

# P.I. NEWS

## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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This 'Technical Edition' of *PI News* is prepared as one of the outputs of Project PS17002 - *Technology Transfer for Pistachio growers utilising regional grower Tech Groups & events.*

### Welcome to ABARES Outlook 2019 Conference

#### Where we gather to explore the outlook for Australia's agricultural industries

The ABARES Outlook 2019 conference will be the premier information and networking forum for the agriculture sector.

Outlook 2019 is focused on the outlook for Australia's agriculture sector and will connect leading national and international speakers with highly motivated and information seeking delegates at 14 sessions across two days and provide a rich menu of insights, ideas and information relevant to Australian agriculture.

At Outlook 2019 the program and participants will combine to provide something that no other event can offer - a unique combination

of public and private sector perspectives, and the latest agricultural analysis and forecasts.

I invite you to Outlook 2019 in Canberra on Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 March to network with your colleagues from across agriculture, to hear leading industry speakers and producers, and access the latest industry analysis and insights to underpin your strategic business planning.

Find out more [here](#).

**Steve Hatfield-Dodds,**  
**Executive Director, ABARES**

#### Pistachio Growers Association Inc.

27 Ludgate Hill Road  
Aldgate SA 5154

T: 0417 809 172

[pgai.com.au](http://pgai.com.au)



Pistachio Growers' Association

### NEW PRODUCT:

#### Trial of the VELCRO® Brand - 50mm x 45m Blue UV Plant Tie Product

The details on the product are as follows.

- This 50mm x 45m Blue UV Treated Plant tie can be used for plant stabilization while it is in sapling form, it is adjustable and has been UV treated.
- This is a 'long term assessment' of the VELCRO® Brand - 50mm x 45m Blue UV Plant tie product and they are looking at feedback on its suitability.

They are seeking confirmation and feedback on the following:

- The product suitability to the plant
- Ease of application of the product.
- The durability of the product, looking for this product to last a minimum of 18 months.
- Indication of when you apply the VELCRO® Brand - 50mm x 45m Blue UV Plant Tie product.
- How many plants you apply the VELCRO® Brand - 50mm x 45m Blue UV Plant Tie to.

- Monthly updates with a picture and comments on your observations if you take part in some trials of this product (please see the picture below).



For more information contact:  
Lee Rufus, Account Manager Distributors & OEMs, Southern Region, Velcro Australia Pty Ltd  
Dir: (+61) 3 9709-3814  
Mobile: (+61) 400- 997-771  
5-11 David Lee Road, Hallam, Victoria 3803  
[www.velcro.com](http://www.velcro.com)

## SNIPPETS FROM OVERSEAS:

### PISTACHIOS: SURPRISING DEMAND IN CHINA

**SACRAMENTO.** US pistachio production has reached record levels this season. Surprisingly, China is less reluctant than expected to import pistachios from California.

### RECORD US PISTACHIO SHIPMENTS IN NOVEMBER

#### Data confirms lack of Iranian supply

US pistachio shipments data showed 129.7 million in-shell pounds in November 2018, 39.4% more than in the same month in the previous year.

### PISTACHIO EXPORTS SLIDE IN TWO MONTHS

Iran exported 8,000 tons of pistachio during October 23 - December 21 2018, but indicated a drastic decline in comparison with the similar period of last year, a senior official said.

Mahmoud Abtahi, chairman of the board of directors at the Iranian Pistachio Association, said the figure shows an 83% drop comparing to the corresponding period of last year, during which Iran exported over 48,000 tons of the product.

The official noted that Iranian farmers harvested close to 60,000 tons of pistachio during the current fiscal (started in March), that also shows a huge drop year on year.

Saying that water shortage and climate change are affecting Iran's pistachio orchards, the official added that the nature of pistachio trees' bearing has also played a big role in low production rates.

There are some 400,000 hectares of pistachio farms across Iran. According to Deputy Minister of Industries, Mining and Trade Mojtaba Khosrotaj, Iran supplies more than 50% of the world pistachio market.

