

Accessing the Horticultural Netting Grants

Jane Richter

Research shows protective netting helps growers produce better crops, in higher numbers. The nets can also reduce water usage by up to 30%. Horticulture is important for rural and regional economies. It's also vital for our national food security. The federal government has extended the program nationally with an extra \$35 million investment. You will be able to apply for grants from your state or territory government. The program will operate until 30 June 2024, or until all the funds are committed.

Western Australia

Matching grants are available to all fruit and vegetable growers installing permanent netting structures in WA, excluding wine grapes. Eligible businesses need to make a dollar-for-dollar co-contribution up to a maximum of \$200,000 towards the total cost of purchasing and installing permanent protective netting and associated support structures.

Berry growers can apply for grants for netting installed after 14 December 2021.

Applications close on **30 June 2024** or when the funds are fully committed from the \$2.6 million pool.

Queries should be directed to hortnettingscheme@dprid.wa.gov.au

For more information and to apply visit bit.ly/Hort-Net-WA

Queensland

The program offers co-contribution grants of up to \$300,000 to help primary producers of commercial horticultural crops offset the cost of purchasing and installing horticultural netting.

Berry growers can apply for grants for netting installed after 14 December 2021.

The program will close to applications on **30 April 2024** or when available funds have been allocated.

To apply for a grant under the program please complete and submit your application form and supporting information via the QRIDA online portal at bit.ly/Hort-Net-Qld

South Australia

Horticultural Netting Infrastructure Grants help primary producers in the Riverland and Adelaide Hills/Greater Adelaide region fund the purchase and installation of new netting, or the replacement of any damaged netting over land used to grow horticulture crops.

Funding will cover the costs of third-party providers of permanent and throw-over protective netting and associated support structures required for installation. Written quotes or cost estimates from a third-party supplier will need to be included with the application.

Growers can apply for up to 50% of costs associated with horticulture netting, up to a maximum of \$300,000.

Applications close on **30 June 2025** or when funds are fully committed, whichever comes first. Grants are subject to the availability of funds. Please be aware that at the point of publication, only 39% of the total funds remain uncommitted so do not delay your application.

For eligibility and information about how the funding can be used in South Australia please visit bit.ly/Hort-Net-SA

Tasmania

The program will provide a grant for up to 50 per cent of the costs to purchase and install permanent protective netting and associated infrastructure or throw-over protective netting (also known as drape netting) over permanent horticultural plantings.

The maximum grant is \$150 000 (ex GST) per applicant to be provided on a dollar for dollar basis.

Applications for the Horticultural Netting Infrastructure Program will be accepted from 24 May 2022 until fully expended or **31 March 2023**.

For more information and to check your eligibility please visit bit.ly/Hort-Net-TAS

Applications should be lodged via the NRE Tas SmartyGrants website at nre.smartygrants.com.au

New South Wales

The program is opening soon. Eligible horticulturalists in NSW will be able to apply for a rebate of up to 50% of the cost to purchase and install new protective netting or replace damaged netting, to a maximum of \$100,000.

To register your interest please complete the Registration of Interest form at bit.ly/Hort-Net-NSW and the Rural Assistance Authority will contact you with application details once the program is open.

Victoria

Grants are now available for eligible horticulture enterprises operating in Victoria. The Program will provide for up to 50 per cent of eligible costs to purchase and commercially install new horticultural netting (fixed and demountable), to a maximum of \$150,000 (ex GST). Applicants may also self-install, subject to some exclusions, such as wages and installation equipment.

The number and value of individual grants allocated by the Program will depend upon overall demand. If the Program is oversubscribed, funding will be allocated to successful applicants on a pro-rata basis (a proportion of the amount applied for).

Applications can be submitted by eligible producers who have had netting already installed after 14 December 2021, and from eligible producers who seek to purchase and install netting before **30 May 2025**.

The application period for this grants program is between 17 August 2022 and 17 October 2022.

For further information about eligibility and the application process please visit bit.ly/Hort-Net-Vic



GOT EXCESS BERRIES?



TO FIND OUT MORE,
PLEASE GET IN TOUCH

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