

26 July 2023
Speciality Trees
Media Release

A Commitment to Growing Green Recognised

It's the start of the day and the agronomist has arrived on site. The sun is offering warmth to encourage growth on over 55 acres of in-ground grown trees at the Speciality Trees production facility at Benalla in regional Victoria. What will be discussed is typical of the mindset of the business – crop rotation, regenerative techniques, budding and grafting techniques, nutrition and timings – environmentally considerate resources and inputs required to grow resilient trees to pot-up into advanced containerised sizes for councils, landscapers and developers or supplied as bareroot material to orchardists.

It's a similar discussion at Speciality Trees' two Narre Warren East sites, east of Melbourne. Areas of propagation and production collide with a similar discourse on material inputs and physical resources to achieve outcomes that make a difference in terms of cost, time, productivity and sustainability. On hand are staff accountable for all areas of tree development, nutrition, cropping, IPDM (Intergrated Pest and Disease Management) and irrigation.

Research is highly regarded, assessing existing impacts and practices and developing new theories to adjust and improve. Decisions are made and framed around the holistic need to be better, and to grow more resilient stock with minimal environmental impact. Energy and water is captured and reused and shelter belts are developed to complement growing areas boosting positive insect presence while teams of professionals go about their tasks open to new ideas and ways which enhance their areas of responsibility.

Transparent to the industry and welcoming of its peers, opinions are sort and shared openly with all audiences: student groups, industry reps, suppliers, overseas visitors, arborists, landscapers, designers and councils. Education has one overriding objective and that is to promote a universal understanding of what is required to grow a quality tree with scienced-based sustainable processes light on the environemnt. Why? Because doing it better will improve the tree, and others doing the same will collectively improve the reputation and profitability of the industry and leave a lasting environmental legacy.

This is a glimpse of the day, week, month in the life of Speciality Trees.

On the 15th July at the 2023 Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria (NGIV) Awards ceremony acknowledging and celebrating outstanding contributions and achievements within the horticultural industry, Speciality Trees were recognised for their work and dedication with the **2023 Commitment to Environmental Stewardship Award**, a worthy accolade and industry nod to the culture and passion behind their business to grow better while being better environmental citizens.

And taking home the **2023 Horticulture Student of the Year Award** with employee Jacob Chizik was an added thrill! "We're so proud of our team" says Managing Director Hamish Mitchell. "Seeing our people grow as we grow and with a environmentally positive attitude with drive to make a difference in the industry, makes our journey so worthwhile."

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