

Prepare for the 2017 harvest season

Growers are reminded to have their summer pruning equipment and wetting machines serviced and ready to operate reliably once they decide to commence summer pruning.

If hand cutting, ensure that employees are informed of the progress of maturity and are ready to work once the decision is made to start.

In the last two seasons, summer pruning and harvest were well underway by now, with weather conducive to early fruit ripening.

It is looking like this season will begin on, or fractionally later than, the long-term average start date. Therefore, growers are urged to have a sense of urgency about completing the wetting of fruit and summer pruning once work has started.

Growers should also be mindful of getting across their properties quicker than the last two years, keeping in mind the following suggested completion dates for summer pruning and wetting:

- Sultanas: No later than Wednesday 1 March
- Sunmuscats and Sunglo: No later than Monday 6 March
- Carinas: No later than end of February

These dates, under normal circumstances, provide the optimal maturity, temperature and day length for the best chance of successfully getting the fruit dry enough to harvest.

Dried Fruits Australia wishes all growers the best for a successful and rain-free harvest.

Bountiful Harvest photo competition

Plant Health Australia is celebrating our nation's top plant biosecurity system with a photo competition.

The joint efforts of governments, industries, crop producers and the general community mean that plant producers and beekeepers have far fewer pests to combat when growing and marketing their produce.

Photographing our crops and crop producers in action is a great way to raise awareness of how lucky Australians are to be free of many serious plant pests, and how important it is to keep it that way.

The challenge is to capture some aspect of plant production in Australia. Enter by Friday 10 March to win a RM Williams voucher – \$300 for first place, and \$150 for the runner up.

More details on the [Plant Health Australia website](http://www.planthealthaustralia.gov.au).

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.

Women's leadership development

Dried Fruits Australia members are invited to attend the 2017 Australian Women's Leadership Symposium, to be held in all capital cities later this year.

The symposium provides women with a critically important platform to explore leadership, life and career development.

Women & Leadership Australia is offering 20 members the opportunity to attend the event for \$400 off the standard rate. For more information, and to take advantage of the discount:

1. Visit the [symposium website](#).
2. Select which city you would like to attend.
3. Click 'tickets available here'.
4. Enter your first name, last name and email address, then click 'next'.
5. Enter your company name, title and work phone, and type in 'Dried Fruits Australia' when answering the question 'how did you find out about this event?', then click 'next'.
6. Click 'finished adding people'.
7. Enter discount code ASC2017 and click 'apply' to get the \$400 discount off the standard rate.
8. Complete your payment method, tick 'I agree to the terms and conditions', click 'finish', and your confirmation will be emailed to you.



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