

**Hort
Innovation**
Strategic levy investment

POTATO –
FRESH FUND

POTATO –
PROCESSING FUND

Australian Potato Growers Manual

PT19003

06-Oct-2022

Jason Hingston – Regional Extension Manager





What is the potato growers manual?

- Comprehensive guide to potato production for growers and advisors
- Repository for information on best-practice potato production in Australia
- Provides information on local and overseas best practice
- The content has been written by experienced plant and soil scientists and industry specialists.
- Managed by AgCommunicators in South Australia

agcommunicators.

INNOVATIONS IN POTATO MANAGEMENT:

The Australian Potato Growers Manual



1ST EDITION

**Hort
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Overview Section



Mitolo Family Farms, Nildottie SA.

Introduction

Potatoes are by far the most significant vegetable crop grown in Australia, with well over one million tonnes harvested every year. Potatoes are grown across the country under a wide range of soil and climatic conditions.

Around 60% of annual production is consumed by processors for crisping and fries, while the balance is sold fresh to consumers or exported. Australia shipped 30,759 tonnes of fresh and chilled potatoes to overseas markets in 2021, earning \$22.4 million.

This Australian Potato Manual has been developed as a comprehensive guide for current and would-be potato growers, along with horticultural advisers.

The project has been funded by Hort Innovation, using investment from the Potato – Fresh and Potato – Processing Funds and contributions from the Australian

Government. Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australian horticulture.

The content has been written by a Project Team of experienced plant and soil scientists and industry specialists.

Content review was provided by a Technical Oversight Committee drawn from the Australian potato industry, with further review by industry stakeholders.

The project is managed by AgCommunicators.



AuSPICA

agcommunicators.

