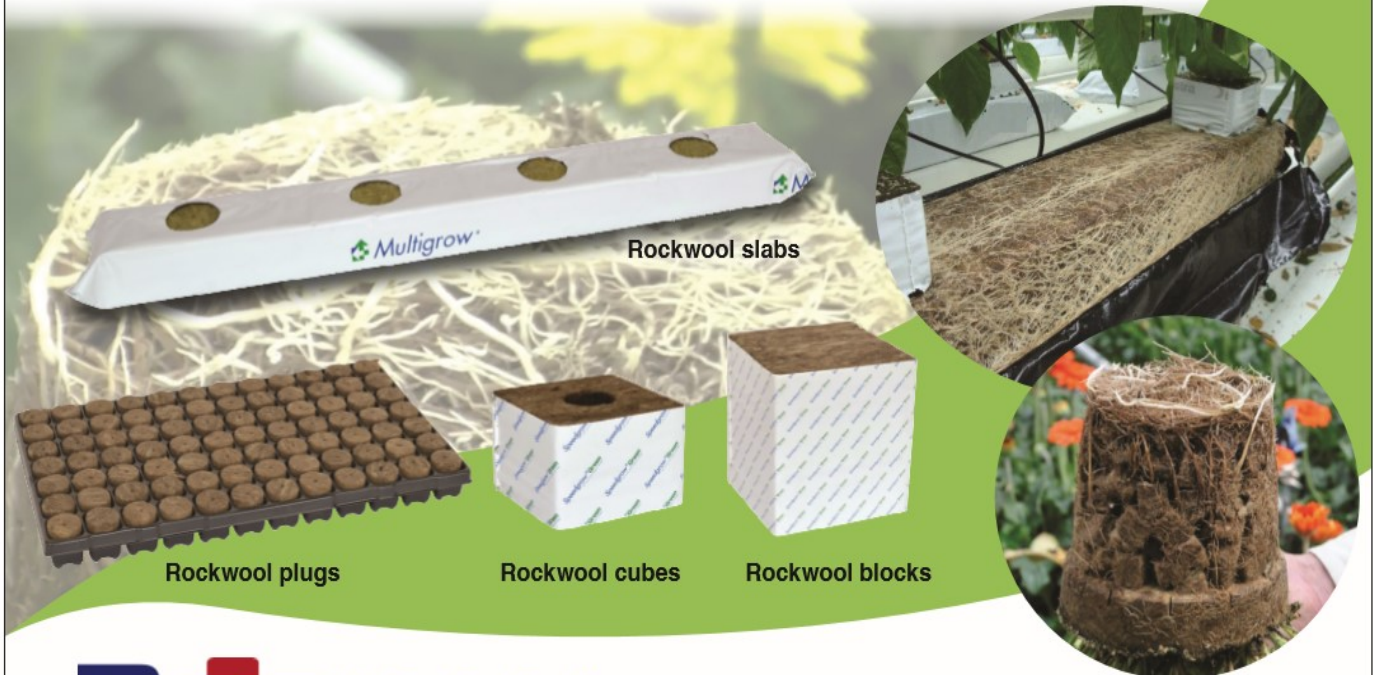


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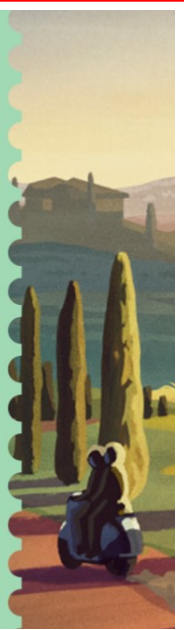
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Powerplants

Being local pays dividends especially in a time when borders are closed.

