

PICK AGRICULTURE THIS HARVEST SEASON

Looking for work? Our agriculture sector needs you.

Thousands of short-term jobs are up for grabs. Fruit and vegetable growers are harvesting their crops between November and May. Take this opportunity to adventure, travel, meet new friends, work hard and help put food on Victorians' tables.



Types of jobs available

Seasonal horticulture offers jobs for all ages and skillsets including fruit picking, packing, grains receipt and heavy vehicle driving.

Most jobs require skills that can be learnt on the job. Some jobs need a level of training or skills, like driving for example. Just ask your employer what is needed.

The work is rewarding but can be physically demanding and a reasonable level of physical fitness is required. Some jobs involve heavy lifting, bending, climbing ladders and operating machinery. The work is often outdoors and exposed to the elements.

Victoria's regions need seasonal workers at different times. The below table provides a snapshot of where you could work this harvest season.

Produce	Region	Timing
Citrus	Sunraysia, Swan Hill	Aug – Nov
Berries	Yarra Valley, Mornington Peninsula	Nov – April
Cherries	North East Victoria, Goulburn Valley, Yarra Valley, Dandenongs, Swan Hill, Sunraysia	Nov – Jan
Vegetables	Sunraysia, Werribee, East and West Gippsland	Oct – March
Summer fruit	Swan Hill, Goulburn Valley	Nov – May
Apples and pears	Goulburn Valley	Jan – May
Table grapes	Sunraysia	Jan – May
Dried fruit	Sunraysia	Jan – April
Melons	Sunraysia	Dec – April
Grains	Grain growing regions	Oct – Dec

Eligibility to work

You are eligible to work if you:

- are an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- are an eligible working holiday maker holding a visa with appropriate working rights
- are an overseas student with working rights in Australia
- hold a Seasonal Worker Program or Pacific Labour Scheme visa
- hold a temporary work visa with general work rights, not restricted to an employer or type of work.

Relocation rebates of up to \$6000 for eligible workers who move to regional areas for at least six weeks.



Getting paid

Most seasonal horticulture workers are hired under the Australian Government's Horticulture Award. The award outlines minimum pay rates and other entitlements like leave and overtime.

The award also covers workers hired through labour hire providers.

Workers can earn an hourly wage or a piecework rate.

Hourly rate

The minimum hourly rate under the Horticulture Award is:

- \$19.84 for an adult full-time employee
- \$24.80 for an adult casual employee

Visit the Fair Work Ombudsman [pay calculator](#) for more information.

Piece rates

A piece rate is where a worker earns money based on the amount they have picked, packed, pruned or made.

Instead of the hours worked, an employer pays the worker for the number of kilograms or bins of produce they pick.

Visit the Fair Work Ombudsman's [Horticulture Showcase page](#) for more information.

Extra government assistance is available

- **Relocation rebates** of up to \$6000 for eligible workers who move to regional areas for at least six weeks. An extra \$3000 for workers who move with a dependent.
- Greater access to **Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY**. Earn \$15,000 in agriculture between 30 November 2020 and 31 December 2021 to be considered independent.
- Up to \$77.17 weekly allowance for eligible **apprentices** who move away from their parent's home for work.
- Free Victorian Government-funded **training programs** to get jobseekers ready for work.
- Your employer may also be eligible for a daily allowance to help cover the costs of your travel and accommodation.

Find the right job for you



Step 1: Do your research

Before applying for a job, read about the produce, harvest process, industry and where it's located. Search for information on peak industry body and local government websites.

The Fair Work Ombudsman's [Working the harvest trail](#) page has tips for job seekers and an employment checklist.

Ensure the job and employer are reputable before you apply. Learn more about your rights on the [Fair Work Ombudsman](#) website.



Step 2: Enrol in some free training

Gain confidence and get job-ready by doing some training.

Information about free training opportunities is available on Agriculture Victoria's [Getting ready for work page](#).

The Victorian Government's [Skills and Jobs Centres](#) can help you get ready for work or re-skill.

[Working for Victoria](#) provides free training to registered job seekers.



Step 3: Find and apply for a job

Working for Victoria

The Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative matches jobseekers with work opportunities.

[Register as a jobseeker](#) to apply for jobs through the platform.

National Harvest Trail

The Australian Government's [Harvest Trail Services](#) connects workers with seasonal jobs.

Seasonal jobs are also often advertised in local newspapers and on social media. Employment services, labour hire companies and online platforms can help jobseekers find work.



Step 4: Download the Record My Hours app

The [Record My Hours](#) app can record your work hours. It can also help track the amount you pick, pack or prune (your piece) during a shift.