

AUTUMN 26 | VOL 63

mango matters

**LASER BRANDING
ON MANGOES:
TRIAL INSIGHTS**
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**2025/26 AUSTRALIAN
MANGO EXPORT
SEASON WRAP-UP**
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**A WORKSHOP
TO DISCUSS
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A Workshop to Discuss Compliance



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Update on Mango Twig Tip Dieback

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Chairman's Report

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At the time of writing, the Middle East war continues, resulting in the drastic fuel and fertiliser shortages that are having a serious impact on all growers, transporters and businesses through the supply chain. The availability and substantial increased costs will have a real impact with growers determining how they manage their orchards in the lead up to next season. We hope the war will end quickly, however the impact of this war will continue. While the most visible impact is the price of fuel, when available, the impact on other inputs will also have far reaching impacts on our ability to produce mangoes and get them to market. It's a very grim outlook for our industry and we need support from both government and retailers. We need all retailers to understand the implications of this current situation and ensure the prices paid to growers enable them to have a future. We also need government to provide assistance so growers can get through this situation and their businesses can remain viable.

While we hope this crisis is only temporary, what we need is for all governments to ensure we are much better prepared in the future. The lessons delivered during COVID have been forgotten very quickly. For current and future generations, we need governments to start building for our future with a focus on Australia and our own self-reliance.

Prior to this crisis the Board had been preparing to seek your support for an increase in the R&D and Marketing levies. As highlighted previously, both our R&D and Marketing funds are inadequate as we cannot fund critical research and importantly, our marketing, while valuable, is not making the impact that is needed. Australian consumption of mangoes is not increasing at the rate we need, and Australian mangoes are facing increasing competition from low-cost producers in our export markets.

While the easy approach would be to do nothing, as a Board we have a responsibility to the industry. For current and future generations of mango growers, we need funds to support R&D

which brings value to the industry and a worthwhile marketing program that builds consumption and demand, where returns give all of us a worthwhile future.

As we prepared to seek your support for an increase in levies, we were aware that many growers have faced multiple seasons with poor to average returns. When we can see an end to this current crisis, we will commence a consultation process to seek your support for increasing the levies. In consideration of the tough commercial environment, its likely we will consider a staged increase in levies over several years. The size of the levy increase and how it could be introduced will form part of the consultation process.

As we are all aware, the pressure on existing agrichemicals continues, with the current APVMA reviews bringing the potential loss of more chemistry. While there is new chemistry, it's often not available to mango growers due to the lack of efficacy and residue data. We are in regular discussion with agrichemical companies seeking their support for new products for the industry and we have started a discussion with Hort Innovation about having a dedicated experienced person (accessed on an as needed basis) to assist the mango industry speed up the process for identifying new, and current products already available in other industries in Australia, or products available overseas which could fit in our production systems.

The detection of one male oriental fruit fly in a NAQS fruit fly trap at Injinoo close to the tip of Cape York in early February is a reminder of the importance of biosecurity and our need to remain vigilant. Follow up trapping in the days and weeks after this detection indicates this was an isolated incident as no further flies were detected. The teams from NAQS and Biosecurity Queensland continue to work diligently both on the Torres Strait Islands and the mainland.

But while Injinoo is a long way from production regions, fruit fly can travel great distances under the right weather conditions and importantly with the increase in vehicle movements, the risk of accidental movement of exotic fruit fly and other exotic pests is increasing.

As an election commitment, the current Queensland government commissioned a review of the decision to remove the Coen biosecurity facility (the roadblock). During the review we pushed for the reintroduction of the facility and have been encouraging the government to increase its biosecurity presence on the Cape. We understand the review was completed some time ago, but the report still has not been released.

The Federal Government's decision to move towards full cost recovery over the next three years for export charges is just another financial hurdle for growers and exporters. Mango exports have not recovered since COVID. While we push for improved protocols this is a slow process, and in many export markets we are competing with low-cost producing countries. We have been highlighting these issues to the government, but they are fixated on increasing export charges that will impact all agricultural exports. The failure of government to understand the fruit and vegetable industry and in particular our industry is frustrating. As a matter of urgency we must increase our efforts to bring this understanding to government, so their decisions actually assist industry, and are not just another burden on Australian mango growers.

“In late March, the NFF Hort Council held a workshop in Canberra focused on bringing a refreshed perspective on what industry can do to bring an alignment of views with regards to the standards (e.g. HARPS, Freshcare). While this is a positive step, meaningful progress will depend on translating this collaboration into practical outcomes for growers.”

- TREVOR DUNMALL



CEO's Report

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Ben has highlighted in his report the critical situation our industry is in with the current Middle East war and fuel crisis, so I won't add to that, except by saying that it's now our responsibility to ensure the current and future governments start paying more respect to Australians and Australian growers and ensure our country has greater self-sufficiency. We all need to work to ensure that generations of Australian growers can sustainably supply high quality produce to Australian consumers.

In the week leading up to Easter, the Mango Strategic Industry Advisory Panel (SIAP) met to discuss investment priorities across both R&D and Marketing. The majority of Mango SIAP members are growers or represent growers, so the best interests of growers and the industry are at the forefront of all discussions. One day was dedicated to marketing and one to R&D. The meetings were constructive, with robust discussions and inputs across both areas.

In late March, the NFF Hort Council held a workshop in Canberra focused on bringing a refreshed perspective on what industry can do to bring an alignment of views with regards to the standards (e.g. HARPS, Freshcare). The workshop was a worthwhile event as it brought together a group of people from different sectors to address the issues associated with complying with multiple standards. While this is a positive step, meaningful progress will depend on translating this collaboration into practical outcomes for growers. We will keep you informed as we work to progress these issues.

Currently only relatively small volumes of mangoes are imported into Australia. The Hort Stats Handbook 24/25 states that 1, 218 tonnes of fresh mangoes were imported into Australia valued at \$9.2 million. While most imports are counter seasonal, fruit from countries such as Thailand and Vietnam is present in our markets during the Australian season. This highlights the importance of continuing to offer consumers a wide range of Australian mango varieties, providing different

flavour profiles. It is also important to recognise that, as a signatory to World Trade Organisation's conventions, Australia can only oppose import applications on technical grounds related to biosecurity risks, such as the introduction and potential impact of exotic pests and diseases. The potential impact on regional and rural communities doesn't come into consideration, which many would agree defies rational thinking. As we watch the Australian Government undertake another review of an application to import bananas from the Philippines, we feel for our colleagues at the Australian Banana Growers Council. The work they are undertaking to oppose imports due to the risks associated with exotic pests and diseases will take up considerable resources from both the ABGC Board directors and staff. It's sad that an industry has to oppose government's actions to protect its growers and the broader banana industry which is so important to regional and rural economies.

In this edition of Mango Matters, Marine provides an overview of the industry's export performance for the season. Export volumes have remained flat, with few bright spots. While export development remains a priority, the reality is that it is becoming increasingly challenging. Rising competition in export markets from low-cost producers who are lifting their quality, tough protocols for some markets with no short-term improvements in sight, and the costs involved in export make it a tough game. Despite this, a number of growers and exporters continue to tirelessly work on improving exports. As an industry we need to provide support and work towards building improved conditions to make export easier and more rewarding for all those involved.

We are currently working on developing regional biosecurity plans, with an initial focus on the Katherine and Bowen regions. We have chosen to start with these regions as they are discrete with a few horticulture crops, allowing us to develop templates that can be applied to other regions. The aim is to have mango focused regional plans for each key production region by mid 2027. In parallel, we are developing an orchard biosecurity plan template to support growers without existing plans. The reason for our focus on both orchard and regional biosecurity plans is that the biggest impact from biosecurity is on growers and their businesses. Being better prepared at a farm and regional level is important and these planning processes should feed into biosecurity at a state/territory and the national level.

AROUND THE REGIONS



Southern Queensland & New South Wales



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With the 2025-26 mango season well and truly wrapped up, growers across the region have reported a wide range of outcomes. While some orchards achieved strong fruit set and excellent fruit finish, others experienced uneven flowering, fruit drop, or storm-related damage. Despite this variability, overall fruit quality was noticeably improved on last season thanks to the dry, stable growing conditions.

Harvest extended over a longer period this season, with late-season varieties carrying well into February and March. The southern part of the region experienced significant flooding and storm activity post-harvest, creating additional challenges for affected growers. At the same time, the industry continues to face mounting financial pressure, and it is becoming increasingly clear that higher returns to growers will be essential for long-term sustainability, particularly for those already operating on tight margins.

With global pressures continuing to push input costs higher, careful planning during the off-season will be more important than ever. Post-harvest activities are well underway across the region, with fertilising and mechanical pruning now completed and manual pruning progressing. Reviewing input strategies, labour planning, and orchard management programs at this stage may help ease pressure as the next season approaches.

Northern Territory & Northern Western Australia



Leo Skiros

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This year, I have put my hand up to join the SIAP board, aiming to have a stronger input over how our levy funds are strategically managed. It is not a simple task, as there is plenty of robust discussion around the table, and outcomes are still being finalised.

The AMIA team continues to work across multiple areas to support growers and the broader industry, covering transport, biosecurity, chemicals, services, compliance, and more. The team recognises the struggles that growers are facing, the significant financial pressures and mental strain, and continues to focus their efforts on providing ongoing support.

We are currently facing one of the most challenging periods in recent times for both Australian households and businesses. Costs are rising across the board – fuel, transport, electricity, interest rates, taxes, labour, and beyond. Freight costs alone could see fuel levies climb to as much as 100% by the end of the year, which would wipe out what little profit many farmers are already struggling to maintain. At the same time, mango prices are not increasing to match these pressures. To offset these rising costs, we would need to see an increase of approximately \$6 per tray this season (at least).

