



Grapevine biosecurity: a how to guide

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The process of creating and implementing a farm biosecurity plan can be quite daunting. By now, primary producers should understand the term 'biosecurity' and its importance, but this does not necessarily provide you with the knowledge to put together a biosecurity plan.

The aim of this guide is to help you gain a better understanding of:

- the general biosecurity duty
- why we need biosecurity plans
- how to create a farm biosecurity plan
- some of the risks to look out for.

Biosecurity – a legal responsibility

Everyone has an active role to play in managing biosecurity risks under their control. The Biosecurity Act 2015 supports sharing the responsibility of biosecurity amongst government, industry and the community.

The General Biosecurity Duty in NSW makes it more important than ever to be aware of biosecurity risks on your own property and to take action to mitigate these risks.

Farm biosecurity planning

Quick and simple measures can easily be built into everyday practices that will help protect your farm and your future from biosecurity threats. A Farm Biosecurity Plan is an easy way to help you identify biosecurity risks on your farm and provide guidance on how to address them. By developing a biosecurity plan you will be able to identify and prioritise biosecurity practices relevant to your property.

One strategy might not suit all and the actual management practices you choose to use will vary depending on the parameters of your property(s). To start or improve your own farm biosecurity plan, visit www.farmbiosecurity.com.au.

There are a variety of tools and resources available to help you start building your plan today.

On-farm biosecurity risks

Biosecurity risks on-farm can generally fall into one of six essential categories. Actions identified in your farm biosecurity plan will help to improve biosecurity in these fundamental areas.

1. **Farm inputs:** anything moved onto your property can be a source of pests and diseases. Monitor plant materials that enter the property as well as sources of water and fertilisers.
2. **Farm outputs:** responsibility for biosecurity does not end when the produce leaves the farm gate. The measures in place on your property support biosecurity in your region.
3. **People, vehicles and equipment:** if it can move, it can carry diseases, pests and weeds. Hence people, vehicles and equipment pose a high biosecurity risk and should be managed accordingly. Biosecurity signage alerts visitors to protect your property.
4. **Production practices:** good on-farm hygiene reduces the risk of spreading pests and diseases. Implementing simple hygiene practices for water, product packaging, storage facilities, waste materials and plant propagation activities is essential.
5. **Weeds:** these are a continuous biosecurity threat. Ensure you monitor and manage these widespread risks to your business.
6. **Train, plan and record:** ensure staff are well trained, that you can trace where plants have come from and where they go, and keep records of purchases, sales and movements.

Look out for *Xylella fastidiosa*

Xylella fastidiosa is an exotic plant pest that is not currently in Australia. If you suspect this disease in your vineyard, you should report it immediately.

Description: *Xylella fastidiosa*, also known as Pierce's disease, is a bacterial plant pathogen that can affect a wide range of ornamental and commercial plant species.

Damage: *Xylella fastidiosa* grows within the xylem, clogging the water flow, causing dehydration and eventually plant death.

Symptoms: scorched leaves (Figure 39 and Figure 38), browning, loss of leaves, fruit and shoot stunting and plant dieback, eventually leading to plant death.

Suspected notifiable pests or diseases must be reported within 24 hours to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881. Early detection means we have a greater chance of eradicating a pest before it becomes established.



Figure 38. Close up of bacterial leaf scorch from *Xylella fastidiosa*. Photo: Elizabeth Bush, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Bugwood.org.



Figure 39. Bacterial leaf scorch from *Xylella fastidiosa*. Photo: Alex H Purcell, University of California – Berkeley, Bugwood.org.