

# Farm Plus

(Farm Productivity and Quality Enhancement Project 002655)

## Information for Participants

A Grower participates in the Farm Plus project for 2 consecutive years/ seasons. Each participant is required to contribute \$2,900 (excluding GST) to the project on signing up. In each area a Regional Coordinator is appointed to assist growers with gathering information, and to remind them to perform tasks at the correct time. In most cases the Regional Coordinator will also be a project participant. All information gathered during the project is sent to the Project Coordinator for analysis and collation into reports. Participants will receive a copy of each Annual Report, and the Final Report at the end of the project. WildFlowers Australia administers payments and communicates with the government funding body, RIRDC.

Farm Plus pays (on receipt of invoice) to the grower participant, or a contractor of their choice, a set amount for the tasks performed during their 2 year involvement with the project. These amounts are based on an estimated time taken to perform each task.

Table 1: Cost breakdown of Farm Plus payments for on-farm activities.

Activity/ Item	Amount
<b>Year 1</b>	
Prepare soil sample	\$ 70.00
Prepare leaf sample	\$ 70.00
Attend training course	\$ 280.00
Collect baseline crop data	\$ 140.00
Apply Prescription Blend soil amendments	\$ 140.00
Interview by project coordinator	\$ 70.00
<b>Year 2</b>	
Prepare soil sample	\$ 70.00
Prepare leaf sample	\$ 70.00
Apply Follow-up soil amendments	\$ 140.00
Collect crop production data	\$ 105.00
Collect crop quality data	\$ 105.00
Interview by project coordinator	\$ 70.00
<b>Total payment to each participant</b>	<b>\$ 1,330.00</b>

Each grower will allocate an area to receive soil amendments, and nominate one core product within this area. The performance of this product will be monitored for two harvest seasons to assess the effect of soil amendments on crop productivity and quality. At the start of the project each participant will provide baseline data for the nominated product, and discuss general product and farm performance in interviews with the Project and Regional Coordinators. This information will be included in reports in the broad sense, yet treated as



confidential in the specific sense, i.e. grower details will not be linked to specific product information.

In addition to payment for tasks performed, each grower receives approximately \$2,500 of real contribution to their farm in the form of soil and leaf analyses, prescription blend soil amendments, and training in sustainable agriculture.

WildFlowers Australia has selected Nutri-Tech Solutions (NTS) as a preferred supplier to the Farm Plus project because the company has the capability to provide products and services for all Farm Plus activities. NTS provides training in Sustainable Horticulture. NTS has agronomists who provide horticultural recommendations based on soil and leaf analyses, and NTS prepares prescription blends for soil amendments on each farm. Selecting a single supplier allows a strong level of continuity in the information and products provided to participants without which the research component of the project would be compromised. Soil and leaf analyses are sent to Environmental Analysis Laboratories (EAL), a NATA accredited facility. Nutri-Tech's ideal levels for soil and plant analyses are based on the extraction methods used by the EAL. As WFA is reporting on the findings over the period of this project it is vital the same laboratory is used for all tests.

From the results of the soil analysis NTS prepares a Prescription Blend of dry mineral fertilisers which will, over time, balance the chemical composition of the soil and promote healthy soil life. Farm Plus will pay for the Prescription Blend to the value of \$1000 in the first year and up to \$700 in the second year (including the cost of freight and locally sourced lime). From the results of the leaf analysis NTS will make recommendations for a foliar and fertigation programme. Each grower must apply this specific programme at their own cost on the allocated area, replacing the current fertiliser programme. WFA has negotiated to receive these products at a discounted rate for participants in the Farm Plus project.

**WildFlowers Australia recognises the valuable financial contribution of Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) in supporting the Farm Plus project.**

**For further information:**

**Farm Plus** contacts:

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For **WFA updates** visit the association website, [www.wildflowersaustralia.com.au](http://www.wildflowersaustralia.com.au).

Visit the **RIRDC** website for research reports: [www.rirdc.gov.au](http://www.rirdc.gov.au)

For more information on **EAL**, <https://www.scupayments.com/eal/>

Browse the **NutriTech Solutions** website for information on other products and services:  
[www.nutri-tech.com.au](http://www.nutri-tech.com.au)