



ISSN 1448-4285

NSW Flower News

issue 10 Winter 2008

In this issue

- Welcome - 1
- DPI News – 2
- Event reports – 3
- Leigh's 5 steps to IPM - 5
- Industry news – 5
- Research news – 7
- Hygiene tips - 9
- Horticulture training – 9
- New publications – 9
- Pesticide news – 10
- Weeds and herbicides – 11
- Diary dates - 11
- Industry associations and contacts - 12
- APVMA horticultural permits for nursery and ornamental plant uses - 13

Welcome

This issue highlights a range of current and newly completed research benefiting the cut flower industry. Some recent industry events are profiled along with new opportunities, for example two industry study tours being coordinated by the Flower Association of Queensland. The wildflower industry has been actively pursuing a range of activities designed to strengthen its future, while the recently published RIRDC 5 year R&D plan presents many opportunities for the industry and researchers to jointly tackle some long standing problems.

For your information, a full listing of current minor use permits applicable to some or all sectors of the ornamental plants industry is included at the back of this newsletter.

This year I made time for a couple of overseas trips, one to Japan and another to North America. What struck me as a visitor were the very different and at times innovative ways ornamental plants and flowers are used in these places.



Flower baskets steal the scene in N. America

I was also left wondering how much public uses and displays of flowering plants help to encourage consumers to buy pot plants and flowers? Here in Australia, drought, summer heat and water shortages have encouraged a move away from expansive plantings and tubs of flowering annuals and perennials. Instead we have 'tough natives' and lots of greenery. In Japan, western Canada and the NW USA, I was impressed by the use of a huge variety of ornamental plants in parks and in planters front of buildings. In North America, downtown areas had gorgeous flower baskets prominently displayed. Are we missing something? Does seeing fabulous plants 'in public' encourage more people to think 'I like that' and 'I can do that at my place' and stimulate more plant and flower purchases? At the very least, it helps the ornamental plant growers who contribute the contents of the flower baskets.

Bettina Gollnow



NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

DPI news

Ross applies horticultural expertise to grow seagrass



Sea grass trials

Research Horticulturist Dr Ross Worrall is a member of a research team developing methods for cultivating the seagrass *Posidonia australis* for small-scale rehabilitation. A three-year research program, which is a collaborative project between the Dr Tim Glasby from DPI's Aquatic Ecosystems Unit and Horticulture (primarily Ross), has recently been funded by the NSW Environmental Trust. Ross has applied his knowledge of propagating a range of native plants such as kangaroo paws by tissue culture and conventional means to this project.

Seagrass or *Posidonia australis* (also called strapweed) is an angiosperm (flowering plant) rather than a true seaweed and has root hairs, unlike true seaweeds. Seagrass is susceptible to many human impacts, is slow growing and has limited natural recruitment.

The research will focus on ways of propagating and enhancing growth and survival rates of *Posidonia*, with both tissue culture and vegetative propagation trials underway. The ultimate aim is to grow the seagrass in small sandbags which can be deployed into estuaries and help rehabilitate damaged seagrass beds.

Farewell Greig Ireland

NSW DPI horticulturist Greig Ireland retired in August, after an extension career spanning more than 38 years. The flower industry, will remember Greig for his enthusiastic support of the north coast wildflower industry, in addition to a range of other horticultural industries. As well as fitting in farm visits to assist individual

growers, Greig chaired the Blandfordia Research and Extension group for a number of years. He also assisted in running the annual NSW wildflower conferences, where he had the critical role of developing the farm tour program and producing the detailed written instructions that helped participants find the various farms without getting lost!



The wildflower industry took the opportunity to farewell Greig during the conference dinner at the NSW wildflower conference.

EMAI gets major biosecurity boost

Investing further in the State's capacity to respond to exotic disease incursions, this year's NSW budget allocated more than \$43 million to upgrade biosecurity facilities at the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI), Camden. EMAI is the location of the Plant Health diagnostic service used by many flower and plant growers.

A new plant biosecurity precinct will be constructed, and viral disease diagnostic capabilities expanded with a new high security wing. The funding is part of the 2008/09 budget for primary industries, to be spent over the next five years.

"For plant and animal industries this project means improved diagnosis and testing, which will be pivotal in any future disease outbreak," Primary Industries Minister, Ian Macdonald, said.

"Should exotic diseases like foot and mouth disease or bird flu make their way into Australia, EMAI would be on the frontline, performing thousands of diagnostic tests as part of the NSW Government response.

"The upgrade will begin later this year and will ensure the NSW Department of Primary Industries' premier laboratory

facility maintains its world class exotic disease testing and response capabilities."

