

Pruning strategies for hail-damaged vines

Information about the impact last year's hail storm had on vines will soon be available for dried grape growers.

Agriculture Victoria is assessing canes for bud fruitfulness, and the data collected will help growers plan their pruning strategies.

Unfortunately, the late end to the season slightly delayed the study.

Many vines still had leaves on them well into June, and the buds at the base of each leaf were vulnerable to physical damage if leaves were removed manually.

By sampling canes with leaves, the team risked reaching a false conclusion regarding the fruitfulness of the shoots that arose on a damaged bearer.

DFA and Agriculture Victoria understand that affected growers are keen to access the information. However, it is important that the team collects accurate information from the study.

A grower event will be held within the next few weeks to discuss the results and what they might mean for pruning strategies for vineyards hit by hail in November 2016.

Dried fruits photo competition video



Dried Fruits Australia received so many fantastic entries for the Harvest 2017 photo competition that we wanted to share them with you.

We created a video using the photographs that best showcased our world-class industry – it's people, production, consumption and heritage.

Head over to our new [YouTube channel](#) to watch it.

Please subscribe to the channel to be notified when we add new content, and share the video with anyone you think might be interested.

If you missed the announcement of the competition winners, visit the [DFA website](#).

Photo credit: Peter Jones

Disclaimer:

Dried Fruits Australia provides this information in good faith and of a general nature. Growers should make their own decisions regarding individual situations and property conditions.

New trade insights for horticulture exporters

New horticulture trade data reports were released yesterday by Hort Innovation.

The Horticulture Trade Intelligence reports capture insights for key fruit, nut and vegetable products in Australia from January to March 2017.

Hort Innovation chief executive John Lloyd said the quarterly report was a useful tool for current and aspiring exporters.

“This trade performance data will give Australian growers the tools they need to gauge what is happening in markets around the world to identify potential market opportunities and, where necessary, adjust their farm operations and marketing accordingly,” Mr Lloyd said.

The reports, including one for dried grapes, can be viewed [here](#).

Quality assurance training

Growers, have you completed the industry’s quality assurance training, the Dried Grape Approved Supplier Program?

The DGASP was designed to address issues of food safety, and is the minimum requirement for growers delivering dried grapes to registered processors.

The cost of the training is \$33 for DFA members and \$110 for non-members. Please come prepared to pay by cheque or cash as there is no eftpos facility available.

New growers, or anyone who hasn’t done the training, can contact DFA for more information on 5023 5174 or at admin@driedfruitsaustralia.org.au.



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