

the company's main focus has been in the cotton industry, Nick said they are now branching out into other agricultural industries with their new product, SeroX.

"Growth Agriculture was originally involved in a research project looking at Butterfly Pea which has incredible pest defence mechanisms where effectively nothing will touch it," he said.

Researchers discovered the plant contained a type of peptide called Cyclotides.

Nick explained one of the key selling points of SeroX was the fact it had zero impact on pollinators and predatory insects.

"We have no impact what-so-ever and the reason is the plant itself," Nick said. "The plant has evolved over millennia so it can protect itself, there is no evolutionarily benefit for the plant to kill a pollinator or a predatory insect."

SeroX currently has active constituent approval. While product registration for use in macadamias has not been submitted yet, Nick said they have secured a Research and Supply Permit to allow the company to conduct trials within horticultural crops.

"So far we have had success against fruit spotting bug with anecdotal evidence against other crop pests," Nick said.

Growcom's Hort360 program, the best management practice program for horticulture, is designed to give growers a 360 degree view of their farm business operations, identifying potential risks, capitalising on business opportunities and highlighting unnecessary farm expenses.

The soil management and water quality modules are currently being delivered in south east Queensland and all horticultural growers in the Lockyer, Bremer, mid-Brisbane or Pumicestone sub-catchments are invited to take part in identifying areas of high risk in soil and water quality management. As part of this process a free property map will be provided.



hort360



Irrigation management

New rural irrigation standards and codes of practice now available

The Australian irrigation industry now has a nationally recognised standard and code of practice for irrigation system design, installation, maintenance, management and performance.

Irrigation Australia Limited (IAL) has been working to develop a national set of irrigation standards and codes of practice (ISCOP). This has been achieved with the help of the Queensland Government, who has provided funding through the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to develop a set of rural standards and codes of practice as part of its Rural Water Use Efficiency for Irrigation Futures program (RWUE-IF).

Why do we need standards and codes of practice?

Irrigated horticulture, agriculture and landscape industries in Australia are currently under economic stress as a result of restricted water availability and rising production and energy costs.

It would come as a surprise to few in the industry that the Australian Government has identified that the biggest causes of water waste or loss on-farm are inappropriate, inefficient or inadequate irrigation systems and poor irrigation management. This has

a profound and measurable impact on both the viability of water resources and the financial sustainability of many irrigation enterprises and their rural communities.

Another aspect of irrigation efficiency that is becoming more significant is the energy costs of pumping and operating irrigation systems. In general, the lower the capital cost of a design for a given system type, the higher the pumping (energy) costs. These costs are significant, but are too often neglected during the design process. In this context, the industry has recognised that agreed standards and codes have an important role to play in improving irrigation operation and management.

Through delivery of the RWUE-IF program, Growcom's Land and Water team will promote these standards and codes contributing to a more efficient horticultural irrigation sector by establishing standards and improving the professionalism of the service sector.

The standards document can be viewed online via Irrigation Australia's website: <http://bit.ly/2fXyeSQ>

RWUE-IF will be delivered in the Lockyer Valley in 2017. Horticultural growers are invited to take part.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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Growcom's RWUE-IF program for horticulture is part of the Rural Water use Efficiency Initiative funded by the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

The sediment and nutrient management program is conducted in collaboration with the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