On a more positive note, Australia’s growing multicultural population presents an opportunity for mango growers, as more consumers consider mangoes to be a staple rather than a luxury, and our production window now extends beyond nine months.

However, unless there is urgent and realistic action to address profitability across agriculture and many other Australian industries, we risk continuing to lose domestic businesses and increasing reliance on imports rather than local production. We have already seen key sectors such as car manufacturing, fuel refineries, ports, and other infrastructure sold, leased offshore, or become unviable locally. Are our farms and farmers facing a similar risk? It is critical that our politicians understand these concerns and take meaningful steps to support Australian farmers and the agricultural sector.

Geoff Warnock

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At present, the upcoming season is shaping up to present a few challenges. These include limited packing shed facilities operating in the region, along with rising fuel costs that are expected to impact trucking operations, particularly given the remoteness of Kununurra.

Fruit quality last season remained quite strong, despite lower overall volumes.

During the off-season, the region has received substantial rainfall. The trees have flushed well and appear healthy, benefiting from ample water. Although the ground remains quite wet, the trees are not showing signs of waterlogging. The wet conditions have led to increased grass growth, meaning growers will need to manage inter-row vegetation. To date, there are no signs of significant pest or disease pressure.

Rainfall has eased more recently. Looking ahead, the current healthy flush suggests there is potential for a strong flowering – provided that the weather conditions remain favourable.



Far North Queensland & North Queensland

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Reflecting on the 2025/2026 season, the spread-out flowering events made the season difficult to forecast, manage and plan harvest activities.

Growers in this region who were able to harvest their early season varieties before the bulk of the rain came along, had quite a successful harvest. Those who had to contend with harvesting a little later during the significantly wet season, were met with quality issues in the markets.

A significant overlap with both the Katherine and Bowen/Burdekin regions during November/December saw the prices drop well below the cost of production making harvest unviable for some, while others moved their better-quality fruit to market and lesser quality fruit towards processors.

Now, things have settled, and the orchards and trees are looking good with drier weather patterns having arrived in the region. Growers will continue with their pruning activities and post-harvest activities such as mowing and spraying while we wait for flowering to occur later in the year.

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Well, the season just gone certainly did not break any records on market prices, nor the cost of production, and now growers are being hit with increases on fuels, fertilisers and chemical prices.

The cost of production is compounding out of control, and the market prices are lowering every year at a time when regional supplies cross over. Some growers in this region are starting to consider their future in the industry. Growers can no longer absorb these costs, as all reserves have now diminished.

The only way for many in the industry to survive, is if we see fairer market prices that are above the cost of production. This will allow business growth rather than stagnation. Failure to pay growers adequately for their product may, over time, see future gaps in the market of quality Australian produce.

Orchards across the region are looking good at the moment as we wait for flowering. Trees are responding well to drier conditions and are looking healthy and promising.

As a representative of this region observing the current global situation, I believe that some or many growers may respond by shying away from their normal practices which may impact quality around harvest time.



Southern Western Australia

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Picking has now concluded in the southwest. The season was heavier than anticipated, with above-average volumes, but ordinary returns for growers. The summer was reasonably mild which delayed harvest slightly, but still produced heatwaves that resulted in sunburn damage to exposed fruit, which is pretty usual.

The Carnarvon region also produced a heavy crop with consequent lower returns. Late-season varieties were caught by a severe heatwave in late January, which resulted in heavy losses for any fruit that was still on the trees. Carnarvon was also hit by Cyclone Narelle in March, which didn't impact harvest, but the consequent flooding and wind damage has left a lot of clean-up work to be done. Unfortunately, the flood levies that protect some areas tends to increase flood impact on growers outside of the areas protected by the levies.

There is a lot of uncertainty and anxiety about the cost and availability of essential supplies due to the war and shipping disruptions in the Middle East. Having these strains on top of our already pre-existing issues in the industry is certainly not welcome. If there are specific issues that need to be addressed, don't hesitate to get in contact with me or the AMIA team.

At the same time, the industry continues to face mounting financial pressure, and it is becoming increasingly clear that higher returns to growers will be essential for long-term sustainability, particularly for those already operating on tight margins.

Meet an AMIA Member

KEVIN BURKETT

KF & PD BURKETT | CARNARVON

Q&A by Celine Jordens, Industry Development Officer NT/WA

Q. Tell us a bit about your region and your business. How long have you been growing mangoes, which varieties do you grow and, which markets do you send to?

Carnarvon is a horticultural district that stretches on 15km from the town center along the banks of the Gascoyne River. It comprises around 120 plantations, ranging in size from 15 to 100 acres. The area produces around \$100 million worth of fresh produce annually, including mangoes, bananas, grapes, melons, tomatoes, capsicums, and more.

When we came on to our property 30-40 years ago, it only had a few old Kensington Pride (KP) trees. Since then, we planted R2E2, Heidi, Valencia Pride, and Apple Romani - a delicate, fibreless mango from North India that has a similar flavour to KP. All of our fruit goes down to the Canning Vale market in Perth, where it is sold through a market agent. Over time, we've built up a strong following with our retail customers. We keep in touch with them as the fruit gets close to picking, and stay connected right through the season. That's helped build a lot of loyalty to our product. We focus on quality above everything else, and work with retailers who value that and are willing to pay for it. Our aim is to supply premium fruit, and we grade carefully to make sure it meets that standard.

Q. Have you introduced any new practices on your farm recently? If so, what kind of impact have they had, and what prompted the change?

One of the biggest changes we've made recently is moving from manual spraying to full fertigation. We mostly use organic fertilisers, feeding our trees with products like humus and kelp to keep both the soil and the trees healthy. We also carry out leaf testing three to four times a year so we can monitor nutrient levels and make sure we're applying exactly what the trees need.

Q. What are some of the challenges that growers are facing in your region?

The Carnarvon region can be hit pretty hard by extreme weather, including heatwaves, cyclones and floods. The severe heatwave in late January had a big impact on some growers, especially those who still had fruit on the trees. It also caused a lot of stress to the trees, and the effects are still being seen as they continue to recover.

There's a real need for more support to help build resilience against these kinds of weather events. Our regional Research Station is currently understaffed, with no scientist working on tree crops. We did have one up until last year, but that's no longer the case. Having dedicated experts on hand would make a big difference in helping growers prepare for and respond to these challenges. At the moment, we are also dealing with widespread fungal diseases like *Botryosphaeria*, so access to scientific advice on management strategies would be incredibly valuable.



Q. What is one thing that most excites you about the future of the mango industry, and why?

I see a great opportunity to further expand the market presence of Carnarvon mangoes. To help address that, we have set up a new mango grower representation group in the region. It's a space where we come together to talk about things like pests and diseases, market access, and how we can better promote what makes Carnarvon mangoes unique to consumers.

A key focus for us is improving fruit quality and supporting each other as growers. There is a strong opportunity to improve packout rates across the region, and lifting overall quality standards would benefit the entire region. We also want to encourage greater collaboration across the region to strengthen the local industry. With new growers regularly coming in, it's important they have the chance to learn from more experienced growers and contribute to the region's ongoing growth.

Q. What has been your most memorable or proudest moment in your mango-growing career so far?

One of our most memorable moments was when our agent asked to send our mangoes to Paris for a WA Fresh Produce tradeshow, showcasing the best of Western Australian produce overseas. That was incredibly rewarding and a real highlight for us.

Each season also brings its own rewards, especially when our regular buyers are eagerly waiting for us to start picking and are genuinely excited to receive our fruit. It's a great feeling to have that level of demand and connection with the people we supply.



Kevin's produce on retail shelves.

Q. What's the best advice you've received as a mango grower, and what advice would you offer to new or aspiring mango growers entering the industry?

If you want to grow mangoes commercially, it really isn't a hobby. It takes daily attention, you need to stay close to your orchard, keep on top of irrigation and nutrition, and be constantly monitoring for pests and diseases.

At the same time, it's important to stay connected. Talk with other growers, make use of agronomists, and tap into the support available through AMIA. Attending industry events and keeping up to date with the latest news can make a big difference in how you manage and grow your operation.

Q. Can you share how Australian Mangoes has provided support, resources, or networking opportunities to mango growers like you?

AMIA has a wide reach across growers and industry stakeholders, and does a great job of producing publications and resources that are genuinely useful for growers. The Mango Matters magazine is a particularly valuable resource, helping us stay informed and offering insights into what's happening in the industry across the country.

Q. Why is being an AMIA member important to you?

It is great to be part of the AMIA family. We can easily get in touch with the AMIA team, and they are always happy to have a chat. We really value their support when we need it, and we're equally keen to continue supporting them in return.

MANGO RESEARCHER RYAN ORR MOVES INTO NEW ROLE

Dr Ryan Orr, formerly Senior Horticulturist with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, has taken on an exciting new position as an R&D Manager with Hort Innovation.

Based at the Mareeba DPI office for more than five years, Ryan has been a key leader in research and development for the Australian

mango industry. Among his many contributions, he led the mango component of the recently completed AS18000 Tree Crop Intensification in Horticulture Program, with a focus on canopy management, orchard architecture, light interception and rootstocks.

Ryan has also co-supervised University of Queensland PhD candidate Sophie Jones as part of the MG21004 Mango Fruit Drop project and contributed his expertise to the AS23003 Genetics for Next Generation Orchards and AM23003 FASTA programs.

