

# National Awards for Excellence Guidelines – Presented at the Hort Connections 2025 Gala Dinner

## Understanding the Awards Criteria & Submitting Your Nomination

- Ensure to carefully read the criteria for each award in full. Nominate an individual or business that has demonstrated excellence in the relevant category.
- Highlight their accomplishments, leadership, innovation, or community impact.
- Gather evidence, testimonials, and supporting documents to strengthen the nomination.
- Clearly state why the nominee deserves the award, ensuring to fill in all relevant sections of the application.
- Use specific examples to showcase the nominees' achievements and impact.
- Maintain a professional and clear tone.

## Nomination Guidelines

- Nominees must not be a Related Party of AUSVEG Ltd. or International Fresh Produce Association Australia – New Zealand (IFPA A-NZ) [i.e. not an employee of AUSVEG/IFPA A-NZ, or a member of the key management personnel of a Director to AUSVEG/IFPA A-NZ.
- Nominees must not be an award winner in the same category from the previous 2 years – previous award finalists are allowed.
- Award nominations do not automatically constitute finalist inclusion.
- A maximum of 10 finalists will be included in each category. If selected as a finalist, each nominee will be notified and formally invited to the Hort Connections 2025 Gala Dinner.

## Judging

- Judging will be based on the merit of the nominations received and any subsequent information as requested, including but not limited to follow up interviews, referee checks and/or business visits.
- The Hort Connections Awards Selections Committee is comprised of an AUSVEG Director, IFPA A-NZ Director, AUSVEG CEO, Hort Innovation Executive, Department of Agriculture representative, and other independent supply chain representatives.
- The Hort Connections Awards Selections Committee decision is final.