EMAI was at the forefront of the recent successful battle to clear the state of equine influenza. During the horse flu outbreak, EMAI scientists diagnosed the disease, then conducted thousands of tests per day to monitor the progress of the disease and develop control strategies.

Event reports

NSW Wildflower conference celebrates 10th birthday

This year's wildflower industry conference attracted around 90 participants from NSW as well as Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. Hosted by the NSW DPI, the event was held on the southern edge of Sydney in late February. While the 2008 conference was the tenth such event, the Sydney location attracted many participants and trade exhibitors to this conference for the first time.

Day one of the conference was a coach tour that started at the early hour of 5 am. First stop was the busy Sydney Flower Market at Flemington. The tour then took participants to three farms, which grow a wide range of Australian and South African flowers.



Farm tour 2008

Day two of the conference featured an excellent array of invited speakers who shared their knowledge and ideas with enthusiasm. Topics included the commercial issues of developing new products, efficient irrigation and nutrition management, production successes of flannel flowers and grafted plants, quality standards, industry development, native flora licensing, domestic marketing and insights into the Israeli flower industry. There were also workshops on plant diseases and postharvest management.

Plans are already underway for the 2009 conference which is scheduled for the weekend of February 21-22. A full conference report can be found on the NSW DPI website (www.dpi.nsw.gov.au, search 'f' for 'flowers'). Copies of the 2008 proceedings are also available for \$27.50.



What's new in 2008

This annual update seminar for cut flower and nursery plant growers took place at the Dural Country Club on July 26. It was hosted jointly by NSW DPI and Ace Ohlsson Pty Ltd.

Graham Smith, President of the Australian Hydroponics and Greenhouse Association (AHGA) outlined the national issues affecting the hydroponics industry and how the AHGA fits into the picture. The economic value of the industry is at last being realised and it is estimated that protected horticulture employs ten thousand people around the country. A number of projects are underway to secure an even bigger future, for example through a national greenhouse water recycling project, the development of technical training programs and plans for a national training centre. Graham noted that Sydney would be hosting the Association's national conference next year and encouraged local growers to make the most of the opportunities this will offer them.

Industry experts Peter Albery and David Biber presented the ins and outs of two commonly used growing media. Peter discussed potting media, and how they are made, and how to get the best from them, highlighting the potting media production facilities at Grange Growing Solutions. David (from Ausperl, Australian Perlite Pty Ltd) gave a run down on 'everything you might want to know about perlite and were afraid to ask'. Darryl Cislowski from Ace Ohlsson introduced a new corn starch based product called Zeba® and its water holding abilities when added either to potting media or soil. This presentation aroused great interest and delegates appreciated the product samples provided in their packs so they could 'try it for themselves'.

The US pack trials are something many have heard about, without really knowing much detail. Darryl gave a virtual tour of the most recent pack trials in California where 26 companies put their new plants on show at numerous greenhouse and field trial sites stretching from San Francisco to San Diego. He highlighted the latest trends – some wonderful new varieties but also a strong focus on ‘eco’ and ‘green’ products and fully recyclable containers. Mixed planters are big business and done really well. Darryl also highlighted some new ornamental sunflower varieties developed for Australian growers.



Pictured at the seminar with Bettina Gollnow are long time industry adviser Alan Merriman (left) and speaker Peter Albery (right).



Darryl Cislowski demonstrated the effect of a tiny pinch of Zeba® on a beaker of water.

Orchid grower Scott Barrie presented the ‘grower’s tale’, sharing with the audience how his family business used relocation to ‘reorganise and do it better’. Greenhouses with fully computerised environmental controls have allowed far more efficient production with ‘more time for fishing’ as a result. Ridge vents provide excellent ventilation and ‘you can see the leaves moving, even on a still day’, according to Scott. Shade screens have been fantastic in keeping summer temperatures down.

DPI researcher Dr Leigh Pilkington presented the world of biological control research. His videos of insect pests feeding and how the ‘good bugs’ can help control them had participants truly amazed. ‘Most of our pest management problems arise when we repeatedly use simplistic, unilateral

management responses for a pest’, he said. Leigh explained what IPM is and encouraged growers to try it and ‘get off the pesticide treadmill’.

The seminar also presented an opportunity for trade exhibitors to introduce themselves and their products and services. Growers received information Annie Hart (Casetech Horticulture), Rosemary Viggers (Growool Horticultural Systems Pty Ltd), Dr Kate Delaporte (Scholefield Robinson Horticultural Services) and Bettina Gollnow (NSW DPI).

Leigh’s 5 steps towards IPM



The IPM pyramid – step 1 lies at the base with step 5 at the pinnacle. Many growers are already along the path to IPM by practising some or all of steps 1 through 4.