Chapter 1 – Potato growth requirements

- Production environment
- Water supply
- Paddock selection
- Soil health

CHAPTER 1

Potato growth requirements

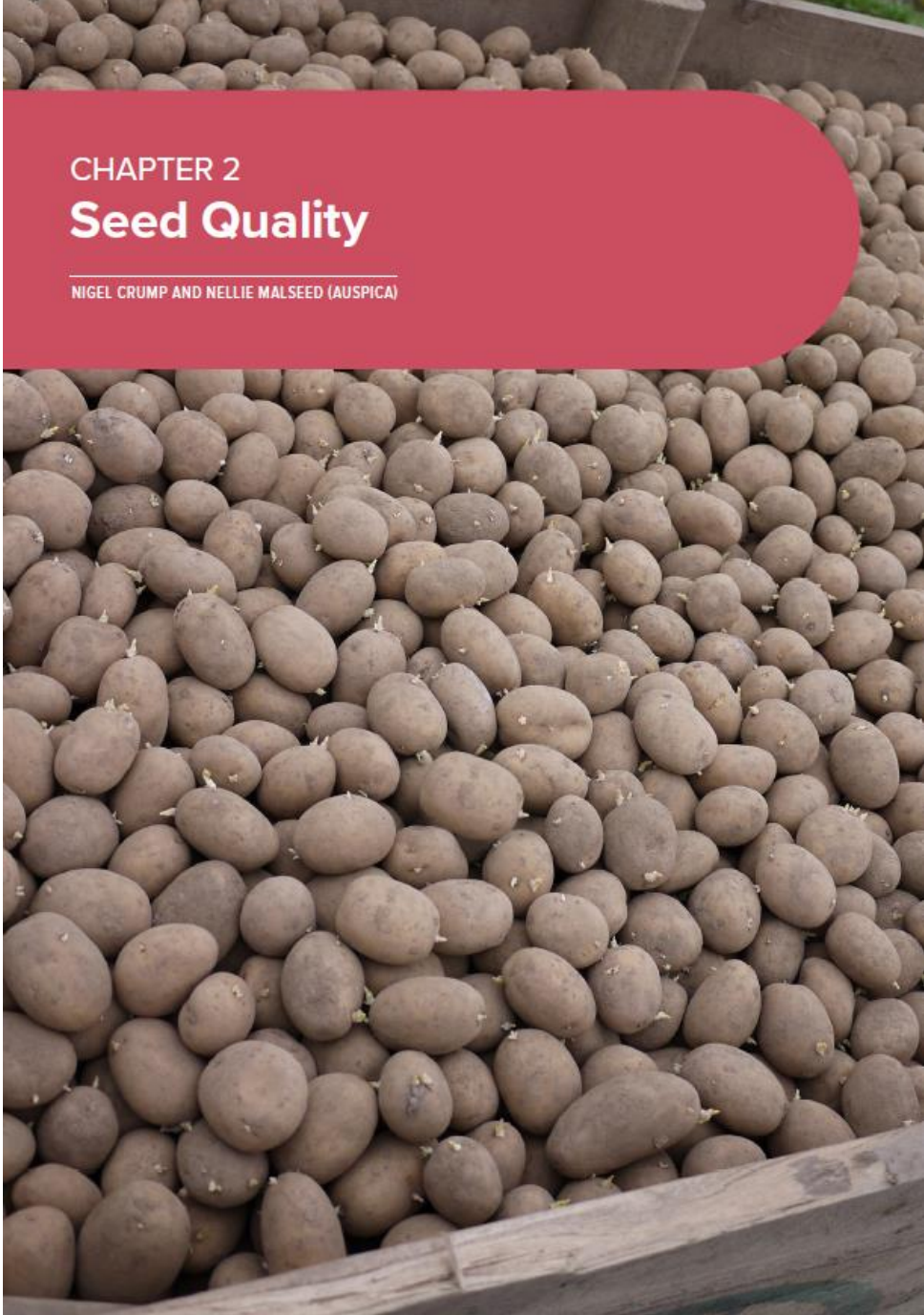
MICHAEL RETTKE, PIRSA-SARDI AND MEL FRASER, PIRSA



Mitolo Family Farms, Nildottie SA.

Chapter 2 – Seed quality

- Cultivar choice
- Seed health
- Seed age
- Certified seed
- Uncertified seed
- Maintaining seed quality