Well known and highly regarded by growers, Ryan has shared his expertise at numerous regional mango roadshows, workshops, and R&D symposiums. His work has significantly advanced industry understanding of mango physiology, supporting greater innovation, intensification, and profitability across the sector.

While both the Department of Primary Industries and the mango industry will miss his leadership and expertise, it is reassuring that Ryan will remain within the horticulture sector. We look forward to seeing his continued impact on the advancement of Australia's tropical horticulture industries in his new role.

We wish Ryan every success for the future.



your membership matters

When you become a member of the Australian Mango Industry Association (AMIA), you're helping strengthen the voice of Australia's mango growers. Your membership supports our advocacy with government and business, drives national research and development, and enables vital partnerships with organisations like the NFF Horticulture Council.



As an AMIA member, you'll also enjoy exclusive benefits, including **significant savings through our partnership with Bunnings Trade**. Members who have linked their Bunnings PowerPass to their AMIA membership are already saving hundreds of dollars on trade purchases.

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Agrichemical update

Information for this article has been sourced from the Ag-Chem Update, prepared by DTS Regulatory Consultants through the project. MT24008 - Regulatory Support & Response Co-ordination. This multi-industry project has been funded by Hort Innovation, using industry research and development levies and contributions from the Australian Government. Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australian horticulture.

APVMA News

A milestone agreement between New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS) and APVMA will speed up access to new farm chemicals by allowing both countries to share assessment of new products. This should mean less duplication, faster decisions, and more efficient regulation for growers. Both regulators say the partnership builds on their already similar systems and will help bring new, innovative products to market more quickly.

APVMA hosted an international conference on Advancing Sustainability in Agriculture: Enabling Precision Application of Crop Protection Products by Inclusion in Regulatory Approaches (Processes), EPAC2026 in February 2026.

The conference was sponsored by the international Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Co-operative Research Programme. The conference was attended by experts from key sectors including:

- national and international regulators
- leading researchers and equipment manufacturers
- the crop protection industry, consultants and ag-tech interested growers.

Day 1 of the conference featured presentations from international regulators (EU, UK, Canada, Australia), crop protection and technology leaders, and growers who are already using precision application in the field. Day 2 was a practical workshop covering key topics such as definitions and use patterns, how to build trust in new technologies, risk assessment challenges, and how labels can better support precision application. The outcomes and recommendations from this workshop will be provided to the OECD to help shape future global regulatory approaches. Presentations from the conference are expected to become available shortly.

Chemical Reviews

Paraquat / Diquat – Final regulatory decisions following review of public comment and new information is due ‘mid-2026’.

Anticoagulant rodenticides – Proposed decision published 16 December 2025. Final public comment was due on 16 March 2026.

Fipronil – the proposed regulatory decision for agricultural products is currently published as April 2026, however, is not expected until after the Paraquat/Diquat review is completed. The final regulatory decisions are not expected until end of 2026.

Neonicotinoids including Imidacloprid – Publication of the proposed regulatory decisions for individual neonicotinoid actives are not expected until late 2026 at the earliest.

Re-prioritisation – APVMA Chemical review team is proposing to do a prioritisation exercise in first half of 2026 to reprioritise proposed new reviews. Hopefully this will result in updated timeframes for what their plans are. No due date for when this will be published.

New process – Discussions with the APVMA have identified that new reviews may not officially start until an extensive pre-review analysis has been conducted to determine what are the current known risks, how products are used in Australia, using industry feedback, and what has been done internationally.

This pre-review consultation process is expected to allow a more streamlined review process, more opportunity for real farming use patterns to be considered and better transition planning if changes are needed to pesticide labels.

Faster Pathways for Low-Risk Products

APVMA stakeholder meetings have focused on making better use of existing low regulatory burden pathways that are potentially underused. These pathways are designed to align regulatory effort to low-risk products by use of standards and similar methods. The outcome of this improvement is faster access to lower risk products, and IPM support and sustainability.

Stronger Focus on Minor Use and Permit Access

Minor use permit access is recognised as a major industry pressure point. APVMA is realigning resources to increase permit application assessment. The outcome of this realignment should mean potentially faster permit approval and better continuity of existing permits.

APVMA REVIEW OF MINOR USE PERMIT: CLOTHIANIDIN / MANGO SEED WEEVIL

The minor use permit PER87799 Clothianidin (Sumitomo Shield Systemic Insecticide)/ Mango Seed Weevil expired on 31 March 2026.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has advised that the permit will not be re-issued until a revised environmental assessment has been completed. This is despite the application for its extension being submitted in September last year. Disappointingly, APVMA notified industry the permit would not be renewed in the week prior to its expiration.

APVMA plans to re-categorise the permit and undertake an updated environmental assessment to ensure the proposed use aligns with contemporary environmental risk standards. These assessments typically take around nine months to complete.

We will keep you updated on any developments, including advice, if the permit is re-issued or if there are any changes to the assessment timeline.

AGRONOMY FOR A DIVERSE FUTURE: DARWIN 2026

The 2026 Agronomy Australia Conference will be held in Darwin from **24 to 26 August 2026**, with regional field trips following from **27 August**. For the first time in the Society's 45-year history, the event will take place in the Northern Territory, reflecting the growth and innovation underway across agriculture in the north.

Hosted under the theme "Agronomy for a Diverse Future," the conference will explore the growing need for diversity in all facets of agronomy, from the crops grown and systems managed, to the landscapes stewarded and the technologies adopted. Subthemes range from crop and farming systems diversity to the integration of Indigenous knowledge, emerging technologies and multidisciplinary science.

The conference will have a special focus on agronomy in horticulture and will be held at Charles Darwin University's newly opened CBD Danala Campus. It will be followed by a range of unique industry tours where delegates will experience northern Australian developments, including mango farms during harvest, and broadacre crop research underway at leading facilities.

The conference offers the mango community a chance to connect with researchers and agronomists whose

work directly influences tropical and subtropical horticulture, to share on-ground experience, and to contribute to conversations shaping future research priorities. There are also opportunities for students, early-career researchers and industry partners to engage through a masterclass tailored for master's and PhD students designed to advance research skills and build industry networks.

Key dates for delegates to note include:

- Early bird registration closed on 10 April 2026
- Draft paper submissions due 24 April 2026
- Final paper submissions due 19 June 2026
- Conference dates 24 to 26 August 2026
- Regional field trips: 27 to 28 August 2026

For updates and more information, visit [our conference website](#) or connect with us on [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#). For enquiries, contact the organising committee at agronomy@agronomyaustralia.com.au.

The conference organisers look forward to welcoming the Australian mango community to Darwin in August 2026!

EMPLOYERS, BE PAYDAY SUPER READY FOR 1 JULY

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Act now to ensure you're ready by:

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3. checking your employees' information is correct - if you're receiving errors now, you need to review this data and fix the errors before 1 July
4. understanding how long it takes for your super payments to reach employees' funds
5. knowing where rejected payment errors could appear and how to fix them immediately
6. leaving the ATO's Small Business Super Clearing House (SBSCH) and downloading your transaction history, if you're a current user
7. understanding the consequences of late payments
8. knowing the key dates.

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A workshop to discuss compliance

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

We know that farming is tough right now, with the current Middle East conflict and fuel crisis making it even harder. Growers have been facing increasing production costs and diminishing returns for many years. Costs and bureaucracy associated with compliance continue to be a factor. Australian Mangoes in collaboration with other industry bodies continues to fight for improvements in this space.

On 25 March, the NFF Hort Council led a first of its kind workshop to have constructive discussion on long term opportunities to reduce the burden multiple compliance standards are having on growers.

Participants included growers and grower representatives, industry bodies, standard owners, certification bodies, auditors, and other interested parties with a direct role in the design, operation or experience of market driven compliance in Australian horticulture.

The workshop formed part of the Council's ongoing work following the release of its discussion paper *Aligning an Ensemble: Opportunities for Tuning Market Driven Compliance for Greater Harmony*.

Bringing representatives from multiple sectors in a workshop environment which encouraged open and honest discussion provided the opportunity for a greater understanding of the pressures growers are under. The workshop also enabled workshop participants to better appreciate the distinct roles, incentives and constraints of auditors, certification bodies, standard owners, retailers and international benchmarking organisations, and how these interact in practice.

Discussion highlighted the extent to which current arrangements, while originally well intentioned and often effective in managing risk, have evolved incrementally and without overall coordination, contributing to duplication, inconsistency and significant costs – particularly for growers.

The workshop identified a number of opportunities for improvements within the current system, including:

- Reducing duplication – the potential consolidation or closer alignment of emerging retail requirements, particularly where objectives are similar but expressed through different mechanisms; and
- Keeping export and domestic standards separate – the need to reduce conflict between international benchmarks and Australian law, policy and practice, ensuring that global credibility is maintained without imposing requirements that conflict with, or extend beyond, domestic regulatory settings.

The workshop acknowledged that multiple opportunities for improvement exist, spanning domestic and international settings, standards governance, audit practices and supply chain relationships.

Across discussions, a strong consensus emerged that, of all potential actions, the most important and enabling step for our industry is for suppliers to be better coordinated and organised in advancing their shared interests.

The workshop resolved that bodies representing the interests of growers and suppliers, including the NFF Horticulture Council, AUSVEG, the Australian Food and Grocery Council, and other relevant organisations, should convene to establish a working group. This group would provide a structured forum which would provide the opportunity for practical progress to be made.

The workshop further agreed that this working group should be industry led, reflecting the need for grower/supplier driven coordination and ownership. At the same time, participants emphasised that guidance and advice from certification bodies, standard owners and other key stakeholders would be needed for long term improvements which make a genuine difference for growers.



