

# Raspberry and Blackberry Fund

**2017/18**  
ANNUAL REPORT



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SUMMARY BY  
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**MANAGER,**  
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# We're for growers

**At Hort Innovation it's our job to work with industry to invest the raspberry and blackberry levy and Australian Government contributions into initiatives to help growers be as productive and profitable as possible – and 2017/18 was another fantastic year of growing better, together.**

With close to **\$225,000** invested by Hort Innovation into R&D for the raspberry and blackberry industry during 2017/18, including into several new projects, I'm happy to be able to share with you all the key insights in this Hort Innovation Raspberry and Blackberry Fund Annual Report.

You'll find a top-level list of all R&D investments from the year on **p3**, and can explore the research projects in more detail from **p4**. Just some of the highlights include strong work into pest and disease management, a new export strategy for the industry, and research to deliver vital consumer insights.

While no marketing campaign was run for the 2017/18 season, Hort Innovation worked to deliver general marketing insights to the industry outside of the levy program at the BerryQuest International 2018 event during February 2018.

On a personal note, during the year it was great getting to connect with you about everything going on in the Raspberry and Blackberry Fund, to hear your thoughts, and to share ideas. During 2018/19 I'm looking forward to even more opportunities to connect in person, and I remind you that you can reach me any time at [bradley.mills@horticulture.com.au](mailto:bradley.mills@horticulture.com.au) or on 0408 635 465 if there's something you'd like to ask or discuss around levy investments.

I also encourage you to explore the easy ways you can stay close to all of the good things your levy is achieving throughout the year, including...

- » **Becoming a member.** Paying a levy doesn't automatically make you a Hort Innovation member, but signing up is free at [www.horticulture.com.au/membership](http://www.horticulture.com.au/membership). As well as providing the opportunity for voting rights at the organisation's Annual General Meeting, Hort Innovation membership includes exclusive email alerts with industry-specific news and opportunities, direct invitations to explore investment updates and more.
- » **Checking out *Hortlink*.** This digital publication provides an update on all new, ongoing and recently completed investments in the Hort Innovation Raspberry and Blackberry Fund. The latest edition is always available from the Raspberry and Blackberry Fund page at [www.horticulture.com.au/raspberry-and-blackberry](http://www.horticulture.com.au/raspberry-and-blackberry), while members have *Hortlink* sent straight to their inboxes.

Here's to a great year of investments and connection in 2018/19,

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# Making levy investments

Discover how the raspberry and blackberry levy and Australian Government contributions are invested through the Hort Innovation Raspberry and Blackberry Fund in this quick recap.

## Where do investment ideas come from?

Great investments start with great ideas, and Hort Innovation encourages all growers and other industry participants to share their thoughts and suggestions for the research and marketing initiatives they want to see.

Ideas can be submitted any time via Hort Innovation's simple Concept Proposal Form. Visit [www.horticulture.com.au/innovation-concept-pipeline](http://www.horticulture.com.au/innovation-concept-pipeline).

Ideas can be for your specific industry – to be funded by the industry levy and, in the case of R&D, Australian Government contributions – or they can be for Hort Innovation's strategic partnership initiative, Hort Frontiers. Hort Frontiers projects address broader, longer-term and more complex issues facing Australian horticulture as a whole, and are funded through partnerships with co-investors. Visit [www.hortfrontiers.com.au](http://www.hortfrontiers.com.au) for more.

## How are levy decisions made?

Let's talk 'SIPs' and 'SIAPs'!

Investments specific to the Hort Innovation Raspberry and Blackberry Fund are guided by the industry's Strategic Investment Plan (SIP), which was finalised by Hort Innovation in April 2017 after close consultation with growers and other industry stakeholders.

The SIP outlines key industry priorities for investment and can be found on the Raspberry and Blackberry Fund page at [www.horticulture.com.au/raspberry-and-blackberry](http://www.horticulture.com.au/raspberry-and-blackberry).

The SIP document is used like a 'roadmap' by the industry's Strategic Investment Advisory Panel (SIAP) – a panel made up of growers and other industry representatives, which has a key role to play in the investment process. The SIAP discusses investment ideas at consultation meetings, with the SIP guiding them, in order to provide advice to Hort Innovation on potential levy investments.

Details of the SIAP panellists and summaries of the SIAP's meetings can be found at [www.horticulture.com.au/raspberry-and-blackberry](http://www.horticulture.com.au/raspberry-and-blackberry).

