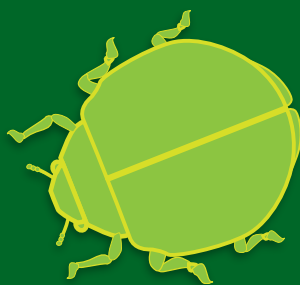


BUGS FOR BUGS



Bugs for Bugs Update

Spring 2017



Bugs for Bugs is expanding

We are in the midst of exciting times at Bugs for Bugs. With increasing demand for our products and services, our business has grown steadily. We are pleased to announce the opening of a new head office in Toowoomba to complement our existing operations in Mundubbera and Sunshine Coast. The new facility is ideally located in one of Australia's leading agricultural service centres.

Our new facility includes state-of-the-art climate controlled insect rearing rooms and a new packaging and despatch centre.

Our wish for improved reliability and expanded production capacity have driven this move. We have always had a strong focus on research and development and our new facility gives us the opportunity to intensify our efforts in this area.

We have been very busy setting up the new site and moving precious insect and mite cultures to their new home. Our staff have worked tirelessly to ensure continuous supply of biocontrol agents to our valued customers during this period of transition.

While many of our experienced staff have made the move to Toowoomba, a dedicated team will stay on in Mundubbera to maintain primary cultures of several biocontrol agents as well as back-up cultures.

We are thankful for the support Bugs for Bugs has received over many years and trust that with this new facility we will be able to provide even better products and services.



IPM in the dry tropics



From left: Dale Abbott, Melita and Jamie Jurgens, and Paul Jones (Bugs for Bugs)

Outstanding results for Vee Jay's Kalfresh

Fifth generation growers Jamie and Melita Jurgens continue a 102 year tradition of vegetable production near Bowen, North Queensland. They are recognised as innovative and progressive producers of a wide range of vegetables including tomatoes, capsicums, eggplants, beans and pumpkins. Trading under the brand name Vee Jay's Kalfresh they have established a strong reputation for quality produce that is sold into many markets including Australia's supermarket chains.

A little time spent with Jamie and Melita soon reveals the passion that has led to their success. They have led the way in sustainable management practices. These include a strong focus on improved soil health, water management, nutrition (soil mineralisation) and integrated pest management. More recently they have transitioned part of their farm to organic production. Achieving organic status has not been easy – a rigorous process which commenced 4 years ago.

Local identity and IPM specialist Dale Abbott (Bowen Crop Monitoring) works closely with the Jurgens family. His input has helped them achieve an outstanding reduction in the use of synthetic pesticides. Bugs for Bugs is proud to be part of this success story, supplying a range of beneficial insects and mites for strategic release into this district where pest management has always been challenging.



Silverleaf whitefly is the most important pest of vegetables in the dry tropics. Following significant research input by both CSIRO and QDPI, Bugs for Bugs has developed a mass rearing method for the parasitic wasp *Eretmocerus hayati*. This has paved the way for a true IPM approach in this important vegetable growing region - one of the 'salad bowls' of Australian horticulture.

A range of other beneficial species have been incorporated into Vee Jay's release strategy. These include *Trichogramma* and *Aphidius* wasps, *Californicus* mites, green lacewings and spotted ladybirds. This suite of 'good guys' helps to control many pests including caterpillars, aphids, and mites.

Reducing toxic pesticides and improving local environmental conditions in and around the farm are an important part of this success story. These practices help both our beneficials and the wealth of naturally occurring species to flourish in what otherwise would have been a hostile environment.

Bugs for Bugs applauds the Jurgens family for having the foresight to adopt such industry leading practices.

Product updates



Our yellow sticky traps do a great job of catching western flower thrips!

They are useful for both monitoring and mass trapping – an essential item in your IPM toolkit.

Our spotted ladybird proves its value in the fight against aphids.

We are getting excellent feedback from customers that have tried this new product. It has been successfully deployed in field crops and gardens to control aphids.

This predator lends itself well to early introduction and targeted hotspot treatment. For best results, inoculate your crop at the first sign of aphids!



Fruit fly season is upon us. Don't get caught out.

We recommend a systems approach to fruit fly management which includes: protein baiting, male annihilation (with MAT cups) and monitoring (traps and field inspection).

Bugs for Bugs is launching a new biodegradable cardboard MAT cup. These will be available very soon.



Introducing the LuciTrap: a sheep blowfly trap that is proven to reduce flystrike.

This sheep blowfly trap is a new edition to our product range. It is proven to suppress sheep blowfly populations and reduce incidence of flystrike.

Minimising the need for chemical treatments – our LuciTrap is low maintenance, user friendly and cost effective. It is designed and made in Australia for Australian conditions.



Staff profile



Juultje joins our team

Juultje van der Loo studied entomology at Wageningen University in the Netherlands and worked for a European biocontrol company before migrating to Australia to join Bugs for Bugs.

Having first learnt the ropes in Mundubbera, she has now moved to the new facility in Toowoomba.

She enjoys the task of refining our insect and mite rearing systems and brings great skills and enthusiasm to our growing business.

Working with consultants



Bugs for Bugs works closely with a large number of crop consultants and organisations across Australia.

Local consultants are the people who best know your farm and your regional pest issues. We like to collaborate with them to help you get the best results.

If you have a preferred consultant, ask them to get in touch with us to help you off the 'pesticide treadmill'.



Landmark agronomist Mick Matthews with Dan Papacek from Bugs for Bugs

Would you like back copies of our newsletters?

You can e-mail us at info@bugsforbugs.com.au to request electronic copies of previous newsletters.

Our website is a wealth of knowledge and information

You can view our product range, explore our informative 'what's your pest?' section and more at www.bugsforbugs.com.au

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