



Know-how for Horticulture™



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry**



MEDIA RELEASE

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Water allocations prompt planning for horticulturalists

With Goulburn Murray Water announcing water allocations of zero per cent to start the season, horticulture irrigators in the Goulburn Valley and the Murray region through to Swan Hill are again looking at a tough year. This will cause many of them to examine their options.

Fruit Growers Victoria General Manager John Wilson says it's been a very dry autumn and the forecast wet winter is yet to eventuate.

"If it doesn't occur, the situation will be very serious indeed.

"Growers will need as much information as possible to make their best decisions about what to do and we urge them to take advantage of a free service being offered through Fruit Growers Victoria," Mr Wilson said.

One-on-one, free, confidential sessions are being offered between now and October to help horticulture irrigators access the financial and agronomic information they need to make business decisions in the face of reduced water availability.

"We've employed local people with expertise in finance or horticulture to help growers manage their businesses today, and plan for tomorrow.

"Growers will have a better idea of their finances once they gather receipts and the like for tax returns, so it's an ideal time to review or prepare a business plan.

"The sessions will provide a sounding board for growers as they consider their options and work out an action plan based on their personal situation," Mr Wilson said.

To book your free session call Fruit Growers Victoria on 03 5825 3700 or email admin@fgv.com.au

The project is being run by Horticulture Australia Limited in partnership with industry and supported by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. It operates across the southern Murray-Darling Basin through the Riverina, Sunraysia and South Australia as well as the Goulburn Valley and Swan Hill regions.

For more information go to the HAL website, www.horticulture.com.au/mdbdroughtinfo

In partnership with industry and supported by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Horticulture Australia Limited has developed this project "Drought Information Delivery for Horticulture in the Murray Darling Basin" (MDB) as part of the Australian Government's Irrigation Industries Workshop Programme.

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