Step 1. Hygiene

- Establish and maintain a weed free growing area
- Remove affected or diseased plants – tag plants that seem ‘off colour’ so you can keep an eye on them (pests and diseases will spread from those sick plants)
- Ensure you have clean clothes, clean shoes, clean tools when you go into your crop – just like we don’t send our kids to school with the flu, don’t take mites from an infested area into a clean area

Step 2. Monitoring

- Hang and inspect sticky traps regularly
- Do regular crop inspections
- Keep detailed and accurate records to help you in this and following crops
- Aim for accurate and early diagnosis of problems – there are several diagnostic services available to help identify insects and diseases. Call the insect diagnostic hotline on 1800 675 821 and speak to Merydyn Davison. For information on diseases, call the Plant Health Diagnostic Service on 02 4640 6428.

Step 3. Cultural controls

- Keep your plants healthy – a healthy plant will offer more yield, repel insect attacks and be more resilient to diseases so focus on good nutrition and environmental conditions
- Grow tolerant or resistant varieties if they are available

Step 4. Chemical controls

- Choose chemicals wisely – use ‘soft’ chemical options that won’t harm beneficial insects
- Use chemicals thoughtfully – never spray the same chemical time after time and follow the label instructions: if it states that it can only be used twice per crop, only use it twice. If it doesn’t work, stop using it
- Spot spray if you have localised infestations
- Develop an insecticide resistance management plan

Step 5. Use biological controls

Let the ‘good bugs’ work for you – this is the uppermost pinnacle of IPM

More information:

*Australasian Biological Control website - search for ‘goodbugs’.

* <http://www.ucdavis.edu/index.html> and search for ‘ipm’.

* ‘*Integrated pest management for crops and pastures*’ by Paul Horne and Jessica Page, Landlinks Press, February 2008, 136 pp. To order: call Landlinks Press on 1300 788 000

Biocontrol conference proceedings: CDs of the Proceedings of the Australian and New Zealand Biocontrol Conference held in Sydney early this year are available. Please contact Leigh Pilkington on 02 4348 1953 or email leigh.pilkington@dpi.nsw.gov.au for a copy.

Industry news

Phytosanitary Certificate now required for US shipments

The Horticulture Export Program (HEP) within AQIS has received formal notification from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) via

letter dated 7 July 2008 to Biosecurity Australia, of the requirement of phytosanitary certification of freedom from Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM).

The USDA has noted that these measures have been put in place as part of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services’ (APHIS) eradication program for LBAM in California. APHIS has identified cut flowers and greenery as a potential pathway for LBAM from countries where LBAM is known to be present.

The following Additional Declaration will be required for the phytosanitary certificate:

‘The cut flowers/garlands/wreaths/greenery in this shipment have been inspected and found free of all life stages of Light brown apple moth (*Epiphyas postvittana*)’.

These arrangements are to be effective from **4 August 2008** and all cut flowers/garlands/ wreaths/ greenery exported from Australia will require phytosanitary inspection and certification.



LBAM damage on waratahs

For further information on the phytosanitary certification and Additional Declaration requirements please contact your local AQIS office. Contact details for each State can be found on the AQIS website. The NSW contact is Mark Hamilton, phone 02 8334 7447 / 0418 482 757, email: mark.hamilton@aqis.gov.au

If you have additional queries, please contact Ray Elson
Assistant Program Manager
Horticulture Export Program
Animal & Plant Exports & Imported Food Safety Branch - Export Division
AQIS Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
Australian Government, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)
Ph: +61 2 6272 4216
Fax: +61 2 6272 5423

Wildflowers Australia establishes NSW state council

Last February, Wildflowers Australia (WFA) President Tim Bailey, announced that the board of WFA would support the formation of a NSW branch of WFA (the first state branch of WFA). An active membership drive has recruited enough NSW members of WFA to form a state branch under the constitution. Members of WFA who reside in NSW attended an AGM held on June 10 at NSW DPI's National Centre for Greenhouse Horticulture, Narara. The following were elected as office bearers for the NSW state council:

President: Peter Still

Vice-President: Paul Dalley

Secretary: Bettina Gollnow, in an interim capacity

Treasurer: Imbi Chad

Committee members: Gordon Meiklejohn, David Mathieson, Tim Bailey, Robert Luff, Lyn Johnson and/or Frank Allatt.

As board members of WFA, Paul Dalley and Tim Bailey will provide links between the national organisation and the state council.

The meeting nominated four members to act as industry representatives on the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Cutflower Management Plan Industry Consultative Committee. They are Barry Luff, Gordon Dick, Craig Scott and Imbi Chad.

The meeting also discussed potential activities to be conducted by the state council and agreed to more actively support the annual NSW Wildflower Industry Conference.

