



Plant Growth Central Research and Innovation Platform

Frequently Asked Questions (March information sessions)

Given the 2022 floods have occurred what is the current capacity of growth space at UQ?

Location	m ²	Note
Gatton		
Greenhouse x 15 benches	954	
Outdoor cage with overhead irrigation	30	
Glasshouse (at capacity)	300	
Bioras	65.4	Available in May (currently conducting trials to confirm manufacturers specification)
St Lucia		
Glasshouse 5	183	Currently not operational - P&F planning to have up and running end of April, however, could have further delays with parts
Outdoor compound	380	
Long Pocket		
Glasshouse	226	Currently at capacity
In development		
Gatton		
2 x Glasshouses	876	From January 2023
1x Protective cropping unit	3937	From January 2023
St Lucia		
1x Glasshouse	250	From December 2023 on top of Plant Growth Facility, additional growth space will be available within the PGF

What options are being explored to find space elsewhere?

- External facilities that might be available including DAF Redlands, USC, USQ and interstate space
- Gatton Cooper Lab & Glasshouse (200m²) space
- The possibility of accelerating construction of the additional 180m² of glasshouse on top of the Plant Growth Facility.
- Purchasing more Bioras (moveable and controllable spaces)
- Building more glasshouses at Gatton
- Reinstating Long Pocket 1025 Glasshouse
- Reinstating 3 Glasshouses in St Lucia on Glasshouse Road

In addition, a business case will be developed and presented to the UQ Executive about what possible additional infrastructure could be built out of flood zones at Gatton, Long Pocket and St Lucia.

Can we use the St Lucia glasshouses while UQ Insurance works through the claims?

No, the Glasshouses are currently not operational and there will be no coverage for research lost if they were to be used.



How will space be prioritised at UQ facilities?

The PG CRIP team will be circulating a form shortly that will ask you to provide details on your needs over the next 6-18 months including which experiments are your highest priority. This information will form the basis for discussion and decision-making on space needs.

What impact will the reduced capacity have on teaching and learning activities?

The PG CRIP team will be working to maximise the utilisation of the facilities to meet as many needs as possible, including teaching and learning activities.

Will there be a coordinated and transparent approach to securing space with external partners?

Access to external space including the costs will in part be driven by each researcher's insurance claims. The PG CRIP team can assist where possible however the first step is having your insurance claim assessed.

How will space be prioritised at external facilities?

Those facilities will have their own processes and priorities, you will need to work with them on your needs.

What do I need to do to put in an insurance claim?

There is a dedicated insurance webpage <https://governance-risk.uq.edu.au/functions-and-services/insurance/uq-property-insurance/insurance-claim-%E2%80%93-2022-floods> that details steps you need to take. Contact the team on insuranceclaims@uq.edu.au if you require documents to assist in capturing loss of research expenses.

What work is being done to plan for future strategic thinking past the immediate needs?

A working group has been set up to develop a business case detailing what possible additional infrastructure will be required and where it could potentially be located on each campus.

Will there only be PC2 space at St Lucia or is there plans to have a mix at both Gatton and St Lucia?

In the first instance the OGTR will be visiting St Lucia to assess future PC2 certifications and any location requirements. With that input, the development of PC2 capability at both St Lucia and Gatton will be part of the strategic plan presented. In the longer term at Lucia 430 m² of PC2 glasshouses will be provided on the top of the PGF but an interim solution may need to be considered at St Lucia.

Given there are new glasshouses being built at Gatton, can we add additional glasshouses?

A business case will be developed and presented to the UQ Executive about what possible additional infrastructure could be built in the future at Gatton, Long Pocket and St Lucia. Adding additional space to the glasshouses that are currently being designed for Gatton is an option that is under consideration.

How is the Gatton glasshouse build progressing?

The project is progressing to schedule and must be finished by the end of 2022 as there is a funding requirement that the money must be spent by December 2022.