Alex Walrut (SEDEX), Azusa Yamamoto (SEDEX) and Veronica Papacosta (Australian Fresh Produce Alliance).



Johnathon Davey (Melons Australia), Jeremy Griffith (Apple & Pears Australia Ltd) and Heidi Binks (DAFF).



Growers and industry representatives, standard owners, certifying body and government representatives participated in the Compliance Workshop.

“The workshop acknowledged that multiple opportunities for improvement exist, spanning domestic and international settings, standards governance, audit practices and supply-chain relationships.”

— TREVOR DUNMALL

Next Steps

Workshop participants strongly supported the need for momentum to be maintained and not waste this opportunity to make progress in bringing efficiencies into current and future systems.

The NFF Horticulture Council will continue to engage with participants and representative bodies to support the establishment of agreed next steps consistent with the outcomes of the day.

CEO viewpoint

From my perspective this workshop was a real step in the right direction to bringing change into the compliance space. The workshop was valuable as we had constructive conversations with standard owners (e.g. HARPS, SEDEX) and certifying bodies. While acknowledging that reform won't be easy, we now have a path that could lead to meaningful change, but it is crucial that we maintain momentum. If we don't take advantage of the goodwill and shared commitment to improvement that emerged from the workshop, we may not have another opportunity.

I need to acknowledge the excellent work of the NFF Hort Council's Executive Officer, Richard Shannon. Rich organised and facilitated the workshop. His efforts in having multiple discussions with key business representatives in the lead up to the workshop generated a great deal of goodwill and that led to a valuable and constructive workshop.

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2025/26 Australian Mango Export Season Wrap-Up



Total Australian mango exports for the 2025/26 season reached 3,267 tonnes, down from 3,701 tonnes in the previous season, representing a decline of around 12% (-434 tonnes). The reduction was largely driven by softer performance in key markets, particularly New Zealand and several Asian destinations, despite growth in a number of smaller and emerging markets.

EXPORT TIMING AND SEASONAL FLOW

Weekly export data shows a clear concentration of shipments between October and January, with peak volumes occurring through November and December. Compared to the previous financial year (2024/25), export volumes tracked lower across most peak weeks, although the overall seasonal pattern remained consistent.

MARKET PERFORMANCE AND SHIFTS

Exports to New Zealand declined from the record highs observed in 2024/25, returning to levels more consistent with historical averages. New Zealand remained the largest export market, accounting for a significant share of total exports (37%). However, shipments declined significantly, with volumes down 27%, value down 40%, and prices down 17%. This was the primary driver of the overall export decline.

Singapore continues to be an important market for Australian mangoes, with export volumes increasing by 27%, and value increasing by 44%, indicating strengthening demand and improved market positioning.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) remained the third-largest market, recording a slight increase in volume and

reinforcing its role as a stable and reliable destination. Canada also showed steady gains, further supporting its position as a consistent growth market.

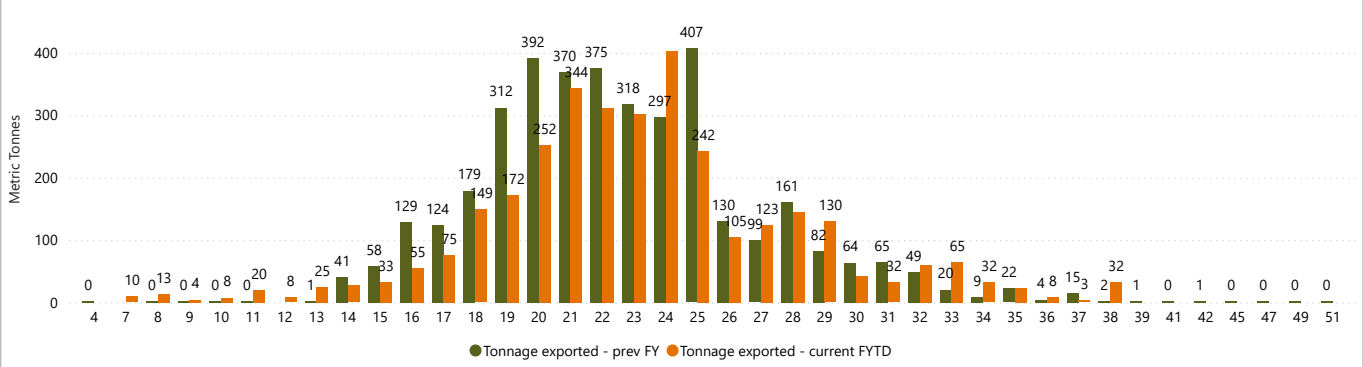
Despite a complex protocol requiring a Japanese MAFF inspector to oversee vapour heat treatment facilities, Japan recorded an increase in export volumes.

The United States stood out in value terms, with prices increasing by 32% to \$10.67/kg, making it the highest-value market on a per-kilogram basis.

In contrast, several Asian markets recorded declines:

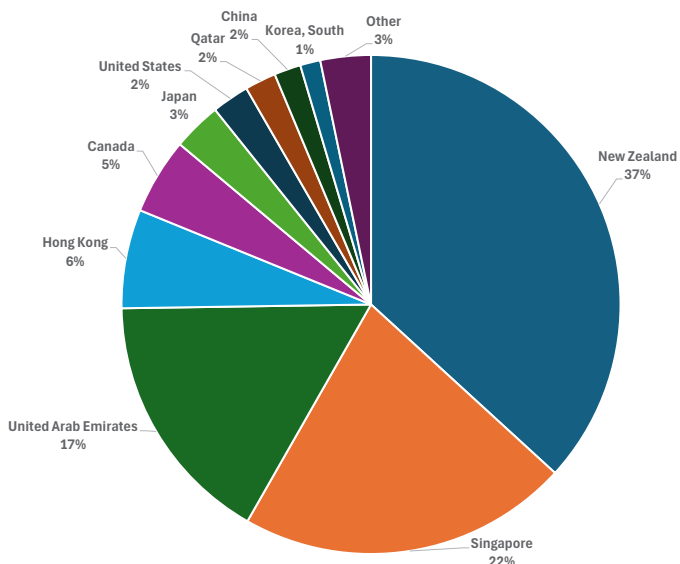
- Hong Kong decreased by 17%
- China fell sharply by 68%, the largest contraction across all markets
- South Korea also recorded lower volumes
- Qatar and Kuwait likewise experienced declines.

Tonnage exported by week (compared to previous financial year)



Markets	Volume in tonnes				Value in AU\$ Million			Average AU\$ per KG (FOB)		
	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	Jul 2025 to Feb 2026	Change % to 2024	Share %	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	Jul 2025 to Feb 2026	Change % to 2024	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	Jul 2025 to Feb 2026	Change % to 2024
TOTAL MANGOES	3701	3267	-12%	100%	20.62	18.01	-13%	5.57	5.51	-1%
New Zealand	1,653	1,202	-27%	37%	10.44	6.31	-40%	6.32	5.25	-17%
Singapore	553	701	27%	21%	2.18	3.13	44%	3.94	4.47	14%
United Arab Emirates	502	539	7%	17%	2.28	3.10	36%	4.54	5.76	27%
Hong Kong	251	209	-17%	6%	1.07	1.02	-5%	4.27	4.88	14%
Canada	153	161	6%	5%	1.07	1.25	17%	7.02	7.76	11%
Japan	81	103	26%	3%	0.38	0.48	27%	4.63	4.66	1%
United States	70	79	13%	2%	0.57	0.84	49%	8.10	10.67	32%
Qatar	98	66	-33%	2%	0.57	0.41	-28%	5.82	6.19	7%
China	176	56	-68%	2%	0.81	0.47	-42%	4.62	8.37	81%
Korea, South	66	43	-35%	1%	0.62	0.24	-61%	9.49	5.70	-40%
All other	99	107	8%	3%	0.63	0.74	16%			

Source: ABS data through HIS Global Trade Atlas.



These results reflect a combination of market access constraints, pricing pressure, and increased competition from other exporting countries. In addition, rainfall in late December and early January in Far North Queensland is likely to have reduced exports to protocol markets from this region, as fruit harvested under wet conditions would have been unsuitable for post-harvest phytosanitary treatments such as irradiation or vapour heat treatment.

MARKET DIVERSIFICATION

An encouraging trend was the continued broadening of the export base. "All other markets" grew by 8% in volume and 16% in value, including 40 tonnes exported to the United Kingdom, a market that has historically taken minimal volumes of Australian mangoes.

OUTLOOK

Looking ahead, strengthening relationships in growth markets such as the Middle East and North America, while maintaining established trade with New Zealand and Southeast Asia, will be key to sustaining export performance. However, ongoing conflict in the Middle East presents a level of uncertainty, with potential impacts on logistics, market access and demand in the region. In addition, persistent cost-of-living pressures and inflation across many export markets are likely to further constrain consumer spending, making it more challenging for premium products such as Australian mangoes to maintain price points and volumes.

Overall, the 2025/26 season can be characterised as a steady export year, with encouraging signs of market diversification and resilience across key destinations, despite an increasingly complex and uncertain global trading environment.

EXPORTER DIRECTORY - NOW LIVE ON THE AUSTRALIAN MANGOES WEBSITE!

The Exporter Directory is a centralised resource linking buyers, growers, and industry stakeholders with Australian mango exporters, facilitating trade connections and export opportunities.

If you are exporting mangoes and would like to be included in the directory, please contact Marine Empson, marine@mangoes.net.au.

Access the Exporter Directory [here](#).