Up until 2014 all Powerplants staff were based in Victoria and travelled interstate to complete work around Australia. Being close to our customs became increasingly important as growers saw the benefits of implementing technology and applying improved production techniques. This had a significant impact on dense food growing regions and production nurseries across Australia. Local support became paramount to the long-term success of businesses making an investment. Today Powerplants have staff in 4 states and have appointed and trained partners such as Bon in Western Australia and SVW in Victoria to meet the local service needs of customers across the country. In this time Powerplants have also invested the upskilling of 8 Priva technicians that have been working very hard to ensure that new projects are commissioned on time and that our network of existing customers are kept running smoothly during these testing times. Being local has paid dividends in a time when the borders between states and territories are closed. "Only one part of the business is focused on providing solutions to growers. The rest of the business is there to ensure those systems are providing returns for growers across their full working life." – Carl van Loon. To ensure this service can be carried out promptly Powerplants have always carried a wide array of critical spare parts to support every system in the market.



Until 2018, when new customers would place an order for a fertigation system it would take 3-4 months to get this system manufactured in Holland and shipped to Australia. Based on increased demand Powerplants started keeping full water systems in stock of all shapes and sizes. Having multiple water systems in stock has been very worthwhile for customers who need to set up quickly in order to capture a market or sure-up supply of their produce especially during this time.



Paul Drop
NSW



Ben Volz
VIC



Matt Wade
VIC/TAS



Alastair McLean
SA



Chris Kotze
VIC (SVW)



Tyron Neumann
WA (Bon)



Chris Gibbison
SA (Bon)



Nathan Hewson
NZ

Calclear



Fit and Forget – Crop quality increases! After twenty years of this innovative water treatment system, patented and used worldwide there are interesting results from growers using this CALCLEAR EMF (electromagnetic) inline water treatment which may interest new and experienced Hydroponic growers. CALCLEAR Water Conditioners have been designed, patented and manufactured wholly in Australia since 2000.

- CALCLEAR'S electromagnetic system is the environmentally friendly method of providing benefits of Soft water, Scale reduction and Plant Nutrition.
- This simple method of water treatment uses a unique microprocessor transmitting a sine wave programme through antennae pre-wound around the water pipe and installed inline.
- No filters or chemicals are used, and maintenance is minimal.
- The charged water descales existing scaled equipment and pipes.

What are the results?

Firstly, minerals are kept in solution thereby reducing scale and maintenance.

Secondly, faster transportation and assimilation of nutrients particularly CALCIUM, for stronger cell walls, producing quality crops in all stages, dramatically increasing fruiting and brix / taste levels, head weight and shelf life.

Our researcher (Dr Lynette Morgan) has shown CALCIUM UPTAKE produced strong cell walls, and **reduced Tip burn** in lettuce and **Blossom end rot** in tomatoes. In the context of protected cropping, Calclear will contribute to greater quantity and higher quality of vegetables, flowers ,fruit and herbs. For further details, please contact Robbie Fayle

CALCLEAR
COMPUTERISED WATER CONDITIONER

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Rijk Zwaan



As the international high tech glasshouse sector continually grows and evolves, entering into new markets, Rijk Zwaan is at the forefront in variety choice in protected cropping and continues to invest in the development of new varieties for various crop types suited to new climate zones and regions. The growing Australian glasshouse sector is part of this international expansion and Rijk Zwaan is strategically placed to provide a full range of varieties to meet this future demand and help create growth within our market. Fluctuating and extreme seasonal conditions experienced in Australia and in many other parts of the

