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Preventing pests and diseases in the greenhouse

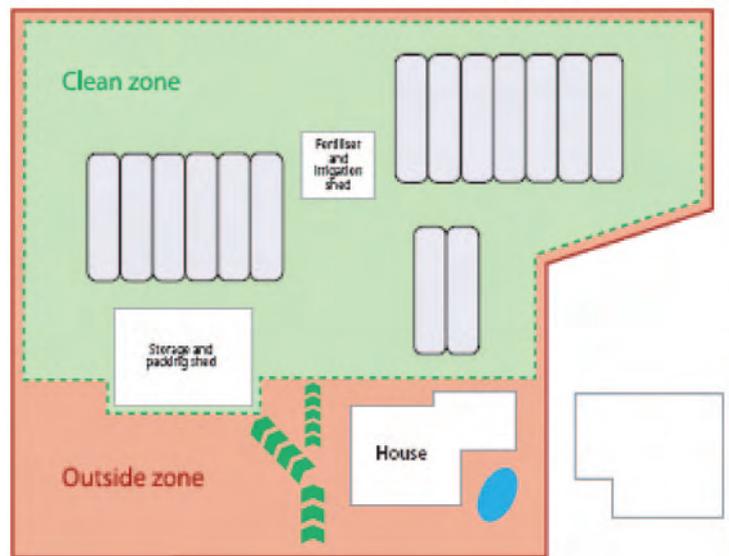
Make a clean zone around the greenhouse

Separate your farm into two (2) zones – a 'clean' zone and an 'outside' zone.

A clean zone is space around your greenhouse and production area which you use to create a barrier to pests and diseases.

Include all the greenhouses, shadehouses and hydroponic tables and the area immediately surrounding these production areas in the clean zone, as well as the packing and storage sheds and the roadways between these structures.

The 'outside' zone is the remainder of your property, including your house and driveway and everywhere off-site.



A clean zone is quarantined from the rest of the farm.



In the clean zone:

- No weeds
- No crop debris or rubbish
- Minimise exposed soil – cover paths and roadways
- All vehicles, tools and all equipment are kept free from soil, crop debris and rubbish.
- Anything being taken into the clean zone must be cleaned first

This **Preventing pests and diseases in the greenhouse** fact sheet is part of a series designed to show how simple low cost changes around the greenhouse can significantly reduce costs and losses from pests and diseases.

For more information please refer to the growers' guidelines "Keep it Clean" published by NSW Department of Primary Industries or go online: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

The development of these materials was assisted by Horticulture Australia Ltd, through the national vegetable levy.

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Keeping the farm clean has always been difficult for one busy greenhouse grower. He marked off two-thirds of the property which included all the greenhouses and sheds and made this the clean zone. A rope gate was put across the access road and a hedgerow planted around the perimeter.

This area is now kept free of weeds and crop debris and visitors are only allowed in if they have not come from another greenhouse.

Thrips are usually a very big problem every spring/summer but since creating the clean zone, only a few thrips have made it into the greenhouse, saving a lot of money and time. He did not have to spray for thrips last summer.