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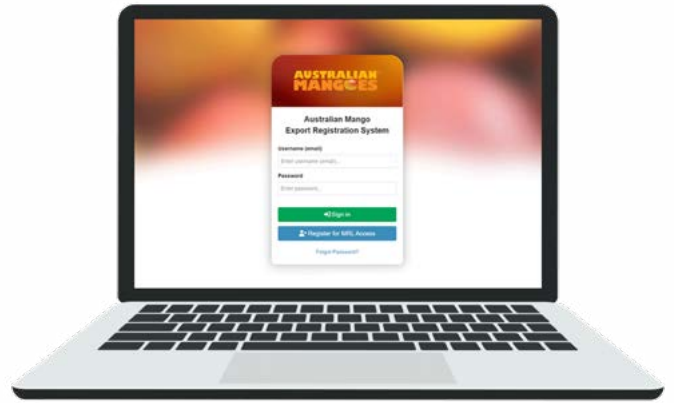


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NEW TOOL: Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) Search Platform



The Australian Mangoes MRL app has transitioned to a new platform. The MRL search function is now available online and as a mobile app, giving growers flexible access whether in the office or in the field. This system is part of the Australian Mango Export Registration System, also used to register for protocol markets (China, USA, and Korea).

Maximum Residue Limit (MRL)

A Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) is the highest level of chemical residue legally allowed in food produced and sold. MRLs are expressed in milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), which is equivalent to parts per million (ppm).

Each country sets its own MRLs, and these may differ significantly from those established in Australia. For Australian mango exporters, exceeding the MRL of a target market can result in consignment rejection and financial loss. Repeated breaches may also damage trade relationships and jeopardise ongoing market access.

All fruit destined for export must comply with the MRL requirements of the target country. It is essential to monitor residue levels in the fruit you source for export to ensure compliance. This MRL search platform has been developed to help growers and exporters quickly check relevant MRLs across markets, supporting export compliance.

Users of agricultural chemicals must always:

- Read and follow the product label or any minor use permit carefully.
- Comply strictly with all directions on the label and the conditions of any minor use permit.
- Maintain accurate and detailed records of all chemical applications, in accordance with State or Territory legislation.

Compliance with MRLs not only protects your market access but also supports safe and sustainable mango production.

Previous MRL App

The previous Australian Mangoes MRL app has now been decommissioned. Please remove the app from your device, as it is no longer supported.

Who can access the system?

- All mango growers can register and access the MRL search platform
- Third-party businesses (e.g. consultants, service providers) must be AMIA members to gain access

Not an AMIA member? [Click here](#) to learn more about joining.

Online

How to access:

- Log in with your existing account, or select “Register for MRL Access” to create a new account.
- Confirm your email via the automated confirmation message to activate your account.



Mobile App

How to access:

- Find the app by searching for “Exports Online” in the App Store (iOS) or Google Play (Android), click on the link below or scan the QR code.
- Select Mangoes as your commodity.
- Log in with your existing account, or select “Register for MRL Access” to create a new account.
- Confirm your email via the automated confirmation message to activate your account.



Both platforms provide the same functionality, allowing users to search MRLs and WHPs by market and active ingredient.

User Guide

Click the button below to view the full user guide which includes step-by-step instructions for registering and using both the online platform and mobile app.



Need Help? If you're having issues registering or accessing the system, contact: Marine Empson marine@mangoes.net.au

Sharing Insights from the Border

PEST INTERCEPTION WORKSHOP

On 17 March, the Northern Australia Biosecurity Strategy (NABS) hosted a Pest Interception Workshop to share information with stakeholders about pests being detected at Australia's international border.

The workshop was developed in response to feedback received during the July 2025 NABS Strategic Planning Workshop, where stakeholders highlighted the value of regular updates on pest interceptions. Access to this information can support improved planning, surveillance and preparedness across northern Australia.

The purpose of the workshop was simple: to provide stakeholders with the information they requested and respond to their needs.

Two expert presenters provided insights into recent interception data.

Bill Crowe presented on insect interceptions at the border. His data showed a notable increase in hitchhiker pests in 2024-25, while interceptions associated with cut flowers have decreased. Overall border detections are increasing only slightly, with most of that increase attributable to hitchhiker pests.

David Nehl provided the plant pathology perspective, sharing detection data from 2022-2024. During this period:

- 31 bacteria were detected (including 1 organism of unacceptable biosecurity risk - UBR)
- 62 fungi were detected (4 UBR)
- 310 viruses were detected (48 UBR)
- 22 viroids were detected (15 UBR)

The data highlights that many pests are being detected at the border before they enter Australia, providing strong evidence that the biosecurity system is functioning effectively.

Some of the pests intercepted at the border include the Brown marmorated stink bug, Khapra beetle, Coffee berry borer, Eastern flower thrips, and the Peanut snail, along with plant pathogens such as *Colletotrichum aenigma*.

By sharing this information, NABS hopes to encourage more transparent communication across stakeholder groups, provide useful intelligence for planning surveillance and preparedness activities, and build confidence in Australia's biosecurity system.



Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB).

BMSB - while not considered a high priority exotic pest of mangoes, it is a high priority pest for other Australian crops. Originating in east Asia, BMSB has spread rapidly to other countries and is often associated with the movement of freight, so is detected close to ports. Past interceptions close to Australian ports have been detected and eradicated quickly and highlight the importance of surveillance for early detection.

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2025/26 Australian Mango Season Overview



Overall, the 2025/26 mango season was characterised by multiple flowering events across most regions, which extended the harvest period and created a stop-start pattern for growers, often requiring multiple picks.

The season was shaped by significant weather events, including Tropical Cyclone Koji in Far North Queensland, hailstorms in Southeast Queensland, and a severe heatwave in Carnarvon, all contributing to yield reductions and quality losses across affected regions.

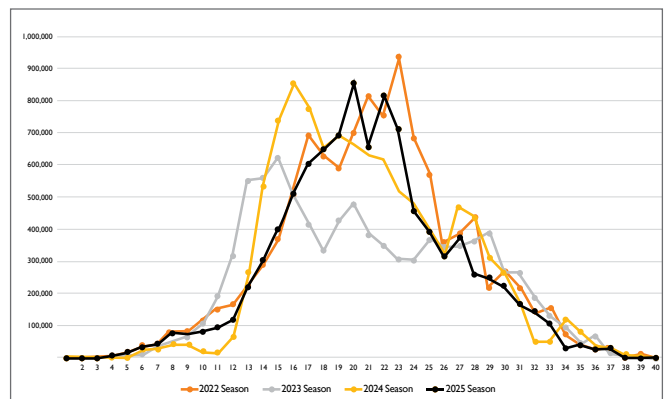
Post-season, heavy rainfall brought by tropical lows and Tropical Cyclone Narelle caused flooding in the Gilbert River and Katherine regions. While these events occurred in the off-season and did not affect the crop directly, they have caused damages to infrastructure, and the potential impact on next season's production is unknown.

However, while final levy data is still pending, the season appears to have delivered moderate to high volumes. Despite the extended and staggered picking, supply was relatively concentrated overall.

COMPARATIVE SEASONAL SUPPLY TRENDS (2022-2025)

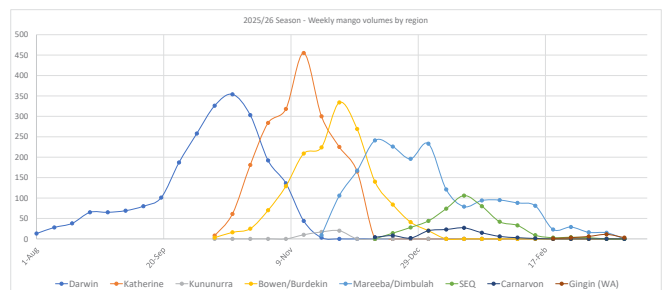
Graph 1 compares weekly mango dispatch volumes across the last four seasons (2022/23 to 2025/26) and highlights clear differences in both timing and concentration of supply. The 2022/23 season shows a strong, high-volume peak through the middle of the season, while 2023/24 is more moderate and relatively flatter, with lower peak intensity spread across a longer period. The 2024/25 season is characterised by a sharper and earlier peak, followed by an earlier decline in volumes. In contrast, the 2025/26 season delivers a high overall volume similar to 2022/23, but with supply occurring earlier and more tightly concentrated within a shorter peak window. Overall, the comparison shows that while total volumes in 2025/26 align with strong historical seasons, the flow of fruit is more compressed, indicating a more concentrated supply period.

The season was shaped by significant weather events, including Tropical Cyclone Koji in Far North Queensland, hailstorms in Southeast Queensland, and a severe heatwave in Carnarvon.



Graph 1: Weekly mango dispatch volumes (7kg trays eq.) by season from 2022/23 to 2025/26, based on levy data.

The 2025/26 season also saw a notable overlap in regional harvest timing, particularly during the peak supply window towards the end of November, when volumes from Bowen/Burdekin, Katherine, and Mareeba/Dimbulah coincided (Graph 2). This resulted in challenging market conditions for growers during peak supply.



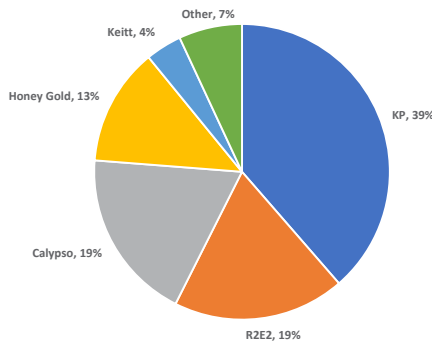
Graph 2: Weekly mango dispatch volumes by region for the 2025/26 season.