world have led to an increased demand for reliance on high tech greenhouse production, which has seen the market continue to grow in this sector. Rijk Zwaan have had a long partnership with many growers in the Australian glasshouse sector with tomatoes as the industry developed and we understand the need to get the balance right for all in the supply chain. Endeavour RZ, being one of the market leaders in the large truss tomato segment in Australia has set the standards for quality and yield in the Australian market, where good presentation and sufficient firmness are essential criteria. One of the reasons Endeavour RZ continues to remain a dominant variety in the Australian market is its versatility and ability to adapt to the often-challenging daily demands of our climate, as well as the very different locations, greenhouse structures and designs across the country. Newcomer, Adventure RZ is a variety that retains many of the enduring characteristics of Endeavour RZ with the addition of powdery mildew resistance. It has also demonstrated its suitability to perform under the more generative climates or conditions. Over the past few years we have seen the addition of greenhouse capsicums, eggplants and cucumbers enter the market as alternatives to tomatoes. This trend towards diversity in the high tech greenhouse production follows developments in many countries around the world. We have observed that the market is seeking greater consistency of quality and more security of harvest, along with increased efficiencies in labour management and integrated pest management. As one of the world's leading suppliers of greenhouse capsicum varieties, such as Davos RZ, Fabris RZ and Sven RZ, Rijk Zwaan has been assisting growers transition to these new crops through our international team of experienced crop advisors based in the key markets of The Netherlands and Canada, where greenhouse capsicums are the standard offerings. **Fabris RZ** is a more recent addition to the Rijk Zwaan line-up in Australia which offers some resistance to TSWV (tomato spotted wilt virus) whilst providing an excellent well-balanced plant habit with the leaf size and vigour necessary under our somewhat hotter summer conditions. **Redline RZ** is a new red blocky variety that has slightly larger fruit with even more yield potential in comparison to the current varieties. It has been chosen due to its strong plant habit and performance in the Canadian, United States (USA) and Mexican markets where larger fruits are at a premium and should fit well into the Australian climate. Growers who are willing to adopt a more generative approach when testing Redline RZ can reap the rewards of extra yield and quality. High tech long cucumbers are an important crop internationally which is also expanding. Rijk Zwaan are uniquely positioned for growth in this sector within Australia, where we learn from the Canadian and USA greenhouse sector as they share similar market requirements for fruit size and length. They also have similar needs in disease resistances, such as powdery mildew and cucumber green mottle mosaic resistance. **Verdon RZ** is the market leader in the Canadian and USA

Rijk Zwaan

markets in the so-called high wire (a layered cropping system) and the traditional grown 'umbrella' crop system. Commercial trials in Australia confirm that Verdon RZ is well suited to our climate and can deliver on its reputation for high yield and quality fruit. The development of the blue leaf trait by Rijk Zwaan, sold under the 'Blueleaf' label is a range of exciting new genetics offering growers a more resilient plant and structure. The darker leaves provide additional benefits in managing pest and disease pressure, which



ultimately leads to healthier plants and potentially extending the life of many cucumber crops. Following on from the high tech long cucumber variety Verdon RZ, Rijk Zwaan are evaluating two new blue leaf varieties specifically developed for the high tech segment this year in Australia. While overall a smaller crop worldwide, glasshouse-grown eggplants are creating a lot of noise in the market. This crop is growing in popularity with the rise of plant-based food and Australians have been quick to adopt this trendy food, including embracing the option to roast eggplant on the barbeque. Rijk Zwaan have been market leaders in the production of eggplant for many years in Europe in both high and mid tech systems. In Australia, the unheated, mid-tech sector has grown rapidly with eggplant production too. Over the past 10 years, with long oval shaped varieties like Monarca RZ, growers have established high standards with premium quality fruits. Our Australian climate with high light and high summer temperatures presents many challenges for Australian growers wanting to grow this crop in high tech conditions. Rijk Zwaan's variety, Tracey RZ, has proven its capabilities under our tough conditions in trials. With its large firm oval shaped fruit, Tracey RZ can provide a combination of high quality and yield potential not seen in Australia previously. It also has the strength to withstand longer growing cycles in the Australian climate. Rijk Zwaan has the unique ability to trial and understand how varieties will react under varying conditions due to our continued trials across targeted climate zones. This knowledge assists us in developing further insight into plant resistances, providing further strength to our varieties. For more information contact Rijk Zwaan Australia on vegieseeds@rijkszwaan.com.au or call +61 3 5348900.

