

What happened in the Pyrethrum Fund last year?

Annual Report 2020/21



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 key initiatives for growers, through the Pyrethrum Fund. We're extremely proud of the work we do to help drive productivity, profitability and demand for pyrethrum growers, and for the horticulture sector at large.

Throughout another challenging year for the horticulture sector, activity in the Pyrethrum Fund continued with a new program contracted to support growers in disease management. Read on to learn more.

We also encourage you to download a copy of the overarching Hort Innovation Annual Report 2020/21 at www.horticulture.com.au/annual-report-portal to better understand how Hort Innovation worked for the benefit of the horticulture sector during the year.

In this report...

Pyrethrum Fund snapshot 2020/21 1

Here's what your fund invested in over the year 2

Financial operating statement 3

R&D case study 4

Appendix: How strategic levy investments are made 6





\$150,295

invested in R&D



2

active R&D investments



\$77,161

in levies collected

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



Here's what your fund invested in over the year

Investments that are specific to the Hort Innovation Pyrethrum Fund are guided by the industry's investment plan and advice from Hort Innovation's pyrethrum strategic investment advisory panel.

See below which project's in the Hort Innovation Pyrethrum Fund were active during 2020/21.

Project title and code	2020/21 investment	Status	More information
Integrated disease management in pyrethrum (PY16000)	\$149,639	Completed	hortinn.com/py16000
Development of regional risk models for fungal diseases in pyrethrum (PY20000)	\$0*	New	hortinn.com/py20000

*While there was no spend for PY20000 in 2020/21, the project began in April 2021.



Financial operating statement

Pyrethrum Fund (Collective) Financial operating statement 2020/21

	R&D (\$)	Total (\$)
	2020/21 July – June	2020/21 July – June
OPENING BALANCE	30,094	30,094
Voluntary levies from growers	77,161	77,161
Australian Government money	85,395	85,395
Other income*	63	63
TOTAL INCOME	162,619	162,619
Project funding	150,295	150,295
Consultation with and advice from growers	–	–
Service delivery	20,494	20,494
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	170,789	170,789
Levy contribution to across-industry activity	–	–
CLOSING BALANCE	21,924	21,924

* Interest, royalties

Levy collection costs – These are the costs associated with the collection of levies from industry charged by Levy Revenue Services (LRS)

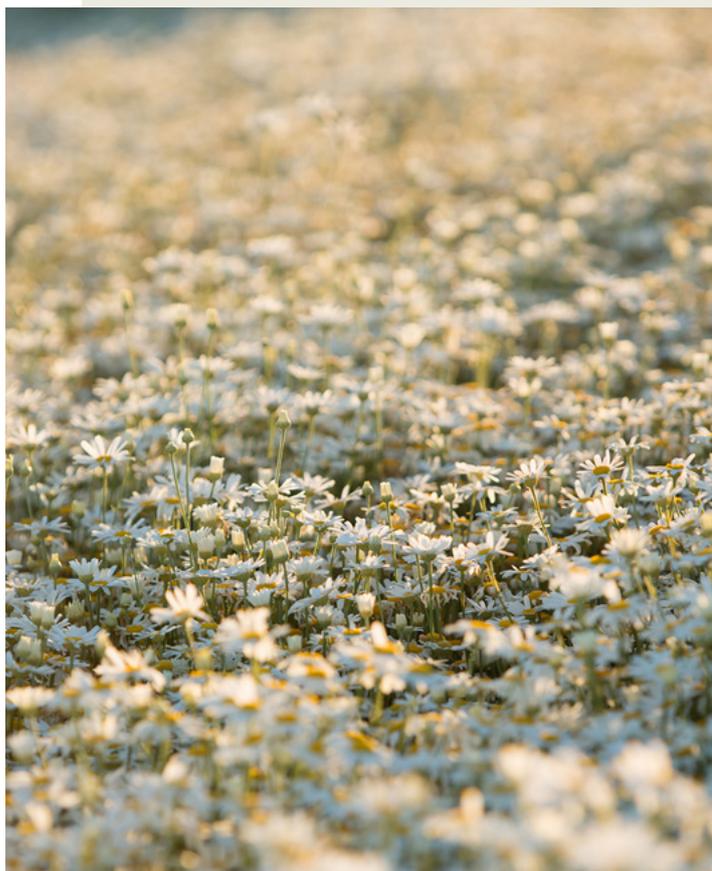
Service delivery – Also known as Corporate Cost Recovery (CCR), this is the total cost of managing the investment portfolio charged by Hort Innovation

Pyrethrum protection that cuts costs and boosts productivity

This project is investigating the environmental conditions that drive tan spot and ray blight outbreaks in pyrethrum.

The challenge

Tan spot and ray blight diseases represent a major risk to yield and the industry's ability to consistently meet market production requirements. Tackling these issues places a financial and environmental burden on growers and a low-cost solution is needed.



Meet Justin

Justin Shephard and his family have grown pyrethrum in Tasmania for 30 years. He's acutely aware of the need for an industry-wide program to tackle tan spot and ray blight. "Quite simply, this research, past and future, is very important to the industry," says Justin. "If we don't continue to support this form of research, won't have the industry and pyrethrum as a cropping option".

Justin's frank admission highlights the importance of this investment and the urgent need to find low-cost solutions to the industry's pest problem. "Fungicides are required to manage ray blight and tan spot so we can maximise yield potential and yield gain, particularly in high-disease-pressure years like last year. High disease pressure leads to large yield losses of 30 per cent or more, making the crop return low and not worth growing."

