

INDUSTRY ADVICE

New import conditions for moving blueberry rust host material into South Australia

January 2017

On **14 February 2017** import conditions for the movement of blueberry rust host material into **South Australia** will come into force.

Current situation

Blueberry rust causes production losses to the blueberry growing industry and has been present in parts of New South Wales and Queensland for many years. Tasmania, Western Australia and Victoria have existing import conditions. South Australia is also introducing import conditions to protect blueberry production in their state.

Blueberry rust

Blueberry rust is a plant disease caused by the fungus *Thekopsora minima*, which affects a range of plants in the Ericaceae family, including blueberries, cranberries and rhododendrons.

The disease is found mainly on the leaves of infected plants. It produces millions of spores which are very easily and quickly transported by wind, but can also be spread via infected plants and fruit, packaging, transport vehicles, equipment, clothing and hands.

Movement requirements

From **14 February 2017** the **following import conditions** will come into force for **South Australia**.

Fruit (*Vaccinium* spp. including blueberries, cranberries and huckleberries)

Fruit of *Vaccinium* spp. must be **consigned under ICA-31** 'Pre-harvest treatment and inspection of blueberries for blueberry rust', **or accompanied by a Plant Health Certificate** stating the following requirements have been met:

- the fruit has been sprayed within 14 days of harvest with a pre-harvest application of a fungicide registered for the treatment of blueberry rust as per label recommendations, and
 - the fruit has been inspected at dispatch at the international sampling rate (600 piece or 2%) and found free of the symptoms of blueberry rust,
- or**
- the fruit originates from a crop inspected within 14 days prior to harvest and no blueberry rust detected, and
 - the fruit has been inspected at dispatch at the international sampling rate (600 piece or 2%) and found free of symptoms of blueberry rust.

Plants or plant products for cultivation (*Vaccinium* spp. including blueberries, cranberries and huckleberries)

The entry of any plant or plant product of the *Vaccinium* spp. is prohibited unless **certified (PHC or PHAC) that it has been treated and inspected** as follows:

- the plants have been sprayed within 14 days of dispatch with a pre-harvest application of a fungicide registered for the treatment of blueberry rust as per label recommendations, and
- the plants have been inspected within 24 hours prior to dispatch and found free of symptoms of blueberry rust, and
- the plants are in an inert media or a commercial potting mix.

Plants may be **consigned under ICA-29** 'Treatment of Nursery Stock and Soil-less Media'.

Ornamentals

The entry of any ornamental host plants or plant products, **excluding *Vaccinium* spp.**, is prohibited unless **certified (PHC or PHAC) that the plants have been inspected** within 14 days of dispatch and no blueberry rust detected.

Ornamental host plants for blueberry rust

<i>Gaylussacia</i> spp.	<i>Leucothoe</i> spp.	<i>Menziesia</i> spp.	<i>Pernettya</i> spp.	<i>Rhododendron</i> spp.
<i>Hugeria</i> spp.	<i>Lyonia</i> spp.	<i>Oxycoccus</i> spp.	<i>Pieris</i> spp.	<i>Tsuga</i> spp.

Plants may be **consigned under ICA-29** 'Treatment of Nursery Stock and Soil-less Media'.

Agricultural equipment and packages

The entry of any agricultural equipment used in the cultivation, harvesting, handling, packing, processing of blueberry fruit or plants, or used packages which have contained blueberry fruit or plants is prohibited unless **certified (PHC or PHAC)** it has been:

- cleaned free of soil and organic matter and steam cleaned;
- **or**
- cleaned free of soil and organic matter and disinfected with a solution containing not less than 100 ppm available chlorine used as a spray rinse or dump treatment.

Further information

http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/plant_health

Contact Bev Zurbo, Senior Industry Liaison Officer on 02 6938 1976 or email bev.zurbo@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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