Biological Services

Biological Services are continuing to supply all orders of biocontrol products to our customers during periods of restrictions due to Covid-19. Our biggest challenge has been logistics. Some air freight routes in particular have been lost. Our office staff have been working really hard to find alternative fast freight routes to all parts of the country. Supply to protected cropping customers is an important year round part of our business. If any customers are having problems with deliveries please inform our office. As our products are



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fragile & perishable please try to release ASAP on arrival. Any growers starting new crops that require beneficials over the next 3-4 months please get in contact to discuss your requirements well in advance. This will assist us in our production & to plan deliveries to your site. Biological Services are committed to supplying quality products & advice to help growers achieve results.

Vale Bill Roberts



L to R - Professor Merle Jensen, Professor Bill Roberts and Geoff Connellan in front of the original double poly air inflated greenhouse at Rutgers University, 2004

Professor Bill Roberts, a long-time member of Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA, passed away on 21 May 2020. Bill was well known around the world for his work in development of greenhouse technology, in particular poly greenhouses. In 1964 he developed the air inflated double polyethylene film greenhouse. A simple technology but immensely important to the greenhouse industry as it reduced heating costs by around 35% and resulted in a more stable and robust structure. In many instances double poly greenhouses were still intact after storms has shredded single skin structures. The double poly very quickly became a very important part of the local greenhouse industry. Bill visited Australia on a couple of occasions in the 1970s and gave presentations at CSIRO Griffith and Burnley Campus (formerly Horticultural College). In 2004 the air inflated double poly was recognised as an Agricultural Historical Landmark (USA). The first of these recognitions, in 1926, was for the plough. The double poly innovation is obviously in good company. The energy efficiency of the double poly meant that out of season heated greenhouse production, both food, and floriculture, was viable. It was the start of a long and sustained technological development towards climate optimisation in greenhouses we have today.

Stoller



Keep root growth active during winter with Stoller.

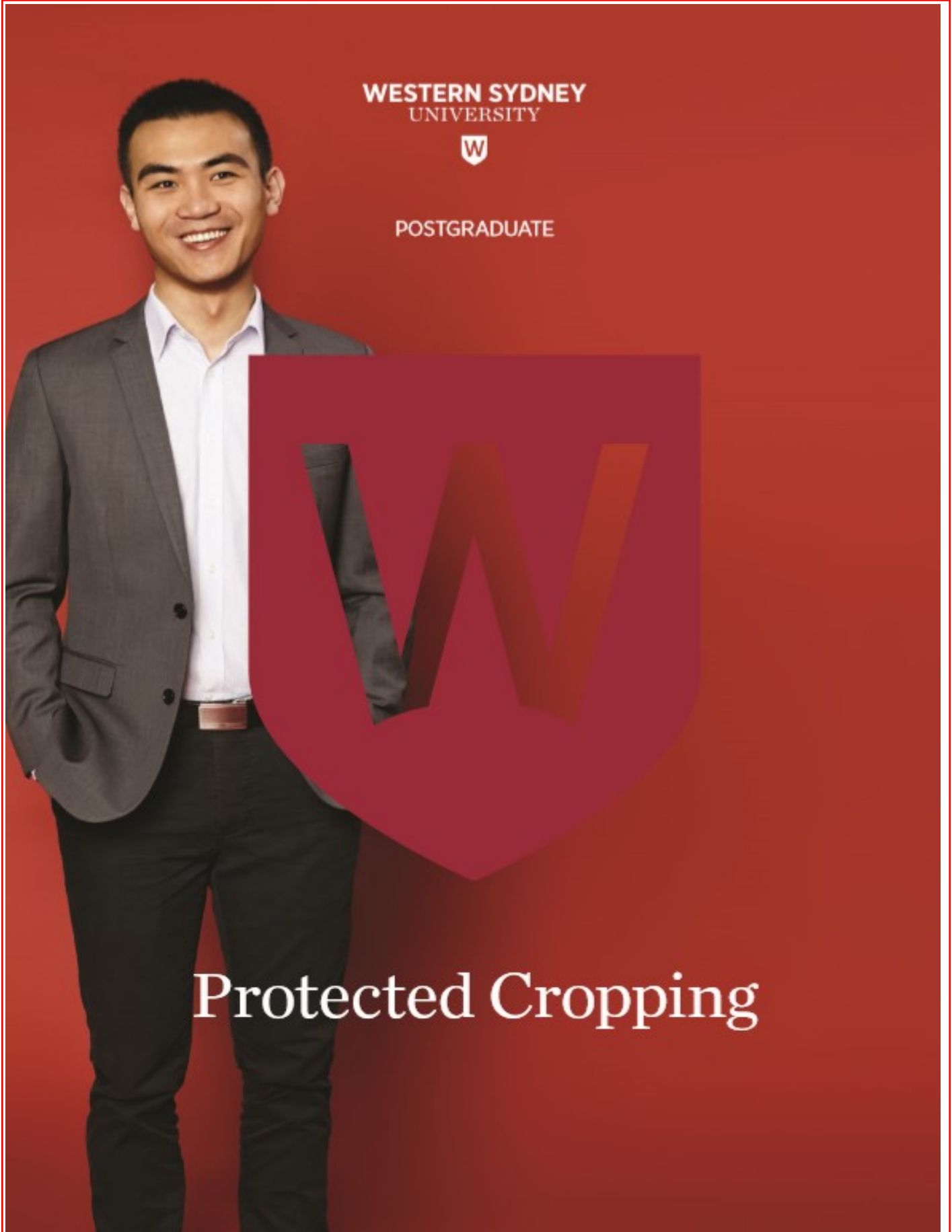
- Over winter the stress of cold temperatures slows down root growth.
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POSTGRADUATE

