

# Protect your property from plant biosecurity threats

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Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity

## Protect your property from biosecurity threats

An exotic plant pest is an invertebrate or a disease causing organism not present in New South Wales which threatens agricultural production, forestry, native and amenity plants or the environment.

Biosecurity is the protection of the economy, environment and community from the negative impacts of pests, diseases and weeds. You can be actively involved because good biosecurity is a shared responsibility between government, industry and the community.

New South Wales' primary industries sector has a gross value exceeding \$12 billion each year and accounts for about 20% of Australian agricultural production, all of which is protected by maintaining our biosecurity status.

## Be aware Act early

As a landholder or primary producer you have an important role to play in protecting your property and industry from biosecurity threats. Six simple precautions you can take to reduce the chance of pests and diseases entering and establishing on your property are:

### 1 Be aware of biosecurity threats

Make sure you, your family and your employees are familiar with the most important biosecurity threats to the plants that you grow.

Farm biosecurity manuals, industry biosecurity plans and specific leaflets which provide information on biosecurity threats are available from Plant Health Australia, Farm Biosecurity and the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Plant Health Australia [www.planthealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au)

Farm Biosecurity [www.farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au)

### 2 Use clean planting material

Ensure all planting material, propagation material and other farm inputs such as compost, mulch, fertilisers and soil are pest, disease and weed free.

Always source planting and propagation materials of a known high health status from reputable suppliers.

Keep records of what you bring onto your property.

### 3 Keep it clean

Restrict visitor vehicle access and movement on your property to protect your production areas.

Ensure all employees and visitors are instructed in and adhere to your business management hygiene requirements.

Clean your equipment regularly during the year to ensure pests and diseases don't carry over from one season to the next.

Make sure contracted and shared equipment and machinery is thoroughly cleaned before it enters your property and clean it again before it leaves.

Practice "Come clean, Go clean" do not allow dirty vehicles or machinery to enter or leave your property.

### 4 Check your crop

Be aware of the common pests and diseases that occur on your plants.

Checking your plants regularly will help you and your employees notice any new or unusual symptoms and pests.

Keep records of your surveillance inspections on your crops and plants.

### 5 Abide by the law

Be aware of legislative regulations established to protect plant industries in New South Wales from biosecurity threats.

Some industries that have regulations are bananas, citrus, grapes, potatoes and rice.

Some areas within New South Wales that have regulations are the Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone (FFEZ), the Rice Pest and Disease Exclusion Zone (RPDEZ), the Phylloxera Exclusion Zone (PEZ), the Seed Potato Protected Area (SPPA) and the Banana Protected Area (BPA).

### 6 Report anything unusual

If you suspect a new pest or disease please report it immediately.

Call the **Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881**

Take photos not samples to minimise the risk of spreading the pest or disease

Email clear photos with a brief description and your contact details to [biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

#### More information

NSW DPI Primefact 1119 (August 2011) Come Clean go Clean: a step by step guide to vehicle wash down

New South Wales Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021



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