CHAPTER 2 Seed Quality

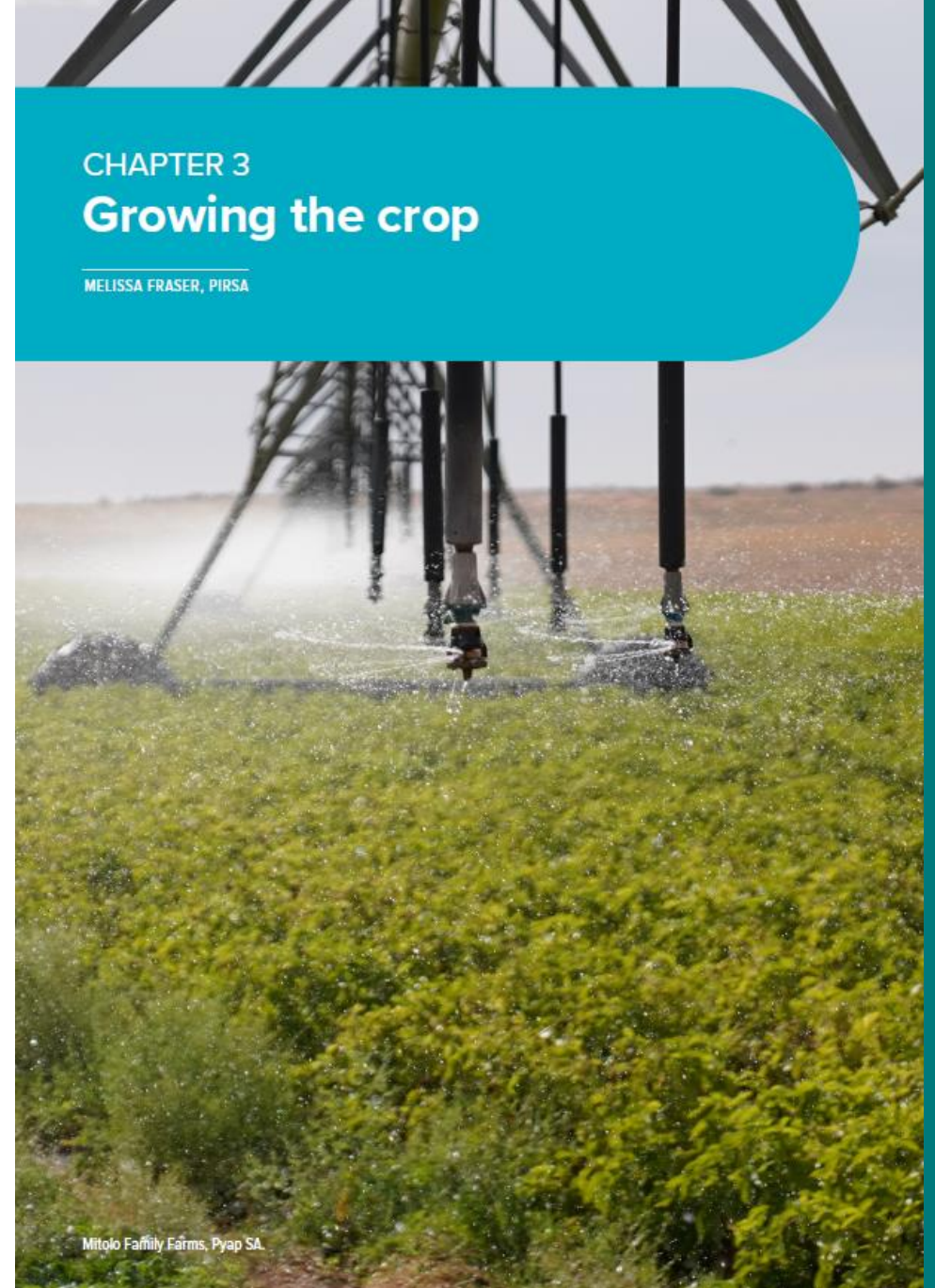
NIGEL CRUMP AND NELLIE MALSEED (AUSPICA)

Chapter 3 – Growing the crop

- Planting the crop
- Nutrient management
- Water requirements and irrigation
- Pest, disease and weed management
- Physiological disorders
- Biosecurity measures

