



The AUSVEG VIC Awards for Excellence will be held on Saturday 8 April at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. The Awards for Excellence provide a fantastic opportunity to recognise the outstanding contributions of Victorian growers. Winners of the AUSVEG VIC Awards for Excellence will automatically be nominated for the National Awards to be held at Hort Connections 2017. Nominations are being sought in the following categories:

### **GROWER OF THE YEAR**

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- A vegetable or potato grower who is outstanding across all aspects of vegetable production, including growing, environmental management, staff management and product quality.
- A grower who is innovative, challenges convention and implements efficient practices (such as integrated pest management, minimising wastage, water conservation, precision agriculture, technology advances, and value-adding to product).
- A grower who actively contributes to the broader industry (such as participating in international R&D tours, industry committees, forums, conferences or field days).

### **YOUNG GROWER OF THE YEAR (35 years of age or less)**

- A vegetable or potato grower who shows excellent business acumen and innovation and has applied it on-farm and in the wider farming community when practicable.
- A grower who demonstrates a high level of commitment to the industry, possibly illustrated through involvement in off-farm activities, participation as a member of industry groups/committees or in community activities (such as Landcare).

### **INDUSTRY IMPACT AWARD**

- An individual or business that has invested in creating or has implemented a system of technology or business practice outside of the industry norm.
- The technology or practice has resulted in a significant contribution to best farm practice or in cost savings through the value chain.
- The technology or practice is not in common usage by industry and will provide a commercial and competitive advantage.

## COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP AWARD

- An individual or business that is proactive in developing and/or implementing a system or program of safe storage and use of on-farm materials above and beyond industry standards.
- An individual or business that engages in local or national community events/initiatives with the objective of developing wider industry.
- An individual or business that demonstrates the responsible planning and management of resources, leading to beneficial environmental impacts.

## INNOVATION PARTNER AWARD

- A business that has developed an innovation directly benefiting growers through improving their productivity, for example through reducing costs or environmental impact.
- The innovation has significantly contributed in a positive manner to the Australian vegetable or potato industry.
- The innovation has delivered tangible, measurable results.

## WOMEN IN HORTICULTURE

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- A female industry member who has demonstrated outstanding ability and success in their chosen field, whether it is growing, research and development, farm management, or otherwise.
- An individual who is pro-active and has shown commitment to achieving success in the industry.
- An individual who has a reputation for mentoring women in horticulture.

## RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR

- A researcher who has a track record of research or extension work that has advanced the industry offering long-term industry benefits.
- A researcher who actively communicates research outcomes and encourages uptake of outcomes on-farm.
- A researcher who contributes research or extension work that advances the reputation of Australian science internationally.

