

BERRY PRACTICAL 2026

THE ECO AGRO AUSTRALIA LIVE LAB

A hands-on space for growers to connect directly with researchers and industry specialists. Ask questions, see practical demonstrations, test products and listen to short, sharp, sweet presentations designed to be put to work on farm.



WHAT'S IN THE ECO AGRO AUSTRALIA LIVE LAB?

VSICA RESEARCH

Explore best-practice fumigation, see biofumigation demonstrations, plus results from a one-year Yarra Valley comparison of plugs and runners. Pick up the Charcoal Rot guide and discuss the findings.

BFG SERVICES

Use a microscope to look closely at common berry diseases and talk through how they spread. Bring a dying plant or sample for Apollo to assess.

NSW DPIRD

Build an interactive bioreactor and test the new substrate nutrient calculator.

Pick up a Berry Plant Protection Guide.

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

Explore initial RB21000 results and speak with researchers. Work through the Farm Business Resilience checklist, ask Dale about the weather and test your invasive species ID skills with Crop Health Protective Services.

FAIR FARMS

Discuss practical ways to protect your business when using labour hire. Review the new Fair Farms Labour Hire Checklist with Amanda. VIC and SA growers can collect a free state-specific Labour Hire Provider Agreement.

SARDI

Learn about the new fungicide PhD research and see the process of testing for fungal pathogens.

CURTIN UNI

Bring a strawberry Botrytis sample for fungicide resistance testing. Two samples can be tested during the day, with up to five more tested later. See the testing process live.

CSIRO

See the PestREAD! IPM Assistant chatbot in action and explore how it can support integrated pest management decisions.

BIOLOGICAL SERVICES

Explore labour-saving tools for IPM scoping and distribution. Discuss timing and handling for dispersals and get an update on controlling thrips with biologicals.

PROUD LIVE LAB SPONSOR

ECO AGRO AUSTRALIA

Compare different coir mixes and talk through their practical application in berry production.

AGRIBUSINESS YARRA VALLEY

Build a farm map and risk assessment in a guided 10-minute activity, including ideal trap placement. See the LAMP machine and past results, get GrowFruit app help and explore QFF management advice and support materials.

TIME	WHO	WHAT
10:15-10:30	Biological Services	A quick thrips update
10:45-11:00	Hasan Rahmani	Rubus Pesticide Compatibility and IPM
11:15-11:30	Apollo Gomez	Pathology 101 - what do I do and how does it help you?
11:45-12:00	VSICA Research	Is it safe to plant? Checking fumigation residues
12:15-12:30	Eco Agro Australia	Coir quality - key things to consider
1:15-1:30	Garden City Plastics	Does pot shape affect water holding capacity?
1:45-2:00	Curtin University	Botrytis Fungicide Resistance Testing - how it works and results
2:15-2:30	AgLogic	Sensor positioning - how & where to install monitoring sensors
2:45-3:00	Mark Bayley NSW DPIRD	What's a Bioreactor and how does it help me?
3:15-3:30	Gaius Leong NSW DPIRD	Using NSW DPIRD's new Substrate Nutrient Calculator