CHAPTER 3 Growing the crop

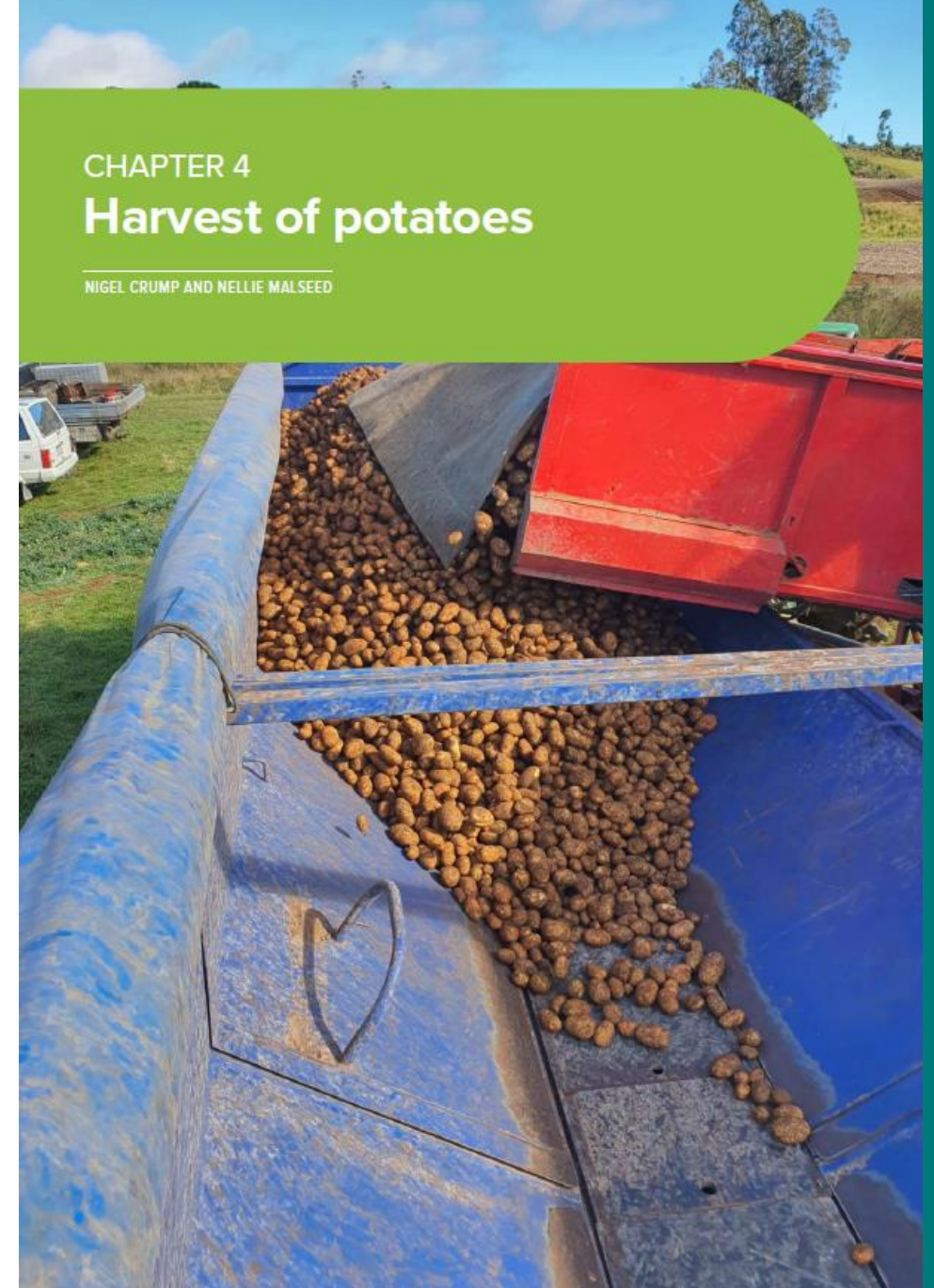
MELISSA FRASER, PIRSA



Mitolo Family Farms, Pyap SA.

Chapter 4 – Harvest of potatoes

- Crop defoliation
- Minimizing mechanical tuber damage during harvest
- Potato harvester equipment
- Biosecurity
- Post harvest management

