

ACPF uses a novel hydroponics system

FOR PLANT EXPERIMENTS This system allows researchers to control and monitor the exact amount of nutrients that a plant is getting. It also allows a more accurate assessment to be made of a plant's response to specific treatments.



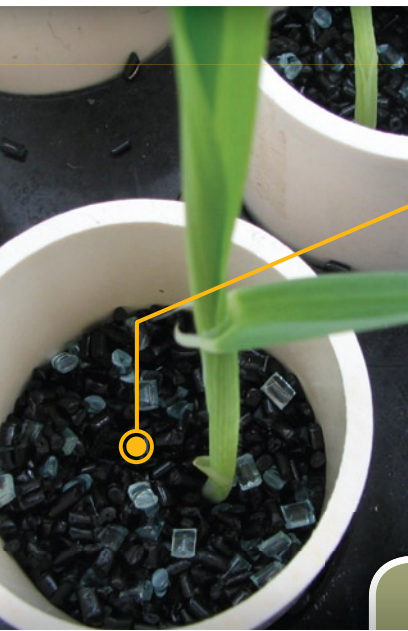
PELLETS ARE SECURED in the tube by a thin mesh that the roots cannot penetrate.



Plants growing in nutrient solution of different concentrations

Large tubes filled with polycarbonate plastic pellets

Nutrient solution is pumped through the holding tanks with an ebb and flow system



THE POLYCARBONATE PLASTIC PELLETS are one of ACPF's new inventions. They support plant root growth while allowing sufficient aeration. The pellets are biologically inert and so do not affect any experimental treatments. After the completion of each experiment the pellets are sterilised and reused.

PLANT ROOTS can be easily extracted from the pellet soil by gentle shaking. Since they are not covered in soil, cleaner root samples for further experiments can be obtained.

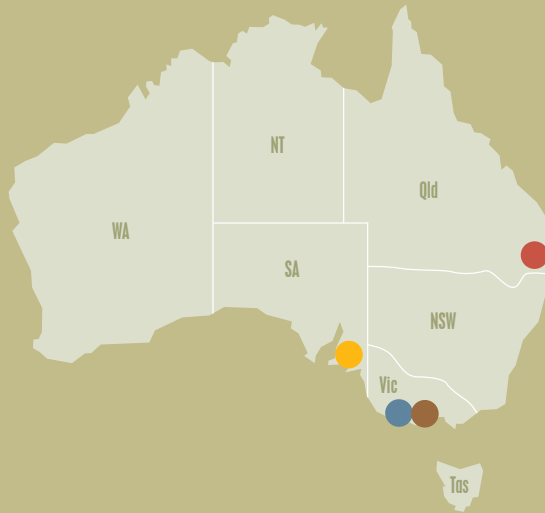
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ACPFG Research



The Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics (ACPFG) uses functional genomics to improve the resistance of wheat and barley to hostile environmental conditions such as drought, salinity, frost and mineral deficiencies or toxicities. These stresses, known as abiotic stresses, are a major cause of cereal crop yield and quality loss throughout the world.

To meet our mandate of delivering research outcomes nationally, ACPFG has four nodes throughout Australia. The headquarters is at the University of Adelaide's Waite Campus, with other major research nodes at the University of Melbourne, the University of Queensland and the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) at La Trobe University.



Australian Government
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