## What happens next?

The SIAP's advice is used by Hort Innovation to work suitable ideas into project proposals. The proposals are then made public for potential delivery partners to submit responses. Current opportunities are always listed at [www.horticulture.com.au/delivery-partners](http://www.horticulture.com.au/delivery-partners).

At the end of the process the responses are assessed, often with the assistance of industry, and the best delivery partner for the work is chosen. A contract is then issued and the work begins.

## How can I keep track of investments?

Newly contracted projects are announced in Hort Innovation's *Hortlink* publication, with the latest edition emailed directly to members three times a year and always available from the Raspberry and Blackberry Fund page at [www.horticulture.com.au/raspberry-and-blackberry](http://www.horticulture.com.au/raspberry-and-blackberry). *Hortlink* also provides updates on ongoing and recently completed investments.



# R&D project list 2017/18

## NEW INVESTMENTS IN 2017/18

RB17000 Integrated pest management of redberry mite, *Acalitus essigi*, on blackberries

AM17001 Developing a national systems approach for meeting biosecurity requirements to access key Asian markets

MT17001 Berry export strategy

MT17015 Consumer behavioural and retail data for fresh produce

MT17016 Coir waste management for hydroponic berries

ST16008 AgVet collaborative forum

ST17000 Generation of data for pesticide applications in horticulture crops 2018

## ONGOING INVESTMENTS IN 2017/18

RB14003 Building resilience to drupelet disorder in rubus

RB16000 Rubus industry minor use program

MT16005 Enhanced National Bee Pest Surveillance Program

## INVESTMENTS COMPLETED IN 2017/18

MT15032 Monitoring and evaluation framework for the industry Strategic Investment Plan

MT15033 Strategic Investment Plan



During the 2017/18 financial year, all Australian levy paying horticulture industries also contributed to across-industry projects addressing issues that affect horticulture as a whole. Visit [www.horticulture.com.au/across-horticulture](http://www.horticulture.com.au/across-horticulture) for financial documents and information on this program.

# R&D report

Take a closer look at some of the key investments in the Hort Innovation Raspberry and Blackberry Fund during 2017/18. Any resources from these and other levy-funded projects – such as fact sheets, guides and more – are published on your grower page at [www.horticulture.com.au/raspberry-and-blackberry](http://www.horticulture.com.au/raspberry-and-blackberry) as they become available.

## **Integrated pest management of redberry mite, *Acalitus essigi*, on blackberries (RB17000)**

**NEW IN 2017/18**

**Key research provider:** University of Tasmania

Beginning in December 2017, this investment is tasked with developing integrated pest management tools and strategies for the industry, with a focus on tackling redberry mite (*Acalitus essigi*) in blackberries. The mite's feeding leads to damaged fruit with incomplete, delayed and/or uneven ripening, with affected drupelets being hard and coloured bright red or green.



The project activities include reviewing existing mite control measures, surveying growers to better understand the extent of the problem, and undertaking monitoring of mite and beneficial predator populations, looking at resultant damage across growing regions. These findings will then be used to develop a selection of potential integrated pest management (IPM) programs, which will be trialled and refined across growing seasons.

## **Berry export strategy (MT17001)**

**NEW IN 2017/18 & NOW COMPLETE**

**Key research provider:** Auspex Strategic Advisory

Funded by both the raspberry and blackberry and strawberry industries, this project was tasked with identifying, sizing and prioritising opportunities for the industries in international markets, through the development of an export strategy. The Berry Export Strategy 2028 was released in July 2018, providing the industries with a strategic assessment of future opportunities for export market development over a 10-year horizon. A strategy overview is available to download from Hort Innovation at [www.bit.ly/2OkXqCM](http://www.bit.ly/2OkXqCM).

As an initial step, an export working group will be established to review the recommendations in the strategy and to provide further advice to the industry Strategic Investment Advisory Panel and Hort Innovation on any immediate and ongoing investment areas that will assist in the development of raspberry and blackberry exports.

Want to keep up to date with the latest information on new, ongoing and recently completed R&D investments throughout the year? Check out Hort Innovation's **Hortlink** publication – the latest edition is always available from your grower page, [www.horticulture.com.au/raspberry-and-blackberry](http://www.horticulture.com.au/raspberry-and-blackberry).



### Consumer behavioural and retail data for fresh produce (MT17015)

NEW IN 2017/18

**Key research provider:** Nielsen

Contracted in June 2018, this multi-industry investment is tasked with providing regular consumer behaviour data and insight reporting to a range of industries, including the raspberry and blackberry industry. This information is intended to assist growers and supply chain partners in decision-making for their businesses and, for the wider industry, the data and insights will be available to support strategic activities, as well as Hort Innovation Raspberry and Blackberry Fund marketing plans.