VARIETY MIX

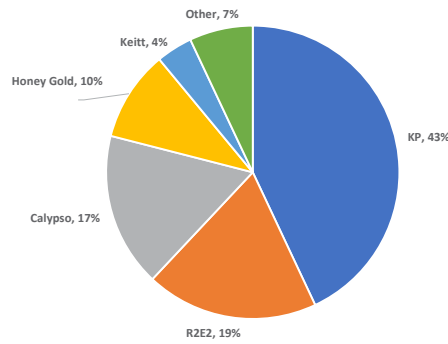
The variety mix this season shows some small differences compared to the previous season. Kensington Pride (KP) accounted for 43% of the crop, similar to the levels seen in the 2022/23 season and an increase compared to the 2024/25 season. This resulted in a slight decrease in the share of other varieties.

Please note this analysis is based on reported volumes from the 69 participating businesses in our crop flow reporting.

2024/25 VARIETY MIX*



2025/26 VARIETY MIX*



*Source: AMIA grower crop flow data.

Late-season varieties extended supply into February, with growers gradually winding down.

Carnarvon

Carnarvon had a strong flowering and promising crop, with growers expecting above average volumes. In the lead up to harvest, weather conditions remained mostly mild, which has been beneficial for fruit development. Harvest began early to mid-December, with small volumes dispatched to market, and reaching full swing in January with strong and consistent volumes throughout the month. However, the tail end of the season was heavily impacted and cut short by a severe heatwave in late January, causing significant sunburn damage and crop losses, particularly to late-season varieties.

Tropical Cyclone Narelle moved through the region in late March, after the season had concluded. Although it brought flooding and strong winds that caused relatively limited damage to trees, growers welcomed the additional water and increased river flows it delivered.

Gingin / Dandaragan

The region had good flowering but patchy fruit set, depending on variety. Harvest began mid to late February and continued through March with steady volumes, with the final volumes slightly higher than anticipated.

Some heat events caused sunburn damage to the crop, but overall conditions were favourable, allowing a clean finish to the season.

CROP FORECAST AND DISPATCH REPORT

Now that the 2025/26 mango season has concluded, the detailed Crop Forecast and Dispatch report is now publicly available on our [website](#). This report provides a comprehensive overview of seasonal crop movements, including actual dispatch volumes collected throughout the season with input from growers and packhouses across Australia. Covering approximately 80% of national production, the data provides valuable insight into harvest timing, regional supply patterns, and market flow dynamics that support planning, logistics, and industry analysis.

Access the full report [here](#).



REGIONAL SUMMARIES

Darwin

The season started slow and patchy, with uneven flowering and extended cool conditions delaying fruit development. This resulted in a staggered harvest and an extended picking window. Small volumes were picked from mid-August, but the bulk of the crop was delayed until late September through October.

Once temperatures increased, harvest ramped up quickly, with strong volumes through October. However, the season remained more spread out than usual, requiring multiple picks. Some storms caused minor fruit losses, but overall impact was limited. By early November, most growers had finished.

Katherine

Katherine experienced a strong and consistent flowering. Fruit development was initially slowed by cool nights but improved as temperatures increased.

Harvest began mid-October and ramped up quickly with significant volumes through November. The region delivered a solid crop, with good yields across most varieties despite some patchiness in KP.

The season wound down through late November into early December, with later varieties extending supply.

Kununurra

Kununurra had a promising start, with strong flowering and expectations of higher volumes than the previous year. However, fruit set from later flowering was weaker, leading to some fruit drop and moderating overall yield expectations.

The season started later than usual (late October), with volumes increasing through November. Harvest was spread out due to staggered flowering, requiring multiple picks.

Most growers had completed harvest by early December.

Mareeba / Dimbulah (Far North QLD)

This region saw high variability in flowering and fruit set, with orchards often carrying fruit at multiple stages. This led to a long, staggered harvest requiring multiple picks.

Harvest began mid-November, ramped up through December, and continued into late January–February for late-season varieties. Rain and monsoonal conditions intermittently slowed harvest and logistics and negatively impacted fruit quality, reducing availability of premium and Class 1 fruit.

Late-season varieties (Keitt, Palmer, Brooks) extended supply through to March.

Bowen / Burdekin

Similar to other regions such as Darwin and Mareeba, the Bowen–Burdekin experienced multiple flowering events, which extended the harvest period and resulted in a stop-start picking pattern with multiple passes required.

Harvest began with small volumes in October, ramping up through November and peaking in early December. The overlap with Katherine and Dimbulah contributed to downward pressure on domestic prices during the main supply window. Fruit quality was generally excellent, supported by warm, dry conditions and low pest pressure. By mid-December, most growers had completed harvest.

Central Queensland / South East Queensland

Flowering was slow and staggered, resulting in fruit developing across multiple stages and contributing to a spread-out harvest.

Harvest began late November to December, with volumes increasing into January (peak period). Weather events (rain from tropical systems) caused temporary slowdowns, but overall fruit quality remained good.

YOUR LEVIES



5 Things to Know

Sarah Strutt, Industry Service Manager, Hort Innovation

As part of ongoing efforts to improve communication around how industry levies are invested, this Hort Innovation update shares five timely and relevant insights for the mango industry.

1. A new Mango Investment Roadmap is coming

Grower input has informed the next Mango Investment Roadmap, which will replace the current Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) when it concludes at the end of June.

The roadmap builds on issues identified at R&D workshops held by AMIA in 2025, and priority themes in the current

Industry SIP. The opportunity to have input was provided to all growers via a feedback form circulated in My Mango. In total, more than 100 growers and others in the industry have informed this work. There has been input from all the growing regions and full range of business sizes.

Top priorities included:

- Optimisation of production systems to produce better yields with fewer inputs
- Biosecurity preparedness
- Crop protection - including regulation support, new and emerging solutions and the integration of chemical and other tools into pest and disease management approaches
- Supply and production data and insights - including data and support to reduce compliance burden, not just insights
- Increasing domestic demand
- Driving export growth
- Extension and communication - supporting peer-to-peer collaboration not just broad extension, to inform and support grower awareness and uptake of research and practices to improve their profitability.

What happens next: The draft roadmap has been endorsed by the Mango Strategic Investment Advisory Panel. The plan will be shared with growers in a new dashboard coming online in September. This digital and dynamic plan will improve visibility of your levy investments, the ability to regularly review and adjust priorities, and to identify opportunities for cross-industry investment.



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2. Strengthening industry advice through the Strategic Investment Advisory Panel (SIAP)

The Mango Strategic Investment Advisory Panel (SIAP) is made up of growers and industry representatives who provide advice on how your levy funds are invested across R&D and marketing.

Following a strong response to a call for expressions of interest, the panel has been expanded to include three new panellists from the industry in the Northern Territory. Daniel Niceforo and Leo Skliros are growers from the Katherine and Darwin regions, and Ashlee Kilmartin works in the mango supply chain for Nutrano Produce Group, who have orchards in the NT.

This strengthens representation for this major production region and broadens the mix of perspectives to ensure levy investments deliver value across all regions and the wider supply chain.

In parallel, AMIA and Hort Innovation are working together to better link future regional R&D workshops with updates on levy investment progress and planning for emerging issues and opportunities.

3. Industry data: what the numbers are telling us

The Australian Horticulture Statistics Handbook 2024/25 was released in late February and provides a snapshot of how the mango industry is tracking.

Key highlights include:

- Mango production of 73,039 tonnes in 2024/25
- Production value reaching \$232.5 million
- Per-capita consumption up 7% year-on-year to 2.43 kg

Growers are encouraged to explore the handbook to support business planning, investment decisions and conversations about the future direction of the mango industry.

4. Supporting growers turning research into practice

The levy-funded mango communications ([MG21001](#)) and extension ([MG21002](#)) projects continue to help growers stay across the latest R&D and support the adoption of practices to improve their farming business.

This includes regular updates through My Mango and the pre-season roadshows, as well as support on-farm through visits and best-management-practice resources.

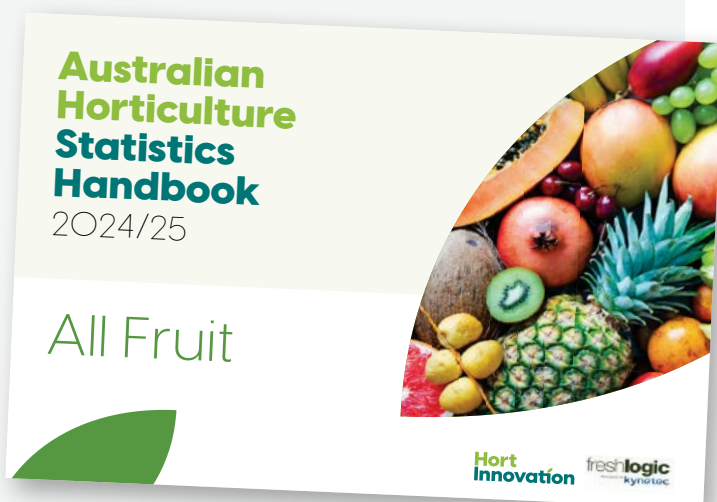
Key highlights this year include:

- Continued improvement in crop forecasting, including orchard mapping, to provide growers with better information to support on farm decision making.
- Facilitation of grower R&D workshops to share latest knowledge and gain insight to future needs for research and development.
- The introduction of on farm demonstration trials, designed to showcase best practice and support adoption where it makes sense for individual businesses.