The WFA (NSW Council) will replace Wildflowers NSW as the voice of the industry.

Contact WFA (NSW Council) through Bettina Gollnow, phone 02 4640 6437, fax (02) 4640 6300, email: bettina.gollnow@dpi.nsw.gov.au

AHGA conference Sydney 2009!

Mark the dates in your diary now – July 19-22. Venue: Sydney Showground, Homebush. More details soon.

Study Tour - Amsterdam and HortiFair 2008

6th - 19th October 2008

The Flower Association of Queensland Inc supported by Horticulture Australia Ltd, is facilitating an escorted tour of the protected cropping cut flower industry in the Netherlands in October 2008.

The tour will be based in Amsterdam, with the main focus, a two day intensive training course at PTC (Practical Training Centre, Ede, Holland) as well as two days at HortiFair 08 at the RAI in Amsterdam. You can download the brochure from the FAQI website -

<http://www.flowersqueensland.asn.au/>

Please register your interest without delay by emailing denyse.corner@dpi.qld.gov.au

Study Tour - IFEX Japan 2008 27th October - 1st November 2008

The Flower Association of Queensland Inc in conjunction with WildFlowers Australia Ltd and supported by Horticulture Australia Ltd and RIRDC, is facilitating an escorted tour of IFEX Japan.

The tour will be based in Tokyo, with the main focus the International Flower Expo 2008.

Register your interest by emailing denyse.corner@dpi.qld.gov.au or management@wildflowersaustralia.com.au

WildFlowers Australia Ltd develops strategies to promote floristry

This national industry association has been active on a number of fronts this year aiming to promote awareness and use of wildflower products.

Firstly, they are supporting a floristry competition involving TAFE and other training colleges. The deadline for competition entries is 1 October 2008. The Competition is being sponsored by East Coast Wildflowers, Premium Greens, the Flower Association of Queensland Inc. and Lynch Group. Eight colleges and professional floristry schools have registered to participate in the competition and over 30 high quality entries have been received already – with a further 150 expected over coming months.

Secondly, WFA arranged a magazine shoot with *Modern Wedding Flowers* for the magazine's 2009 feature on wildflowers. Product was provided by many WFA members and was very well received by the designer Del Thomas. An example of Del's stunning work is featured here. Another shoot is scheduled for Spring



One of several beautiful flower arrangements created by Del Thomas (of Flowers by Delwyn) for *Modern Wedding Flowers* to promote the use of Australian grown wildflowers.

Thirdly, WFA has become involved in reviewing floristry training and has provided feedback during the review of the "Continuous Improvement to the Floristry Training Package" being coordinated by Service Skills Australia. Of the 4 points WFA wanted to be included in the review/upgrade of the curriculum, 3 were included. The 3 points now to be included are teaching florists about wildflowers, ie. their names and how to care for them, teaching florists how to design with wildflowers and also to integrate them with other exotic flowers, and teaching florists about how wildflowers relate to issues such as climate change, water usage, and "carbon miles". WFA will also be contributing to phase 2 of this review and assisting with the actual editing of the competency standards for each training module.

Lastly, and most recently, WFA has become involved with the Agrifood Council, the national body that is reviewing the Floriculture training package (providing training and education to growers (both employers and employees) through TAFEs and other registered training organisations. There have been very low enrolments in floriculture over recent years, both on a fulltime, or on a part-time basis, and the review is to make sure that the training

package actually provides vital information for growers in a format that they can use personally and for their staff. This is a program that will be ongoing over the next year as it seen that hand-in-hand with commercial viability of floriculture enterprises is training and education, both on a specialized basis and also covering key basics such as business management, marketing, bookkeeping, etc.

These projects have been coordinated by Lana Mitchell a WFA member (and board member) from NSW (Lana can be contacted on 0401 6236 8309 for more information).

WFA members have also supported a number of promotional events by providing product. These have included the June 2008 Symposium of the American Institute of Floral Designers where acclaimed professional floral designers Richard Go and Gail Anderson contributed "Corroboree – beyond the dreaming" on Day 1 of the program.

This information is covered in more detail on the WFA Ltd website in the "Whats New" area.
WildFlowers Australia Ltd – see www.wildflowersaustralia.com.au

Research news



Wildflowers and Native Plants 5 year R&D plan released

This plan, covering the years 2008 to 2013 has just been published by the Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation (RIRDC). It can be downloaded from the website (see www.rirdc.gov.au) or you can request a printed copy (please contact Catherine Poyner at RIRDC by email – catherine.poyner@rirdc.gov.au).

The Plan includes an industry overview and SWOT analysis, a discussion of the achievements of the previous R&D plan (2000-2005) and details of the current plan.

