



The QLS ultra-cover enables growers to provide an indoor and outdoor environment.

Temperature extremes are equally debilitating here in Victoria and the technology can be applied with great results and a minimum of fuss.

Light filtration is another variable successfully managed with the incorporation of aluminised polyester strips into the screen fibre, allowing increased light penetration when it is required and the option of specified shade requirements. To date only two greenhouses in Victoria utilise the technology and only one has been purpose-built from scratch.

Proteaflora in Monbulk has just completed a new greenhouse using the QLS-ultra structure and screens and, according to co-director, Andrew Mathews, it is "ideal" for their protea operations.

"We can keep the plants dry and warm and

basically keep them growing when they are hardening off," Mr Mathews said.

The 1,100 square metre structure can hold up to 40,000 maturing plants that would normally be moved outdoors to harden off, subjecting them to unpredictable weather conditions. The time and labour saved by simply engaging the roof rather than shifting the plants is the best feature of the new greenhouse, according to Mr Mathews.

The retracting roof is electrically operated and can be automatically programmed to respond

to rainfall and temperature variations, further minimising labour demands.

While the QLS-ultra can cost up to three times more than conventional greenhouses, the labour savings alone "put the profit back into it" Mr Mathews said.

The greater productivity and improved quality is a result of greater control over the crop, according to Mr Mathews. Reliable stocks for export markets and large customers can be assured through better control of the plants' environment and is

especially important for peak demand times.

The greenhouses are available through Living Shade Pty Ltd who can also supply the very latest in greenhouse climate control technology to solve even the most difficult greenhouse problems, according to Richard Clough.

"Today environmental control is more and more important for crop protection, quality production, lowering unit cost production and growing 'off season'".

For more information contact Living Shade on (02) 477 6955.