5. Stay informed

Hort Innovation shares regular updates on levy investments, projects and opportunities, but you're in control of what you receive. If you already get our emails, simply click 'Manage Preferences' at the bottom of the next email you receive from Hort Innovation to choose the communications that matter most to you.

Not receiving any Hort Innovation updates? You can [sign up via the Hort Innovation website](#) and select which emails you'd like to receive, whether that's industry news, project updates or opportunities to get involved.



The handbook is available [here](#).



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Update on Mango Twig Tip Dieback (MTTD)

Mango Twig Tip Dieback (MTTD), linked to *Botryosphaeriaceae* fungi and plant stress (drought being the most common), remains a significant concern for growers in the Greater Darwin production region. The disease affects young shoots and branches, leading to canopy thinning, reduced flowering and lower yields. With symptoms recurring annually at the start of the dry season, the need for robust management tools is clear. At present, MTTD outbreaks have only been reported in the Greater Darwin Mango production Region.

Causal agents

Opportunistic, endemic (non-exotic), stem end rot fungi in the *Botryosphaeriaceae* family, particularly *Lasiodiplodia spp.* and *Neofusicoccum spp.*, have been identified as causal agents of MTTD. These fungi are well-known, latent pathogens that can remain dormant within host tissues and become pathogenic under stress conditions. Spores are produced on leaves, dead twigs and branches and dispersed by wind and rain splash.

What to look for

- Dark, unilateral lesions developing along the mid-section of twigs, commonly associated with necrotic or dead leaves (Figure 2).
- Leaf wilting and premature leaf drop.
- Reduction of vegetative flushing and canopy renewal.
- Progressive tree decline characterised by branch death, and reduced productivity.

Progress on the Mango Twig Tip Dieback (MTTD) Project

Collaborative work to better understand and manage MTTD continues to advance across the Northern Territory, with the NT Government, Australian Mango Industry Association, NT Mango Industry Association and NT Farmers Association jointly driving this important multi-year project.

As part of the ongoing project, researchers and industry partners are progressing work in several key areas, including:

- Regional surveillance and pathogen identification to determine distribution and monitor disease behaviour.
- Spore monitoring and environmental analysis to better understand seasonal triggers and disease cycle of the *Botryosphaeriaceae* causing MTTD in the NT.
- Cultivar susceptibility assessments to identify potential varietal differences in resilience to *Lasiodiplodia* complex and *Neofusicoccum sp.*
- Stress physiology research exploring how drought and other stressors influence infection.

- Field treatment trials, including pruning, irrigation-scheduling, testing systemic fungicides and phosphonate-based approaches.

Further field trials through the dry and wet seasons will continue to refine integrated strategies aimed at slowing disease progression and minimising productivity loss.

Management Strategies

Growers are encouraged to use integrated management practices to reduce the impact of MTTD. These practices include:

- Early detection and monitoring of symptoms in orchards.
- Pruning infected twigs and branches and dispose by burning, deep burial or removal from orchard.
- Reducing stress on trees through balanced irrigation, nutrition and canopy management.
- Maintaining orchard hygiene to prevent the spread of pathogens (ex: equipment sanitation).
- Applying fungicides where recommended.

A new fact sheet is now available to support growers with practical information on identifying symptoms, understanding causal agents, and implementing management options.

Download the Mango Twig Tip Dieback fact sheet PDF [here](#).




The fact sheet, titled 'Mango Twig Tip Dieback (MTTD)', provides detailed information on the disease. It includes sections for 'What is it?', 'What to look for', 'Causal Agents', and 'Spread'. The 'What to look for' section lists symptoms such as dark lesions on twigs, wilting, and leaf drop. The 'Causal Agents' section identifies *Lasiodiplodia* complex and *Neofusicoccum sp.* as the primary pathogens. The 'Spread' section explains that the disease is transmitted by wind and rain splash from infected twigs and leaves.



PHOTO CREDIT: NTDAF.

Figure 1. Spore trapping and on-site weather monitoring to support investigations into environmental drivers of MTTD.



PHOTO CREDIT: NTDAF.

Figure 2. Dark lesions mid twig, with associated necrotic and dead leaves.

Laser Branding on Mangoes: Trial Insights

As part of the Australian Mangoes Demonstration Site Program, a laser branding trial was conducted in collaboration with Natural Branding Australia, Manbulloo and Rudge Produce to test whether this emerging technology could provide a viable alternative to plastic fruit stickers.

Why look at laser branding?

Plastic fruit stickers are widely used for branding and traceability, but growing environmental concerns and regulatory pressure have prompted businesses to explore alternatives. Laser branding may offer a non-plastic solution with permanent marking and greater flexibility in design, including logos and QR codes or data matrices. Laser branding uses a low-energy laser to selectively alter the outer layer of the fruit's skin, removing or modifying natural pigments to create a visible mark. The process does not use inks, instead, it relies on controlled heating to produce contrast.



The trial used data matrices and QR codes, encoded with unique identifiers.

Trial details

Variety: Keitt (Mutchilba)

Packed: 31 January 2026

Branding conducted: 9 February 2026 at Natural Branding Australia's laboratory in Melbourne.

Assessments included: logo readability, fruit appearance, skin integrity, scannability of QR/data matrix codes, and shelf-life.

Treatment	Number of fruit
Small Data Matrix	18
Large QR Codes	18
Untreated control	22

Results and discussion

Scannability

Initial scannability was high, and logos were clearly visible, although legibility was slightly reduced on green or blushed areas of the fruit.

- Small data matrices remained scannable for up to 7 days on some fruit.
- Large QR codes failed after Day 3, showing that smaller, simpler codes are more robust.

Two leading reasons for loss of scannability were identified:

1. Lenticel spotting as fruit ages
2. Darkening of skin around the branding



Day 3 (13 Feb) – Both images above show that flesh underneath branded area remains unaffected.

Shelf-life and fruit quality

Laser-branded fruit had approximately 50% shorter shelf life compared with untreated fruit, with sunken branding marks the primary defect.

Some sap oozing and surface flattening occurred in branded areas, but the fruit flesh remained unaffected (Refer to Day 3 photos).

Softening, wrinkling, and shrivelling occurred quickly, likely due to moisture evaporation accelerated by the thinning of skin caused by the laser.

Interestingly, fruit stored branded side down maintained better appearance and scannability than fruit stored branded side up, confirming that moisture loss drives surface defects.

Treatment	Average shelf life (days from receipt by Rudge Produce)
Untreated control	6.9 days (range from 3 to 11 days)
Small data matrix	3.2 days (sunken data matrix)
Large QR code	3.3 days (sunken QR code)

While the technology shows potential, these results have helped identify key areas for further optimisation, particularly around protecting the branded surface.

Trial limitation

For logistical reasons, fruit was branded 9 days after harvest, later than would occur commercially. Earlier branding at the hard green stage may improve outcomes. The trial was done on Keitt, a late season variety and it is likely that there will be differences in trial results with other varieties.

Time-lapse observations

NBA retained a subset of fruit to a produce time-lapse video in their Melbourne lab, tracking ageing over 15 days. The video is available below. Please note that conditions were relatively warm, with fruit exposed to continuous LED lighting throughout the period.

Timelapse video (~1 min): [YouTube](#)

What's next?

Further optimisation is required before laser branding can be commercially viable for mangoes. Future trials should explore:

- Branding on different fruit areas (shoulder vs cheek)
- White branding for faster marking with improved contrast (photo below)
- Coatings, such as beeswax, to reduce moisture loss and sunken areas
- Effects on other key mango varieties



White laser branding works well on blushed areas but is less distinct on yellow skin due to low contrast.

Follow-Up Test: Beeswax Coating

Following the Manbulloo trial, Natural Branding Australia (NBA) conducted a small, separate follow-up test using Brooks mangoes sourced from retail. This work was undertaken in response to the main trial findings, which identified moisture loss from the branded area as a key driver of reduced shelf life.

In this assessment, three Brooks mangoes were branded using the white-style laser settings. One of the mangoes was additionally coated in beeswax after branding to seal it against moisture loss. The uncoated branded fruit showed the same shelf-life reduction as seen in the main trial. Importantly, the wax-coated fruit achieved full shelf-life and full scannability throughout its entire commercial life (see photo below). While based on a very small sample, these results show that surface sealing could be a practical path to resolving moisture loss limitations.



Beeswax applied to the branded area to reduce moisture loss and improve surface protection.

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Acknowledgements

The Australian Mangoes Demonstration Site Program is delivered in collaboration with the Northern Territory Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank Manbulloo, Natural Branding Australia and Rudge Produce for their collaboration on this trial. Industry partnerships like this are essential for testing practical solutions that can benefit the broader mango sector. Special thanks to Damien Armistead from Rudge Produce for his assistance in monitoring the fruit in Melbourne.





Supply Chain Engagement Update

By Jenna McManus, Australian Mangoes Supply Chain Engagement Manager.

The 2025/26 Australian mango season delivered strong outcomes across retail and wholesale, driven by exceptional fruit quality, visible retail promotion and engaged store teams. Mangoes once again proved to be the hero fruit of the season, with shoppers flocking to stores as soon as fruit arrived and momentum building early.

Quick season snapshot

- Strong early-season activation across major and independent retailers
- High-quality fruit consistently recognised for colour, aroma and eating experience
- Creative, front-of-store displays drove visibility during peak trading

- Updated resources supported confident selling and purchasing in-store
- Point of sale (POS) helped independents improve in-store execution
- Sales challenges energised store teams and encouraged creative displays

What We Heard From The Season

Retailers and wholesalers described the season as one of the strongest in recent years, particularly from a fruit quality and customer engagement perspective. Both major retailers and independents reported positive shopper feedback, reinforcing the Australian mango season as one of the most anticipated times of year for store teams and customers alike. The season highlighted the value of:

- Early activation to build momentum
- Education to support confident selling and purchasing
- Simple, effective POS to lift in store execution
- Maintaining engagement beyond the festive peak and into the new year

Early Engagement Set The Tone

Retailer engagement was strongest early in the season, with many stores activating mango displays and promotional activity from the outset. Large, front of store displays helped create a sense of abundance and draw shopper attention during the key summer and festive period.