The current plan lists 5 objectives. They (and their priority, given as a percentage) are:

1. Provide profitable and sustainable production and management systems (50%)
2. Improve product quality through postharvest care and quality standards (15%)
3. Assess and evaluate markets to improve commercial outcomes for the industry (10%)
4. Improve existing products and develop new ones (15%)
5. Enhance the human capital of the industry and consequent research knowledge and adoption (10%)

The reasons for selecting each objective are given, and strategies designed to achieve results are listed along with targets and indicators to allow progress to be mapped.

Many NSW industry members provided inputs into this plan which was developed for RIRDC by Bettina Gollnow.

New reports to help boost wildflower exports to Japan

The Australian wildflower industry could benefit from better export efficiency following the release of two new reports focussing on the Japanese market. The two reports have been produced by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) which aims to provide the knowledge for diversification in Australia's rural industries.

RIRDC's General Manager of New Rural Industries, Roslyn Prinsley, said wildflowers had achieved considerable export success in Japan and the new reports would help the industry develop further.

"Exporting wildflowers to Japan: Developing a supply chain for a new rural industry" identifies how firms involved in the wildflower supply chain can improve their management strategies to better meet their customers' needs. By providing a better understanding of the real needs of the Japanese market and how to meet them, the report provides the wildflower industry with a strategy to improve and sustain their competitive advantage.

Dr Prinsley said the second report – *"Flowers by Sea: Improving market access for Australian wildflowers"* – was the result of research trials into whether sea freight could be a feasible option for wildflower exports to Japan. This project undertook both a lab-based experiment and a trial shipment to Japan to establish whether costs could feasibly be cut by sea freight. Sea freight costs are often only about 60 per cent of those of air freight.

This project, led by NSW DPI researcher Dr Jenny Ekman, found that it is physically possible for some species to be exported by sea and retain acceptable quality and vase life. However, some supply chain issues would have to be addressed and up-to-date information on costs and returns from the Japanese market would have to be evaluated on a product-by-product basis.

The reports are available for download at www.rirdc.gov.au (go to "What's new") or call (02) 6271 4160.

Wildflower specifications update

The RIRDC, NSW DPI and the Australian wildflower industry are now almost halfway through a two year project to develop commercially relevant product specifications for 30 Australian wildflower products.

The extensive photo library of high quality product images being developed to support the specifications will be another important achievement of the project. Growers and marketers are playing a critical role in providing flower samples to be photographed. Industry consultations to review the draft text and photos are about to begin.

RIRDC has just funded a subproject, to be coordinated by NSW DPI, which will review the wildflower post harvest manual prepared by Victorian researchers and published by the RIRDC in 2002. In addition to updating the general postharvest information, the revised manual will incorporate information prepared for the specifications and expand the range of postharvest care factsheets to cover around 50 common wildflower products.

If you wish to make comment either on the draft specifications or have some ideas

about improving the postharvest manual, please contact Bettina Gollnow.

Hygiene tips!

Don't forget to disinfect your secateurs and knives when pruning plants or taking cuttings. It's also a wise precaution to disinfect secateurs between varieties or beds when picking flowers. A 70% alcohol solution will be effective. In addition, there are several commercial disinfectant products available, for example Biogram®, Farmcleanse®, Phensyl®, Sporekill® and Virkon®. Always check the product label for more information on their use pattern and properties, as some solutions are known to be corrosive and can damage metal, for example your secateur blades.

The commercial disinfectants above can also be used in footbaths, another important tool in keeping soil borne diseases and pests at bay on your farm. Use footbaths at the entry points to your production areas, particularly propagating areas, and especially if you are hosting visitors or a farm walk. A simple footbath can be made using a plastic tray lined with a piece of foam cut to fit – ensure the foam is thoroughly wetted by your disinfectant solution. More elaborate ready to use footbaths can be purchased – Bettina Gollnow is tracking down one source (please contact her to find out more).

Horticulture training – why not make plans to study next year?

* Charles Sturt University launched a new Bachelor of Horticulture program this year. It includes specialisations in Production Horticulture or Environmental Horticulture. This new degree combines existing horticulture programs at both Orange and Wagga into one Horticulture degree.

For more information, please contact::

Mr Peter Mills

Lecturer in Production Horticulture

Course Coordinator: Bachelor of

Horticulture

CSU Orange

Phone 02 6365 7567

Email: pemills@csu.edu.au

* TAFE – study Production Horticulture by distance education. A Certificate III in production horticulture can be undertaken

through OTEN – the provider of distance education for NSW TAFE. The course is designed to equip participants with underpinning knowledge and basic skills in fruit, vegetable and cut flower/foilage production. The training is pitched at a level appropriate for a senior worker in a production horticulture enterprise working with minimum supervision.