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Protected cropping is one of the fastest growing food producing sectors in Australia.

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WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

The highlight for your learning journey is the Masterclass experience, where you will be meeting with industry experts and working on real life industry challenges in a world-class greenhouse facility. Themes for the Masterclass include software and hardware systems, crop and produce management, integrated pest management and fertigation systems.

In addition, you will have the opportunity to set up and complete your own protected cropping industry project by integrating and applying what you have learned. It will also help you to harness and showcase leadership, communication and business skills.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

These versatile courses will open up more doors for your future, including articulation into Masters Degrees (AQF 9), bringing back the latest research findings and practices to your workplace, or exploring new career options in the field of horticulture with an elevated perspective and a new skillset.

	GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PROTECTED CROPPING	GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PROTECTED CROPPING
UAC Code	950719	950718
Apply Direct Code	3773	3772
CRICOS Code	To be advised	To be advised
Duration	0.5 F/IP	1F/2P
Location	Hawkesbury	Hawkesbury
Intake	March/July	March/July
Admission	<p>Applicants must have successfully completed:</p> <p>an undergraduate degree, or higher, in agriculture, horticulture, environment, science, technology or business</p> <p>OR</p> <p>An undergraduate degree, or higher, in any discipline</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Two years of full-time equivalent professional experience in technical or management roles.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Five years of full-time equivalent professional experience and/or training in technical or management roles</p> <p>Applicants seeking admission on the basis of work experience must support their application with a Statement of Service for all work experience listed on the application.</p>	<p>Applicants must have successfully completed an undergraduate degree, or higher, in agriculture, horticulture, environment, science, technology or business</p> <p>OR</p> <p>An undergraduate degree, or higher, in any discipline and two years of full-time equivalent professional experience in technical or management roles in the agriculture, horticulture, environment, science, technology or business industry areas.</p>
Accreditation	The Graduate Certificate in Protected Cropping and the Graduate Diploma in Protected Cropping are recognised by Protected Cropping Australia and the Hydroponic Farmers Federation.	

Key: F = Full-time; P = Part-time.

Note: Part-time mode is not available to international student visa holders.



