

**Date:** June 27, 2018

## Cutting costs in the vineyard

Reducing the cost of winter pruning is the focus of a workshop for the dried grape industry.

Hosted by Dried Fruits Australia (DFA), the two-day workshop brings together industry experts and growers to discuss pruning issues and possible solutions.

Participants will hear from specialists in robotics, engineering, vine physiology and machinery production at the June 27 and 28 event.

DFA chairman Mark King said winter pruning was now the most time-consuming operation in the growing season.

“Pruning vines on a 20-hectare dried grape property costs about \$13,000 in labour every year,” Mr King said.

“As an industry we need to identify ways of reducing this cost to improve efficiency on the farm and ensure the sector can grow into the future.”

The event has been funded through DFA and the Hort Innovation Dried Grape Fund using the dried grape R&D levy and contributions from the Australian Government.

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