More information is available from John Galbraith or Ian McIver at OTEN on 02 9715 8511 or visit

<http://www.oten.edu.au/oten/oten.htm> and search for course #1994.

Aussie seeds blast off

Seeds from Mount Annan Botanic Garden were recently taken into space and onto the International Space Station as part of an experiment. Researchers want to see if the time they spend in space, the lack of gravity and higher radiation levels will affect the seeds' ability to germinate and grow when they return to earth. Seeds of golden wattle, waratah, flannel flower and Wollemi pine were selected for the experiment. Matching sets of seeds have been held back at Mount Annan to be used in comparative tests. Mount Annan Botanic Garden stores over 5 million seeds in its seed bank to help in the conservation of around 5000 species of native plants.

New publications

*** Minimising losses due to bird damage**

Pest bird damage is estimated to cause annual losses in grapes, pome fruit, stone fruit and nuts alone worth at least \$300 million across Australia. Help is at hand through a new book called 'Managing Bird Damage to Fruit and other Horticultural Crops', produced by the Bureau of Rural Sciences and supported by the Invasive Animal Cooperative Research Centre and Horticulture Australia.

Lead author, NSW DPI scientist, John Tracey, says the 255-page book offers practical solutions to help farmers to control birds.

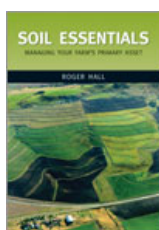
"Our view is that bird damage to horticulture is becoming increasingly significant with over 60 species known to cause major impact. While bird damage is unpredictable, it can have a dramatic impact

on individual growers in certain years, sometimes resulting in complete crop loss”, he said.

Mr Tracey said the book provides a comprehensive assessment of the problem, current best practice approaches, options for management and what must be done to reduce damage in the future. It also contains fact sheets which provide growers with information about different pest birds and how to manage them.

It is available from the Bureau of Rural Sciences and can be downloaded from their online bookshop at <http://www.affashop.gov.au/product.asp?productid=13796>

*** Soil Essentials**
Managing Your Farm's Primary Asset
Roger Hall, Earthcare Enterprises
192 pages
Publisher: Landlinks Press
February 2008



Soil Essentials is a practical reference for farmers and land managers covering soil issues commonly encountered at the farm level. Written in a straightforward style, it explains the principles of soil management and the interpretation of soil tests, and how to use this information to address long-term soil and enterprise viability.

This book demonstrates how minerals, trace elements, organic matter, soil organisms and fertilisers affect soil, plant and animal health. It shows how to recognise soil decline, and how to repair soils affected by nutrient imbalances, depleted soil microbiology, soil erosion, compaction, structural decline, soil sodicity and salinity. The major problem-soils – sodic soils, light sandy soils, heavy clay soils and acid sulphate soils – are all examined.

With this information, farmers and land managers will be able to consider the costs

and financial benefits of good soil management.

Pesticide news

Spray Drift

Off-target spray drift that can accompany the application of pesticides is a concern that sometimes alarms the community and always challenges the agricultural industry to find ways to control it more effectively.

The APVMA is responsible for ensuring that off-target pesticide spray drift does not harm human health, the environment or Australia's international trade. A risk assessment framework document – *APVMA Operating Principles in Relation to Spray Drift Risk* – describes the methods and scientific principles that the APVMA uses to assess and manage spray drift issues. The Operating Principles were developed over several years and four rounds of public consultation.

Click here to [Download the operating principles \(PDF -560KB\)](#)

Dichlorvos review

The APVMA has released its preliminary review of dichlorvos. You can view/download the full review on the APVMA website, under 'chemical review'.

By far the largest user of dichlorvos is the grains industry. Some 55% of dichlorvos used is expended against pests of stored grain products. Major sectors include on-farm storage and stockfeed merchants. The second largest use of dichlorvos in Australia is for pest control in industrial, commercial and domestic situations, including non-product areas of abattoirs, warehouses and other storage facilities including flour mills. Approximately 26% of dichlorvos is used in this role.

Household vapour strip products account for a further 15% of dichlorvos use. Minor uses of dichlorvos comprise animal housing (1.8%), **greenhouses/glasshouses** (1.7%) and veterinary applications (0.6%).

At the beginning of the review, the APVMA conducted an assessment of how dichlorvos was used. According to that assessment, the

principal use in greenhouses/glasshouses is for control of **thrips on ornamentals**, with dichlorvos being recommended as part of a resistance management strategy by the NSW State agricultural authorities. There are further limited uses on a range of crops including **tomatoes, cucumbers, and capsicums**. Dichlorvos is also used to fumigate **vegetable seedlings and cut flowers** prior to export.