Independent retailers leaned into creative merchandising, while major retailers supported mango visibility through catalogue and promotional features, online content and in store signage. Woolworths' custom mango tree displays featured in more than 500 A grade stores nationwide, positioning mangoes as a hero category early in the season.

Education Supported Confidence In Store

Clear, consistent education supported store teams and shoppers throughout the season. Messaging around mango varieties, ripeness, handling and preparation was frequently referenced as helpful in supporting confident conversations at store level.

Updated retailer resources, including the Australian Mangoes Retail Guide and supporting educational materials, provided practical guidance and consistent messaging across



independent retailers and wholesalers. The season reinforced the importance of straightforward, easy to use education material in supporting quality outcomes and reducing purchase hesitation. Looking ahead, resources will continue to evolve to include more information on varieties and seasonal timing.

Point Of Sale Supported In Store Execution

Point of sale (POS) remained an important tool, particularly for independent retailers. More than 1,700 pieces of Australian Mangoes POS were distributed during the season, with a strong focus on supporting independents and the wholesaler network.

These materials helped retailers build impactful displays, reinforce seasonal messaging and encourage impulse purchase at the point of decision. While major supermarkets largely rely on their own in store collateral, independents responded positively to industry-provided POS that was simple to implement and aligned with national marketing activity.

Sales challenges drove creativity and engagement

National in store sales challenges with Woolworths and Metcash helped activate store teams and encourage creative execution. The Metcash challenge saw strong participation from independent retailers, with 22 final entries showcasing creative displays, effective use of Australian Mangoes POS and cross merchandising with categories such as beverages, Christmas lines and other in season fruit.

Winning stores included Balaklava Foodland in South Australia and IGA Beachmere in Queensland. Woolworths results are still being finalised; however, end of season conversations point to strong participation across stores. Retailer feedback highlighted that these initiatives helped motivate teams, encourage collaboration and bring energy to mango displays. The season also highlighted the opportunity to activate challenges earlier and maintain momentum through the post Christmas period.

Focus for the season ahead

As the industry turns its attention to the next season, the focus is on building on what worked early, continuing to strengthen education and POS as practical tools, and maintaining close collaboration with retailers and wholesalers.

By starting conversations earlier, evolving sales challenges and expanding educational support, Australian Mangoes can continue to support strong in store execution and keep mangoes front of mind from the first fruit through to the final varieties of the season.



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2025/26 Mango Marketing Program Update

Elyse Allum, Associate Marketing Manager, Hort Innovation

The Australian Mangoes marketing program is funded by Hort Innovation, using the mango marketing levy. Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australian horticulture.

Developed in consultation with the Mango Marketing Strategic Investment Advisory Panel (SIAP), the 2025-2026 mango marketing program was built around three strategic pillars.

<p>PILLAR ONE</p> <p>Celebrate the iconic joy that is mangoes</p>	<p>PILLAR TWO</p> <p>Be unmissable in retail over the mango season</p>	<p>PILLAR THREE</p> <p>Share the joy of Aussie Mangoes beyond our shores</p>
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The objective of the mangoes' marketing plan was to make positive increases in household penetration. The target audience for the campaign was main grocery buyers (18+), with marketing activities targeting key periods within the season.



PILLAR ONE 1

Celebrate the iconic joy that is mangoes

Marketing activities launched in September 2025 and wrapped in mid-February 2026, and included:

'Taste the Sunshine' campaign

Brisbane Markets 'Mango Auction' Sponsorship:

Australian Mangoes continued its sponsorship of the Brisbane Markets 'Mango Auction', leveraging the symbolic first tray of mangoes to generate mass awareness and media coverage marking the return of the mango season.

Held on 18 September 2025, the event raised more than \$81,000 for charity. The auction generated **331 pieces of media coverage** and more than **33 million opportunities to see** mango messaging across television, radio, print, online and social media, reinforcing its role as a highly effective season launch moment.

'Tis the Season for Mangoes - earned media activation:

In 2025 a new, disruptive earned media moment launched in November to drive mass coverage and awareness of mangoes in a key seasonal period.

The 'Tis the Season for Mangoes campaign combined festive Christmas lights with the joy of Australian mangoes. Partnering with mango lover and Christmaslights enthusiast Alex Mangos, the campaign saw the first lights of the season switched on, not for Christmas but to transform his home into a vibrant mango wonderland, complete with mango lights, decorations, and fresh fruit.

Overall, the campaign generated **66 pieces of media coverage** across television, print, online and social media, creating **29.6 million opportunities to see** mango key messages, driving cultural relevance for mangoes during a key seasonal moment.



Social media influencer partnerships

To extend brand visibility and inspire consumers beyond the audience of Australian Mangoes' owned channels, this season we partnered with two foodie and lifestyle influencers. Each of the influencers supported the campaign through attending and promoting the 'Tis the Season' activation and additionally promoted a mango recipe/consumption moment across both Instagram and TikTok.

In total, **11 pieces of content** were shared on social media, **reaching over 804K people** and **generating 1.1 million video views**.

Paid media

With two-thirds of consumers purchasing mangoes on impulse, Australian mangoes were advertised across a range of both pre-store and instore mass reaching media channels, to drive consumer awareness and demand on their path to purchase journey. Paid media promotions ran from 1st October 2025 to mid-February 2026 and included:

- **Out-of-home retail display panels:** Static and digital panels were strategically placed near retail locations, including within shopping centres and supermarket store entrances to target shoppers and remind them to purchase mangoes on their path to purchase journey. Retail displays were live throughout the entirety of the campaign (October – February). **Over 4.3 million consumers were reached** throughout the campaign at a strong, cost-efficient rate of only **\$3.68 per 1000 consumers reached** (reach measures the number of consumers exposed to the advertisement).
- **YouTube advertising:** As the world's largest video sharing platform, YouTube was utilised to promote Australian mangoes and raise awareness of campaign messaging among consumers from November to February. Leveraging both 6 second and 15 second advertisements to prompt consumers to add to their shopping list, **1.5 million Aussies were reached** throughout the campaign, with **94% of consumers completing the videos in full**.
- **Social media advertising (Facebook and Instagram):** Throughout the season Australian Mangoes were promoted across mangoes owned social media channels (Facebook and Instagram) with the objective of reaching consumers at mass and driving in season reminders and consumption inspiration pre-store.

3.7 million consumers were reached via social media advertising throughout the campaign at a strong, cost effective rate of **\$2.29 per 1000 consumers reached**.

PILLAR TWO

Be unmissable in retail
over the mango season

2

Instore & online promotions

Mangoes were promoted in retail throughout the season, both instore and online, targeting consumers at the point of purchase. Activities include:

- **Supply chain engagement manager:** A dedicated supply chain engagement manager provided timely information and educational resources to supply chain stakeholders, supporting retailers with marketing materials, production forecasts and industry insights.
- **Instore visibility:** Collaboration with independent retailers on point-of-purchase displays and promotions.
- **Retail online:** Woolworths and Coles advertising targeted online shoppers, reminding consumers to add a mango to their cart to drive incremental sales and mangoes online share. Overall this activity generated 970K impressions (content displays) with over 2,000 clicks through to product.



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PILLAR THREE 3

Share the joy of Aussie mangoes beyond our shores

Export marketing: New Zealand & Singapore

New Zealand: Leveraging the domestic ‘Taste The Sunshine’ creative assets, the New Zealand marketing program included advertising across shopping centre panels and social media (Facebook and Instagram) to drive consumer awareness of mango availability in market. Activity ran from November until early January 2026. On shopper centre panels the campaign reached a total of **624K people**, while on social media **over 1.3 million consumers were reached** throughout the campaign.

Singapore: In Singapore, Australian mangoes were promoted via retail promotions and social media influencers with the objective of building awareness and preference among consumers and retail stakeholders.

In retail, we activated across two major chains, Giant and Cold Storage, with 36 sampling sessions across 12 stores. These activations provided hands-on education, allowing shoppers

to taste the product and ask questions to build confidence in choosing Australian mangoes. To further drive conversion, the campaign included a gift-with-purchase mechanic, with ice lolly moulds offered on minimum spend, encouraging bigger basket size and reinforcing mangoes as a fun, versatile ingredient. The campaign was also supported by point-of-sale materials and instore displays, ensuring a consistent brand presence and reinforcing our premium positioning at every touchpoint. Overall, Cold Storage and Giant reported a combined 95% sales uplift versus non-promotional periods (Giant +170%, Cold Storage Fresh +80%), despite the presence of lower-priced mangoes from other origins. *(Non-promotional period = vs the week prior, when Australian Mangoes were available but without promotion).*

On social media, two Singapore-based food and healthy living influencers created recipe reels and Instagram stories to showcase how Australian mangoes can be integrated into everyday meals, helping position them as both premium and versatile. Overall, this content reached over 55,000 consumers and generated almost 3,000 engagements (likes, comments, shares, saves).

Next steps:

In early April, the Mango Marketing SIAP reviewed the program’s performance, key data and insights, and workshopped activity planning for the season ahead. A full update with campaign details will be shared in an upcoming edition of *Mango Matters*.



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