At the time of writing, the data and insights were soon to be easily accessible via a new online dashboard – look for further information in industry and Hort Innovation channels as it becomes available.

### Coir waste management for hydroponic berries (MT17016)

NEW IN 2017/18

**Key research provider:** RMCG

Beginning in June 2018, this new multi-industry investment for both the raspberry and blackberry and strawberry industries is set to investigate new, creative approaches to coir waste management from hydroponic berry production. The project team will be working closely with Australian growers and the country's major coir supplier, while also investigating international approaches, to put forward recommendations and practical information for the industry on economically and environmentally feasible coir waste management approaches.

### Generation of data for pesticide applications in horticulture crops 2018 (ST17000)

NEW IN 2017/18

**Key research provider:** Peracto

The generation of pesticide residue, efficacy and crop safety data is required to support label registration and minor use permit applications made to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) which, when approved, provide access to safe and effective chemicals for the management of pests, weeds and diseases.

In May 2018, Hort Innovation announced the securing of more than \$1 million in assistance grants under the Australian Government's Access to Industry Uses of Agricultural and Veterinary (AgVet) Chemicals program. Through this project, the grant funding is being used, along with levy contributions, to generate the data required for a range of registration and minor use applications across a variety of horticulture crops, including for the raspberry and blackberry industry.

### Rubus industry minor use program (RB16000)

**Key research provider:** Hort Innovation

Through this project, levy funds and Australian Government contributions are used to submit renewals and applications for new minor use permits for the raspberry and blackberry industry, as required. These submissions are prepared and submitted to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

For more on minor use permits, including a list of permits, see [p7](#).

All current permits for the industry remain searchable at [portal.apvma.gov.au/permits](http://portal.apvma.gov.au/permits), while permit updates are also circulated in Hort Innovation's *Growing Innovation* e-newsletter, which levy-paying members receive monthly. Not a member? Sign up to the Hort Innovation membership program for free at [www.horticulture.com.au/membership](http://www.horticulture.com.au/membership).



### **Building resilience to drupelet disorder on rubus (RB14003)**

**Key research provider:** Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture

Established in 2015, this investment is identifying contributing causes to red drupelet disorder in blackberries, and looking at improved management practices pre, post and during harvest that might reduce its incidence.

Observations and data are being collected around...

- » The physical and chemical changes within fruit affected by red drupelet disorder (including changes to the structure of cells, pH and acidity changes, and chemical profiles within the fruit), to better understand the underlying physiology of the disorder.
- » The factors during harvest and storage that play a role in the disorder.
- » The role of nitrogen fertilisation in the expression of the disorder.

### **Enhanced National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (MT16005)**

**HORT FRONTIERS**

**Key research provider:** Plant Health Australia

This investment is delivering a nationally coordinated bee-pest surveillance program to help safeguard honey-bee and pollinator-dependent industries in Australia. It builds upon the previous *National Bee Pest Surveillance Program* (MT12011) and includes upgrading sentinel hive arrays, strengthening relationships with surveillance operators, the introduction of new elements such as Asian hornet screening and more. The surveillance is designed to enable the early detection of high-priority pest incursions that can impact on honey bees, providing the best opportunity for successful pest eradication. The raspberry and blackberry industry is one of several contributors to the work, with the program now part of the Hort Frontiers Pollination Fund.

Full details of completed research can be found in project final reports which, when finalised, are available to order at [www.horticulture.com.au/final-report-order-form](http://www.horticulture.com.au/final-report-order-form). Final reports are free to Australian horticulture levy payers, registered Hort Innovation members and industry representative bodies.

# Minor use permits

## Why minor use permits?

While the use of pesticides and other chemicals in the horticulture industry is being modified through the increasing uptake of integrated pest management approaches, there remains a need for the strategic use of specific chemicals.

Chemical companies submit use patterns for product label registrations to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) – however the raspberry and blackberry industry is generally provided with limited label registrations because of its ‘minor’ crop status in this area (meaning the chemical companies can consider the market size too small to generate adequate commercial returns, based on the R&D investment required). This is where minor use permits come into play. The APVMA’s national permit system adds some flexibility to the approval process and provides a legal framework that can allow access to products for minor use purposes.

## Permits in 2017/18

During the 2017/18 financial year there were 11 successful permit renewals and applications prepared by Hort Innovation and submitted to the APVMA, facilitated through the *Rubus industry minor use program* (RB16000). These included PER14425, PER14424, PER14234, PER13956, PER13958, PER13957 and PER13289, as well as PER84970, PER84972, PER84973 and PER14423 – with the latter four being supported by data from the earlier project *Generation of residue data for pesticide minor use permit applications in horticulture crops 2015/16* (ST15027).