Detailed OHS and residue assessments have resulted in changes to use patterns. Uses in some applications have been restricted, e.g. grains industry, greenhouses, ornamentals, or deleted, e.g. mushrooms, avocados.

Changes to Use Patterns

Due to public health and safety concerns of unknown dietary exposure, use of dichlorvos on greenhouse and glasshouse food crops cannot be supported. However, the use of dichlorvos on ornamental crops grown under cover in greenhouses is not of concern from the point of view of residues. However, a re-entry interval of 4 hours has been set when dichlorvos is used for fumigation of glasshouses and similar plant production facilities.

Weeds and herbicides

Review of herbicide modes-of-action groups

These have recently been reviewed by CropLife Australia. There are now 6 new groups, bringing the Australian system more in-line with the US & Europe.

Groups F and K are the most affected, being redistributed to new groups. See <http://www.croplifeaustralia.org.au>

Weed management a \$1.5B problem for farmers: ABS

The management of weeds was the major natural resource management activity for Australian farmers, according to figures released recently by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. During the 2006-07 financial year, farmers spent \$1.57 billion controlling weeds, which is more than pests (\$768 million) and land and soil problems (\$649 million) combined. The total cost of managing these problems was \$2.99B, or an average of \$21,094 per business, ABS reports.

Nationally, nearly two-thirds of farmers reported that they had improved their natural resource management practices. Of these, 89pc reported doing so to increase productivity, 88pc for farm sustainability, and 75pc to improve environmental protection.

Other findings from the ABS include:

- * farmers in Australia managed 425 million hectares of land, or just over half (55pc) of Australia's land mass;

- * of all expenditure on weed management, nearly two-thirds (\$982m) was spent on herbicides;

- * of all expenditure on pest management, over half (\$430m) was spent on pesticides; and

- * erosion was the most common land and soil problem, reported by 48pc of the farmers, followed by soil compaction (43pc) and soil acidity (42pc).

The findings are based on the second Natural Resource Management survey conducted by the ABS.

(This information was sourced from <http://www.farmonline.com.au>)

Diary Dates

September

3-6 - 13th International Protea Association Conference, Stellenbosch, South Africa
www.ipa2008.co.za

11-14 The Australian Springtime Flora Festival, Mt. Penang Parklands, Gosford.
Details - www.florafestival.com.au

26-28 4th International Flora Expo, New Delhi, India.
See www.floraexpo.com

20 September – October 5. Waratah Festival 2008, Mt Tomah Botanic Garden

October

6-19 Study Tour - Amsterdam and HortiFair 2008

The Flower Association of Queensland Inc. Register your interest by emailing denyse.corner@dpi.qld.gov.au

14-17 Hortifair 2008, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.hortifair.com

27 October - 1 November **Study Tour - IFEX Japan 2008** The Flower Association of Queensland Inc in conjunction with WildFlowers Australia Ltd.
Register your interest by emailing denyse.corner@dpi.qld.gov.au or management@wildflowersaustralia.com.au

30 October - 1 November IFEX (International Flower Expo) Tokyo, Japan
www.ifex.jp

NSW flower grower and related industry associations and networks:

Australian Hydroponic & Greenhouse Association Inc

Contact: Saskia Blanch
PO Box 538
Narrabeen NSW 2101
Phone/fax: 02 9939 5993
Website: www.ahga.org.au

Australian Native Flower Growers & Promoters

PO Box 4327
East Gosford NSW 2250
www.anfgpa.com

Blandfordia Research & Extension Group

Contact: Lyn Johnson
Email: myallausflowers@bigpond.com

Central West Flower Industry Association

Contact: Neil Jones
Phone: 0419 224 461

Flower Growers Group of NSW (Inc.)

Contact: Rob Giansante
Phone: (02) 9620 1498, 0419 285 223
Fax: (02) 9620 2057
Email: lintonfreshflowers@bigpond.com.au
www.nswflowers.net.au

Native Flower Grower's Association (Mid North Coast) Inc.

