

INDUSTRY ADVICE

Changed conditions for moving blueberry rust host material into South Australia

September 2017

On **24 September 2017**, South Australia entry conditions for blueberry rust host material will change. ICA-29 will no longer meet all import conditions for blueberry rust host plants and nursery stock.

Current situation

Condition 1 of the Plant Quarantine Standard of South Australia has been amended to ensure that blueberry rust is not introduced to the state. 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.

Blueberry rust host material

<i>Vaccinium</i> spp.	<i>Leucothoe</i> spp.	<i>Gaylussacia</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.

Additional requirements for the movement of blueberry rust host material

- Nursery stock and host plants must be treated with an approved fungicide 14 days prior to dispatch, and must be inspected and found free of symptoms of blueberry rust 24 hours prior to dispatch (previously met by ICA-29), and
- nursery stock and host plants must be moved to a Biosecurity South Australia approved quarantine facility located in the source state, and held at that facility for a period of 30 days. Furthermore, if deemed necessary, this period may be extended by the pathologist-in-charge, and
- nursery stock and host plants must be inspected by a biosecurity officer for absence of blueberry rust 3 days prior to release, and
- prior to dispatch, the nursery stock and host plants must be packaged in a secure manner to prevent infection by spores or contact with other plants during transit.

Movement conditions which remain unchanged

- Blueberry fruit may be consigned to South Australia under ICA-31: 'Pre-harvest treatment and Inspection of Blueberries for Blueberry Rust'.
- Movement of used agricultural machinery and packaging must be free of plant material, and then steam cleaned or disinfected.

What this means to NSW growers

Blueberry host material can no longer be traded into South Australia under ICA-29: 'Treatment of nursery stock and soil-less media'.

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Further information

A full version of the Condition 1 Plant Quarantine Standard of South Australia is available at
http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/295848/PQS_Condition_1_-_Blueberry_Rust.pdf
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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