Meanwhile, renewals for permits PER13150 and PER14422, and new permit PER82986 were also issued during 2017/18, with the applications submitted through the industry minor use program in the previous financial year.

Details for all of these permits can be found in the table below.

## Current permits

Below is a list of minor use permits for the raspberry and blackberry industry, current as of September 5, 2018.

PERMIT ID	DESCRIPTION (CHEMICAL/CROP/PEST OR USE)	STATES	ORIGINAL DATE OF ISSUE	EXPIRY DATE	PERMIT HOLDER
PER12486 version 5	Trichlorfon / Specified berry fruit / Fruit fly	ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, WA	06-Oct-11	31-May-21	Australian Blueberry Growers' Association (ABGA) C/Hort Innovation
PER82024	Metham / Blueberries and rubus / Weed seeds and soil borne pathogens	All	01-Feb-16	31-Mar-21	ABGA C/Hort Innovation
PER12927 version 4	Success Neo (spinetoram) / Strawberries, rubus and rubus hybrids, blueberries / Fruit fly (suppression only)	ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, WA	06-Oct-11	31-May-19	Strawberries Australia C/ Hort Innovation
PER13150 version 2	NoGall ( <i>Agrobacterium radiobacter</i> ) / Rubus root systems / Crown gall	NSW, TAS	23-Mar-12	31-Oct-22	Raspberries and Blackberries Australia (RABA)

[Continues >>](#)

PERMIT ID	DESCRIPTION (CHEMICAL/CROP/PEST OR USE)	STATES	ORIGINAL DATE OF ISSUE	EXPIRY DATE	PERMIT HOLDER
PER13289 version 4	Indoxacarb (Avatar) / Blueberries and rubus spp. / Light brown apple moth and elephant weevil borer (field and protected grown crops)	All	31-Oct-12	31-Aug-23	RABA C/Hort Innovation
PER13956 version 3	Abamectin / Raspberries, blackberries and black currants / Two-spotted mite	All, except VIC	31-May-13	31-May-23	RABA C/Hort Innovation
PER13957 version 2	Petroleum oil (incl. paraffinic and mineral oil) / Rubus and ribes / Two-spotted mite and scale insects	All, except VIC	01-Apr-13	31-Mar-23	RABA C/Hort Innovation
PER13958 version 4	Pyrimethanil, captan, metalaxyl, metalaxyl-m, mancozeb, triadimenol, phosphorous acid / Rubus, ribes and blueberries / Various fungal blights	All, except VIC	01-Apr-13	31-Mar-23	RABA
PER14449 version 2	Chlorothalonil / Rubus / Grey mould, rust, downy mildew, Septoria leaf spot	All, except VIC	01-Oct-14	31-May-22	RABA
PER14233 version 2	Carfentrazone-ethyl (Spotlight and Hammer Herbicide) / Rubus and ribes / Sucker control	All, except VIC	29-Aug-13	30-Nov-19	RABA C/Hort Innovation
PER14234 version 2	Eco-Oil Botanical Oil Concentrate (emulsifiable botanical oil) / Blueberries, rubus and ribes / Two-spotted mite	All, except VIC	10-Sep-13	31-Aug-23	RABA C/Hort Innovation
PER82986	Boscalid + Pyraclostrobin (Pristine Fungicide) / Rubus and rubus hybrids, blueberries (field and protected grown crops) / Various fungal diseases	All	25-Aug-17	30-Sep-20	RABA C/Hort Innovation
PER84973 version 2	Metalaxyl-M + Mancozeb (Ridimol Gold MZ) / Rubus and rubus hybrids / Downy mildew	All, except VIC	16-Feb-18	31-Mar-23	RABA C/Hort Innovation
PER14424 version 2	Fenhexamid (Teldor) / Rubus and rubus hybrids (field and protected grown crops) / Grey mould	All, except VIC	28-Jan-14	30-Sep-23	RABA
PER14425 version 2	Bifenazate (Acramite) / Specified rubus and rubus hybrids / Two-spotted mite and European red spider mite	All, except VIC	28-Feb-14	30-Sep-23	RABA
PER14422 version 2	Cyprodinil + fludioxonil (Switch) / Dewberries (including boysenberries and loganberries), blackberries, raspberries, cloudberries and youngberries / Grey mould	All, except VIC	28-Feb-14	31-Dec-23	RABA C/Hort Innovation
PER14443	Copper – cupric hydroxide / Rubus spp. including raspberries and blackberries / Rust and leaf spot	All, except VIC	28-Feb-14	31-Mar-19	RABA C/Hort Innovation
PER84972	Bifenthrin / Rubus spp., ribes spp. (not including currants) and blueberries / Monolepta beetle, plague thrips and elephant weevil	All, except VIC	12-Feb-18	28-Feb-23	RABA

