



Pyrethrum Fund

Annual Report 2019/20

About Hort Innovation and the Pyrethrum Fund

Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australia’s horticulture sector. We work closely with industry to invest the voluntary pyrethrum R&D levy, together with Australian Government contributions, into initiatives for growers, through the Hort Innovation Pyrethrum Fund. We’re extremely proud of the work we do to help drive productivity, profitability and demand for growers, and for the horticulture sector at large.

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About the year

An intense and unpredictable year, 2019/20 certainly dealt challenges for the world, for Australian horticulture, and for Hort Innovation. There was ongoing drought, a devastating bushfire season, intense floods, the biosecurity threat of fall armyworm and, of course, the global and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

We encourage you to download a copy of the overarching Hort Innovation Annual Report 2019/20 at www.horticulture.com.au/annual-report-portal to better understand Hort Innovation’s responses to these events, and how the company was able to change its plans and priorities to best serve the sector.

Through it all, though, activity in the Hort Innovation Pyrethrum Fund continued, with the delivery of a key industry program to support growers in disease management. Read on to learn more.

2019/20 Pyrethrum Fund snapshot



\$188,000

invested in R&D



1

active R&D investment



\$161,000

in levies collected

by the pyrethrum collective industry fund and passed
on to Hort Innovation for investment

Making investments in 2019/20

The below diagram shows how Hort Innovation makes strategic levy investments on behalf of horticulture industries. The voluntary pyrethrum R&D levy is invested this way, guided by the industry’s investment plan and advice from Hort Innovation’s pyrethrum investment advisory panel.



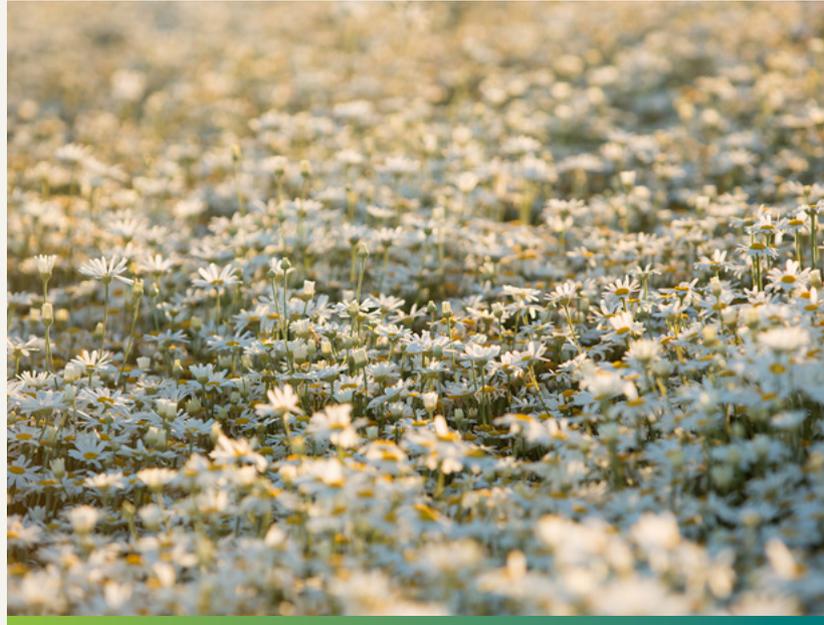
* Encapsulating extension and international trade

To learn more about funding specific to the Hort Innovation Pyrethrum Fund, visit www.horticulture.com.au/pyrethrum. During the year, other sources of funding were also used to support activities for the benefit of Australian horticulture, including grant funding secured by Hort Innovation, co-investment dollars brokered through our Hort Frontiers initiative and centralised strategic levy reserves.

R&D project list 2019/20

ONGOING INVESTMENTS IN 2019/20

PY16000 Integrated disease management in pyrethrum



R&D report

Learn more about the Hort Innovation Pyrethrum Fund's key investment during 2019/20 below

Integrated disease management in pyrethrum (PY16000)

Key research provider: University of Tasmania

With an increasing number of foliar and flower diseases placing constraints on pyrethrum production – reducing yields and the lifespan of crops – and fungicide resistance a rising cost and risk, this three-year investment was ongoing through 2019/20 to aid pyrethrum growers in minimising these issues.

The work drew to a close in the first half of 2020/21, and involved research into the key pathogens that can affect pyrethrum production, the timing of their influence, and their susceptibility to fungicides.

The project team found that tan spot is now the dominant pathogen pyrethrum growers contend with during the spring period, while ray blight has displaced sclerotinia and botrytis flower blights as the main disease affecting flowering heads in summer.

These findings, coupled with the results of fungicide efficacy trials, have resulted in changes to the industry's recommended spray programs, with the removal of a previously recommended product. At the time of writing, the industry was seeking registration of an alternative product based on this work.

In addition, the industry is now considering the project's recommendation to reduce the number of sprays used during the summer period, due to an apparent lack of yield benefit identified by the research team, and the potential to reduce the economic and environmental costs of production.

Overall, the project highlighted the potential to tailor disease management recommendations to local and/or seasonal conditions. To that end, further knowledge of the environmental influence on fungal disease, especially on tan spot, is required.

Full details can be found in the project's final research report, available from www.bit.ly/py16000.

To keep up to date with the latest information on new, ongoing and recently completed R&D investments throughout the year – and to search and find resources, and reports from these investments – visit www.horticulture.com.au/pyrethrum.

Financial statement

Financial operating statement 2019/20

	R&D (\$)	TOTAL (\$)
	2019/20 July – June	2019/20 July – June
OPENING BALANCE	(24,260)	(24,260)
Voluntary levies from growers	161,288	161,288
Australian Government money	106,738	106,738
Other income*	(195)	(195)
TOTAL INCOME	267,830	267,830
Project funding	187,789	187,789
Consultation with and advice from growers	406	406
Service delivery – base	8,326	8,326
Service delivery – shared	11,955	11,955
Service delivery – fund specific	5,000	5,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	213,475	213,475
Levy contribution to across-industry activity	–	–
CLOSING BALANCE	30,094	30,094

* Interest, royalties

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The projects in this report have been funded by Hort Innovation using sources including the voluntary pyrethrum levy, Australian Government contributions and, in some instances, co-contributions from a variety of sources.

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