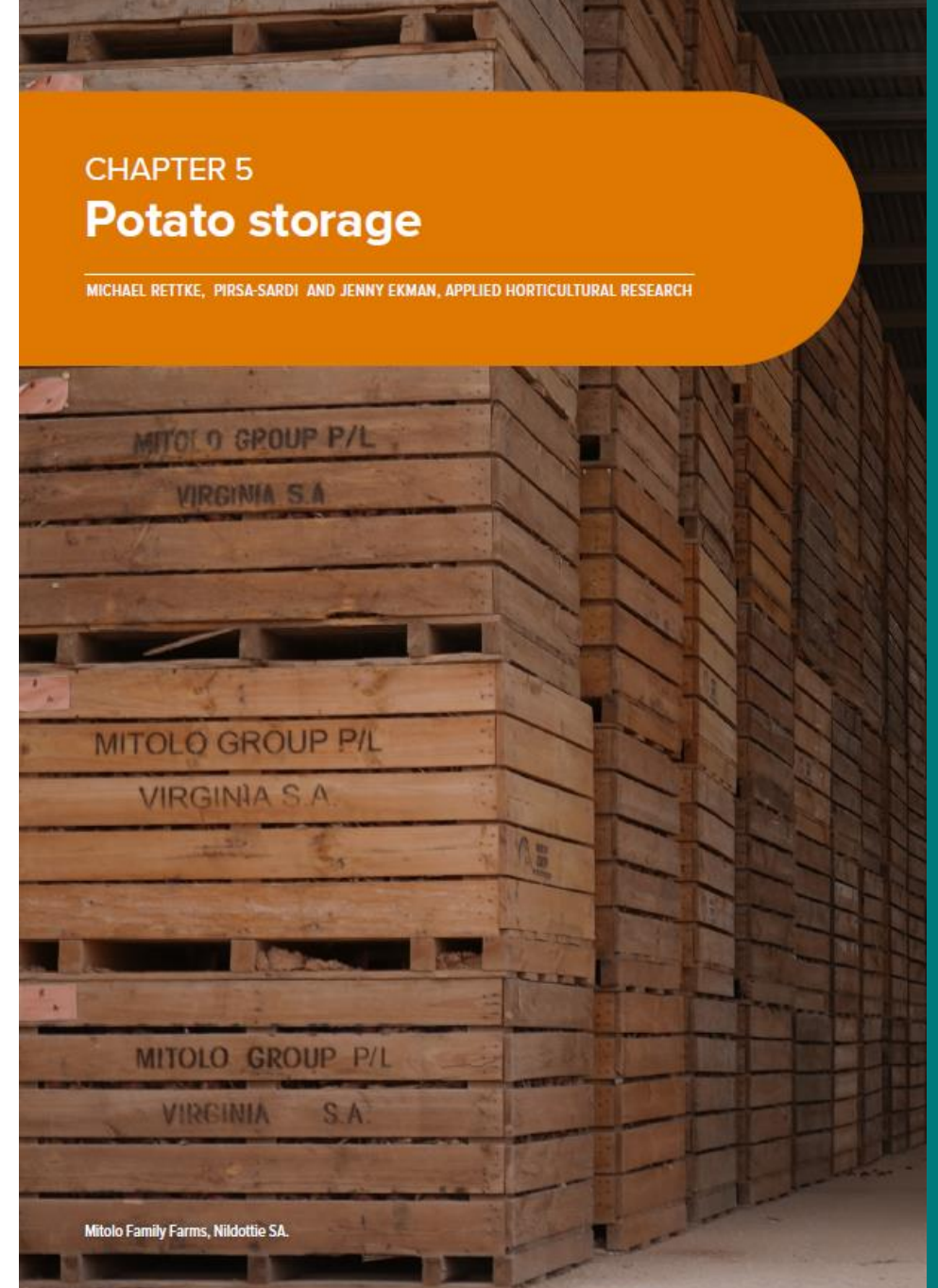


Chapter 5 – Potato storage

- Harvest and pre-grading
- Skin set and wound healing (curing)
- Respiration, temperature, moisture and relative humidity
- Managing post harvest disease development
- Storage atmosphere
- Greening and sprouting
- In-ground storage

CHAPTER 5 Potato storage

MICHAEL RETTKE, PIRSA-SARDI AND JENNY EKMAN, APPLIED HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH



Mitolo Family Farms, Nildottie SA.

Chapter 6 – AgTech and precision system technologies

- Precision agriculture
- Controlled traffic farming
- Spatial mapping
- Data platforms
- Elevation, soil, and crop sensing and mapping
- Variable rate technologies
- Yield monitoring systems
- AgTech sensors and systems

CHAPTER 6

AgTech and Precision system technologies

JULIE O'HALLORAN, DAF QUEENSLAND



Available from the
following websites...

potatolink.com.au

horticulture.com.au

The cover features a photograph of a potato field with a center pivot irrigation system. The rows of potato plants are neatly spaced, and the irrigation wheels are visible in the distance. The sky is clear and blue. A dark red rounded rectangle is overlaid on the top right of the image, containing the title text in white.

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