Contact: Bob Rogers
Phone/fax: (02) 6566 5560
Email: "Shannon & Bob Rogers"
<bookworks@tsn.cc>
www.australiannativeflowers.com.au

NFG Co-op

Contact: Harry Kibbler
Phone: 02 6567 4266
Email: info@goldengecko.com.au
or
Contact: David Mathieson
Phone: 0417 448 667
Email: info@goldengecko.com.au
www.goldengecko.com.au

NSW Farmers Association

Address: Level 25, 66 Goulburn Street
Sydney 2000
Phone: (02) 8251 1700
Fax: (02) 8251 1750
www.nswfarmers.org.au

Waratah Industry Network

Contact: Paul Nixon
Address: 13 Merino Drive
Elderslie NSW 2570
Phone: (02) 4658 1187
Email: paulgnixon@yahoo.com.au

Wildflowers Australia Ltd

(NSW State Council)
c/- Bettina Gollnow
NSW DPI
PMB 8, Camden NSW 2570.
Phone (02) 4640 6437
Fax (02) 4640 6300, email:
Email: bettina.gollnow@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Additional contacts

GrowSearch Australia
A specialist information service for the ornamentals industry which has a wealth of information available on a fee-for-service basis.
www.dpi.qld.gov.au/growsearch

NSW Flower News is produced by Bettina Gollnow, Development Officer (Floriculture), Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, PMB 8, Camden NSW 2570. Phone (02) 4640 6437 or fax (02) 4640 6300, email: bettina.gollnow@dpi.nsw.gov.au

All APVMA horticultural permits for nursery and ornamental plant uses applicable in NSW (July 2008)

Permit Number	Permit description (pesticide / crop / pest)	Date Issued	Expiry Date
PER7705	Pirimor, Mimic, Insegar, Chess, Avatar, Applaud / Rose Gerbera & Chrysanthemum / Various insect pests	23-Dec-04	30-Mar-09
PER7720	Acrobat Fungicide / Rose & Gerbera / Downy Mildew & White Blister	8-Mar-07	20-Jan-10
PER7721	Agri-Fos 600 / Rose / Downy Mildew	19-Jan-05	18-Jan-10
PER7725	Captan Products / Rose, Gerbera & Chrysanthemum / Downy Mildew & White Blister	8-Mar-07	20-Jan-10
PER7726	Flint 500 WG Fungicide / Rose Gerbera & Chrysanthemum / Powdery Mildew	21-Jan-05	20-Jan-10
PER7727	Saprol/ Gerbera & Chrysanthemum/ Powdery Mildew	8-Mar-07	20-Jan-10
PER7728	Systhane 400 WP Fungicide / Rose, Gerbera & Chrysanthemum / Powdery Mildew & Rust	19-Jan-05	18-Jan-10
PER7729	Switch/ Rose, Gerbera & Chrysanthemum/ Botrytis	31-Jan-05	30-Jan-10
PER7732	Nimrod/ Rose, Gerbera & Chrysanthemum/ Powdery Mildew	31-Jan-05	30-Jan-10
PER7733	Previcur/ Rose, Gerbera/ Downy Mildew, White Blister	31-Jan-05	30-Jan-10
PER7734	Ridomil/ Rose, Gerbera/ Downy Mildew, White Blister	22-Mar-05	21-Mar-10
PER7838	Methamidophos / ornamentals / Western Flower Thrips	24-Oct-05	30-Sep-08
PER8321	Endosulfan / ornamentals / Western flower thrips	11-Oct-05	30-Sep-08
PER9213	Deltamethrin & Iprodione / Cut flowers for export / Quarantine pests and diseases	14-Mar-06	14-Mar-11
PER9269	Confidor 200 SC / Propagation Nursery Stock / Silverleaf Whitefly	28-Apr-06	31-Jan-10
PER9383	Chlorpyrifos / Potted plants / Fire Ants (Solenopsis spp.)	1-Oct-06	30-Sep-10
PER9710	Various products / Impatiens / Downy mildew	5-Dec-06	31-Dec-09
PER9796	Bifenthrin / Nursery Stock / Quarantine Usage	1-Apr-07	31-Mar-12
PER9832	Methomyl / non-bearing ornamentals / Western flower thrips	17-Jan-07	30-Sep-08
PER10043	Bifenthrin / Nursery stocks / Quarantine usage	18-May-07	31-Mar-12
PER10265	Methidathion / ornamentals / Western flower thrips	18-Mar-08	30-Sep-12
PER10267	Acephate / Ornamentals / Western flower thrips	1-Nov-07	30-Sep-10
PER10536	Bifenthrin / Container grown ornamentals / Red Imported Fire Ant	2-Mar-08	31-Mar-13
PER10670	Abamectin / ornamentals / Two spotted mite & Western flower thrips	1-Apr-08	30-Apr-11
PER10725	Glyphosate/imported cut flowers/standard quarantine requirements	1-July- 08	1-July-18

Full details of the permits are available on the APVMA website, <http://www.apvma.gov.au>, and click on 'search for permits' on the home page.

It is important that users should obtain a copy of the permit and read it prior to use to ensure that they comply with all the permit conditions.

This listing is courtesy of Peter Dal Santo, AgAware Consulting Pty Ltd.