

## Christmas greetings

Wishing you a safe and happy Christmas and all the best for the coming season on behalf of the Dried Fruits Australia Board and staff.

The DFA office will close on Friday 22 December, reopening Monday 8 January.

This will be the last newsletter of the year. We will return in 2018 with the latest industry news, events and information – in an all-new format!

## Brown marmorated stink bug detected

The discovery of the brown marmorated stink bug in Sydney has triggered a surveillance operation and a call for people to keep an eye out for the bug.

Live bugs were found in electrical equipment imported from Italy, and the equipment and container they were in are under biosecurity control. No brown marmorated stink bugs have been detected outside the affected property.

The exotic pest is a significant threat to agriculture due to its wide host range and the damage it can do to crops. The most effective way to detect it is by visually inspecting host plants. They are large bugs that give off a strong and bad odour when disturbed.

More information will be posted on the [national pest and disease outbreaks website](#).

## Latest news from Hort Innovation

- Don't miss the latest edition of Hortlink, which provides an update on all new, current and recently completed levy-funded activity in each levy industry. The quarterly Hort Innovation publication includes easy-to-read project updates, results and resources you can use in your business, case studies, industry contacts and more. Jump straight to the [dried grape section](#).
- Growers are encouraged to apply for a Hort Innovation [Churchill Fellowship](#). The fellowships offer an opportunity to travel overseas to investigate a topic related to horticulture. Applications open 1 February 2018 and close 27 April 2018.
- Stay in the loop with your levy by becoming a member of Hort Innovation, the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australian horticulture. Paying a levy doesn't automatically make you a member, but [signing up](#) is free.

**Hort  
Innovation**

This project has been funded by Hort Innovation using the dried grape industry research levy and funds from the Australian Government.

### 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.