

Chefs are eating up mini veg gardens

NIGEL AUSTIN
RURAL EDITOR

AN innovative way of supplying chefs with a micro garden of colourful miniature plants that produce fresh vegetables on demand, has been developed at an Adelaide Hills nursery.

The colourful gardens of micro vegetables are delivered direct to restaurants, allowing the chefs to pick their own fresh vegetables.

In an Australian first, micro vegetables including miniature carrots, rainbow parsley, sleek leeks, petite breakfast radish and micro cherry-bell radish are being delivered direct to leading Adelaide restaurants.

AMJ Produce spokeswoman Margy Abbot said the sustainable micro gardens had

“It will work for chefs

— MARGY ABBOT

started with a small number of vegetables and would expand as demand grew.

She said a key to the success of the venture was finding a nursery with the knowledge to produce the micro vegetable plants at the right time.

Marie Collett, from Falg Nurseries near Uraidla, said the innovation had already attracted a growing band of leading Adelaide restaurants including The Manse, Jolleys Boat-house and Windy Point.

“It will work for chefs because it is new, innovative, sustainable and fresh to plate,” Ms Abbot said. “We’ve had an amazing response from chefs... we want to keep pace by being as innovative as possible.”



MAGIC GARDEN: Margy Abbot with miniature carrots yesterday.

Picture: DEAN MARTIN

Dodgy insulation

Five-day class to inspect roofs

MELBOURNE

PHILLIP HUDSON



BRICKLAYERS, carpenters and truck drivers have been hired to inspect potentially dangerous roofs under the Federal Government's clean-up of the \$2.4 billion pink batts fiasco.

Many have received just five days training in a classroom that does not involve stepping into the roof of a house before they start work.

The Government promised to inspect 200,000 homes for unsafe or poorly-installed insulation after being forced to shut down its rebate scheme linked to the death of four installers and 100 house fires.

One of the industry's biggest players CSR Bradford, who was given a contract to conduct 40,000 safety checks, decided to impose an extra five-day practical course on the 250 people it hired to make sure they were properly trained and to protect its 70-year reputation.

CSR told *The Advertiser* this involved sending them into a roof. “CSR has a strong safety culture - that's why we developed an additional five-day practical training program for our staff to ensure they were properly trained,” said a company spokesman.

An *Advertiser* investigation has also found:

THE training for safety inspectors is based on rules last updated in 2009. There is no recognised standard for ceiling

insulation and major players are sharply at odds;

A WHISTLEBLOWER who took the course described it as “totally inadequate” with no practical component and said the closest he came to inspecting a house was looking at a roof on a projector screen;

A COMPANY running the course told the Department of Climate Change in a letter last December it had “no input” into the content and the training was “almost all theory based”. It complained safety equipment was being stolen.

Rohan Cresp from the private training company IAscend Tafe, said his company began insulation training three years ago and believed the whistleblower was angry at the Government for the collapse of the rebate scheme.

The Government confirmed builders, electricians, carpenters and plumbers were being trained as insulation inspectors but said at least one member of every two-person team checking homes must have had six months experience in insulation installation.



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