Continues &gt;&gt;



PERMIT ID	DESCRIPTION (CHEMICAL/CROP/PEST OR USE)	STATES	ORIGINAL DATE OF ISSUE	EXPIRY DATE	PERMIT HOLDER
PER84970	Azoxystrobin (Amistar) / Rubus / Anthracnose, botrytis, cladosporium	All, except VIC	16-Feb-18	28-Feb-23	RABA C/Hort Innovation
PER14423 version 3	Abamectin / Blackberries, blueberries, raspberries / Queensland fruit fly	All	23-May-14	31-Mar-24	RABA C/Hort Innovation
PER13859	Dimethoate / Orchard clean-up – fruit fly host crops following harvest / Fruit fly	All, except VIC	9-Feb-15	31-Jul-24	Growcom
PER80070	Pyrethrin (Pyganic Organic Insecticide) / Rubus, ribes and blueberry / Monolepta beetle, green vegetable bug, green stink bug	All	18-Aug-15	30-Jun-20	ABGA C/NSW DPI
PER12750 version 2	Glufosinate and glyphosate / Blackcurrants / Various weeds	TAS only	07-Jul-11	30-Jun-21	ABGA

All efforts have been made to provide the most current, complete and accurate information on these permits, however you should always confirm all details on the APVMA website at [portal.apvma.gov.au/permits](http://portal.apvma.gov.au/permits). Details of the conditions of use associated with these permits can also be found on the APVMA site.

Minor use permit updates are circulated in Hort Innovation's e-newsletter, **Growing Innovation**, which levy-paying members receive monthly. Not a member? Sign up for free at [www.horticulture.com.au/membership](http://www.horticulture.com.au/membership).

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# Financial statement

## Financial operating statement 2017/18

	R&D (\$)	MARKETING (\$)	TOTAL (\$)
	2017/18 July – June	2017/18 July – June	2017/18 July – June
<b>OPENING BALANCE</b>	<b>993,404</b>	<b>83,856</b>	<b>1,077,260</b>
Levies from growers (net of collection costs)	567,774	113,168	680,942
Australian Government money	146,049	–	146,049
Other income*	23,993	3,173	27,166
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>737,816</b>	<b>116,341</b>	<b>854,157</b>
Project funding	224,793	1,408	226,200
Consultation with and advice from growers	13,012	1,585	14,597
Service delivery – Base	9,827	124	9,950
Service delivery – Shared	14,880	187	15,067
Service delivery – Fund specific	29,586	230	29,816
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>292,098</b>	<b>3,532</b>	<b>295,631</b>
Levy contribution to across-industry activity	4,755	–	4,755
<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>	<b>1,434,367</b>	<b>196,665</b>	<b>1,631,032</b>
Levy collection costs	6,729	1,732	8,461

At the end of 2016/17, the industry's pro rata share of levy funds were committed to strategic reserves (\$39,614 for R&D and \$9273 for marketing), and so have been deducted from the 2017/18 opening balance.

\* Interest, royalties

## Service delivery costs explained

**Base service delivery (flat rate) = keeping the lights on**

This figure contributes to the standard fixed costs that are incurred with the running of the business (for example, costs relating to rent, utility bills, equipment). These costs are calculated on a monthly basis and are based on actual program expenditure.

**Shared service delivery (flat rate) = related to program delivery**

Shared costs are related to program delivery and include costs that are incurred in supporting activities relating to R&D and marketing programs that are not attributable to any one levy industry (for example, costs relating to procurement and information technology activities). These costs are calculated on a monthly basis and are based on actual program expenditure.

**Fund specific service delivery (flat rate for 2017/18) = direct servicing costs**

These are the actual costs for activities and services that are directly incurred in the administration of levy program expenditure, and which are identifiable and attributable to a specific levy investment fund (for example, costs around direct relationship, marketing and fund management, and logistical costs around industry advisory meetings and activities). From 2018/19 these costs will be charged at cost on a monthly basis.

For more information explaining the costs in the financial summary, visit [www.bit.ly/2x7ERLC](http://www.bit.ly/2x7ERLC).

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