Justin believes that this research is the key to effective pathogen control and a more profitable, productive pyrethrum industry in Australia. "Without research we won't have the disease control we need, and disease control is the biggest yield influencing factor associated with growing the crop."



The approach

A range of research activities are being undertaken and their results will be used to develop models that identify the relative risks associated with cropping regions and seasons. This information will be used to create a framework for industry decisions regarding frequency and timing of fungicide applications in pyrethrum.

“

“If we don’t continue to support this form of research, won’t have the industry and pyrethrum as a cropping option”.

Justin Shepard, pyrethrum grower

The impact

The project team will collect field data throughout the growing season, looking at the effects of climate on the diseases, regional differences in diseases, and the relationships between disease pressure and yield loss.

This approach will ensure that high-risk regions are given adequate protection from disease losses and will lead to an overall reduction in control costs for the industry by reducing fungicide sprays in low-risk regions and seasons.

The data obtained throughout the program will eventually be combined to develop disease risk models for the impact of tan spot and ray blight on pyrethrum yield.

For more information, visit hortinn.com/py20000

Project details

Development of regional disease risk models for fungal diseases of pyrethrum (PY20000)

Key research provider: University of Tasmania

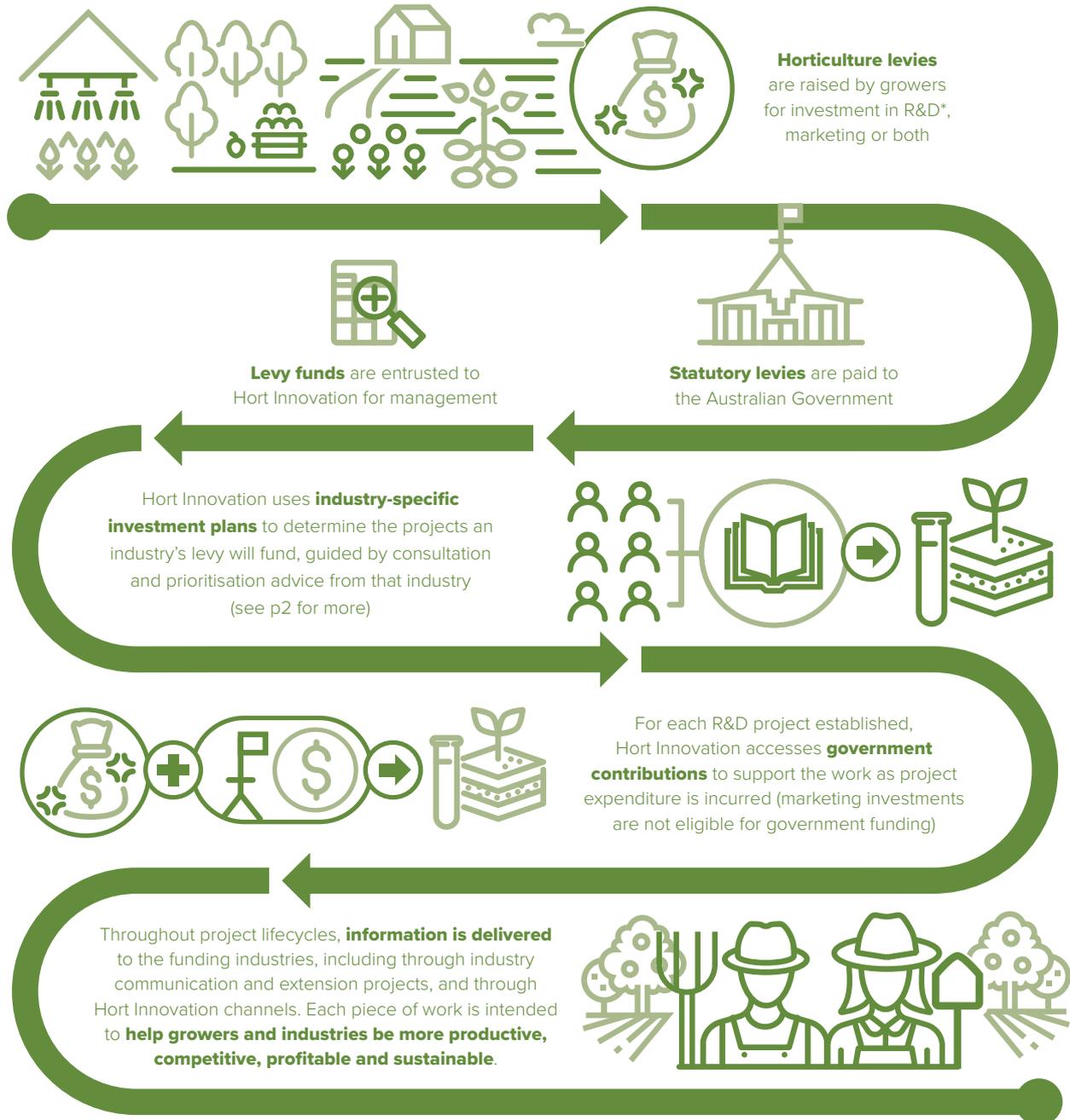
Start date: April 2021

Expected end date: September 2023

Estimated value for life of project: \$516,928

How strategic levy investments are made in the Pyrethrum Fund

The below diagram shows how Hort Innovation makes strategic levy investments on behalf of horticulture industries. The pyrethrum voluntary R&D levy was invested this way during the year, 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 reserve.

Hort Innovation

Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited
ACN 602 100 149

Level 7, 141 Walker Street
North Sydney NSW 2060 Australia

02 8295 2300 | communications@horticulture.com.au

www.horticulture.com.au

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