LEADERSHIP FUND

These courses are funded by the Hort Frontiers Leadership Fund, part of the Hort Frontiers strategic partnership initiative developed by Hort Innovation, with co-investment from Western Sydney University, key industry partners (Flavorite, Costa Group, Perfection Fresh, Australian Fresh Leaf Herbs, and ICI Industries) and contributions from the Australian government.

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You've come a long way. Go further.

Located in the heart of one of Australia's fastest growing economic regions, Western Sydney University offers unlimited potential to postgraduate students with the drive, ambition and will to succeed.

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Application Information

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

If you have undertaken studies overseas you may need to provide proof of proficiency in English. Minimum English proficiency requirements and acceptable proof are found on the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) website at uac.edu.au

Overseas qualifications must be deemed equivalent by the Australian Education International – National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (AEI-NOOSR) – in order to be considered by UAC and Western Sydney University.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

You may be granted special equivalence or advanced standing for academic, professional and/or any other qualifications you hold on the basis of evidence submitted at the time of application.

HOW TO APPLY

Postgraduate course applications are processed online through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) at uac.edu.au/postgraduate or direct to Western Sydney at westernsydney.uac.edu.au/ws

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students apply direct to Western Sydney University at westernsydney.edu.au/international/apply

For information about studying at Western Sydney University, including courses, tuition fees, English requirements, intakes, assessment methods, accommodation options and living in Australia, visit westernsydney.edu.au/international

POSTGRADUATE INFORMATION SESSIONS

Postgraduate Information Sessions are held throughout the year, and give you the opportunity to meet academic and professional staff, and to ask questions about courses, admission, fees and more. At these sessions, you will gain a better understanding of course content, what you can expect from the program and possible career paths. To register for a Postgraduate Information Session, visit westernsydney.edu.au/postgraduate/sessions

To view the full range of postgraduate courses available visit westernsydney.edu.au/postgraduate

CONTACT US

To discuss your study goals and career options contact one the following:

Domestic students:

Call **1300 897 669** or email postgraduatetestudy@westernsydney.edu.au

International students:

Call **+61 2 9852 5499** or email internationalstudy@westernsydney.edu.au

DISCLAIMER

Western Sydney University reserves the right to withdraw or vary courses listed within this publication. In the event that the course or courses are to be changed, or in the event of cancellation, applicants will be advised by the email address specified on their application.

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Roam Technology

As you all know, a novel coronavirus is causing an outbreak of human respiratory illness, called COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease—2019) Within a few weeks, this highly contagious virus instigated a pandemic that resulted in a worldwide public health emergency.

As a worldwide hygiene partner and as the producer of Huwa-San disinfection products, Roam Technology also continues to closely monitor developments related to COVID-19. Since our products are determined to be essential goods, transport across borders is no way delayed. Despite the increased global demand for our disinfection products, the supply of Huwa-San is guaranteed. However the global demand for our product has increased significantly. We made it our mission to ensure that all customers and growers continue to be supplied with Huwa-San disinfection products , and we are committed to delivering on this promise. We explicitly ask all customers to place orders in time, as this is essential for our logistics operation.

Roam Technology will remain to be active regarding support at customer level as well. Due to the global situation, international travel to provide local support is difficult at the moment . But we remain available for remote advice and support. Should you have any practical queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We are aware that these are difficult times for everyone, and are hopeful that the current worldwide situation will improve soon. Until then, stay safe and take good care of yourself and your loved ones.



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Rijk Zwaan



Adventure RZ **NEW**

Trials have yielded impressive results in Australia.

Well adapted to handling extreme conditions and harsh climates, it produces high yields of quality truss tomatoes.

Key features

- High quality and high yield
- Strong well balanced plant
- Sets well under hot and cool conditions
- Improved mildew resistance

Endeavour RZ

This variety has a strong reputation for its balanced plant habit, improved flavour and high quality fruit.

It consistently performs under the tough and variable Australian conditions.

Key features

- Market leading variety
- Good presentation and shelf life
- Open and balanced crop
- Exceptional setting ability

For more information contact your technical representative

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