Ukraine, the UAE, Italy, Bahrain, Brazil, Bulgaria, Turkey, Canada, Qatar, Switzerland, France, Poland, Sweden, Malaysia, Vietnam, the Netherlands, Thailand, Japan, Romania and Hong Kong are among the main buyers of Iranian pistachio.

### PISTACHIO PRODUCTION HITS 180,000 TONS

Production of pistachio in Iran has reached 180,000 tons since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2018), according to a director in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Of the mentioned figure, some 130,000 tons have been exported, Shokrollah Hajivand told IRNA on Wednesday.

Iran's production of pistachio has been anticipated to reach 200,000 tons by the end of current calendar year (March 20, 2019), according to Hajivand.

As reported by European Union's statistics agency Eurostat, Iran exported €125 million of pistachio to Europe during the first half of 2018, with 19 percent increase compared to the same period of time in the past year.

According to Eurostat, Iran's export of pistachio to Europe during the first half of 2017 stood at €105 million.

## BIOSECURITY:

### GETTING BIOSECURITY ZONING RIGHT



Zoning your farm should be a priority to secure your farm against diseases, pests and weeds - but it's not an easy task to retrofit biosecurity measures on a farm that was set up with other priorities in mind.

Most people don't have the luxury of planning the property layout from scratch and deciding where it's best to place everything that you need to run your business efficiently. You have to work around existing roads, fences, houses, sheds and other facilities.

Stuart Kearns, Manager Farm Biosecurity Programs at Plant Health Australia, says that farm zoning isn't a straightforward process.

"It may take a few adjustments before you get it right," Stuart said.

Sometimes it takes a bit of trial and error to work out where to place biosecurity zones - access, separation and production (or exclusion) - and checkpoints on your property,

"It's a bit of a balancing act. You want to make sure you are taking the necessary precautions, but not doing things that don't provide any benefits to your biosecurity status," Stuart said.

Rather than installing permanent fixtures straight away, temporary alternatives can be used to test if the zones you are thinking of putting in place will be practical and effective.

"There is no right answer to a question about where zones and checkpoints should be placed: it's what works for you in your situation. But the decision can be made easier by first putting a few of your ideas to the test."

"Before you make a final decision, and maybe spend some money putting something more permanent in place, you can try a few options."

A practical and budget friendly way to work out where things should go is to use garden stakes, flagging tape or spray paint to trial the effectiveness of access, separation and production zones.

You'll soon work out if that's the best place to put your parking area, or your first choice for a washdown area for vehicles was a good idea or not. If people aren't paying attention to your signs, perhaps they need to be moved.

"Maybe you don't need a sump for your vehicle washdown area because it's only used occasionally and a tail-dam that accumulates water runoff that is allowed to evaporate is enough," Stuart said.

Every farm situation is different: remember to think outside the square and use your creativity to secure your farm.



## CHEMICALS:

### FARM CHEMICAL SAFETY - VIDEO SERIES



Chemicals are an important part of modern agriculture. Knowing how to properly and safely use chemicals will help to prevent injuries and harm to people's health.

SafeWork SA has developed a five-part educational video series to help you understand your obligations when it comes to safely using and storing chemicals. These short videos contain information and practical tips to get you started across five key areas.

- Purchasing and delivery;
- Storage;

- Personal protective equipment;
- Mixing and use; and
- Spillage and disposal.

Understand your obligations and watch the video series today.

We encourage you to share the series with your networks, colleagues and workers.

You can view the series [here](#).

### SPRAY DRIFT CONSULTATION

We are seeking submissions on Stage 1 of the APVMA's approach to spray drift management. This is a supplemental consultation on the Stage 1 approach that incorporates the changes identified from our previous consultation.

The purpose of the proposed spray drift management approach is to introduce refinements to buffer zone calculations;

provide clearer label instructions, increased flexibility for pesticide applications; and support the use of drift reducing technologies (DRT).

Consultation is open until close of business on 8 February 2019.

Find out more [here](#).

**Hort  
Innovation**  
Strategic levy investment

**PISTACHIO  
FUND**

This project has been funded by Hort Innovation using the pistachio research and development levy and funds from the Australian Government. For more information on the fund and strategic levy investment visit [horticulture.com.au](http://horticulture.com.au)

