

# Keep it Clean for Field Vegetables

## Farm layout and check and control points

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Not only does a well organised farm have less pest problems, but it will also be cheaper to run. It is very important to plan the layout of your farm and all the activities in a way that minimises the risk that problems will be carried onto the farm and between crops on the farm.

*“The growing area is in a ‘clean’ zone which is quarantined from the ‘outside’ zone of the farm”*

### Establish an ‘outside’ zone

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

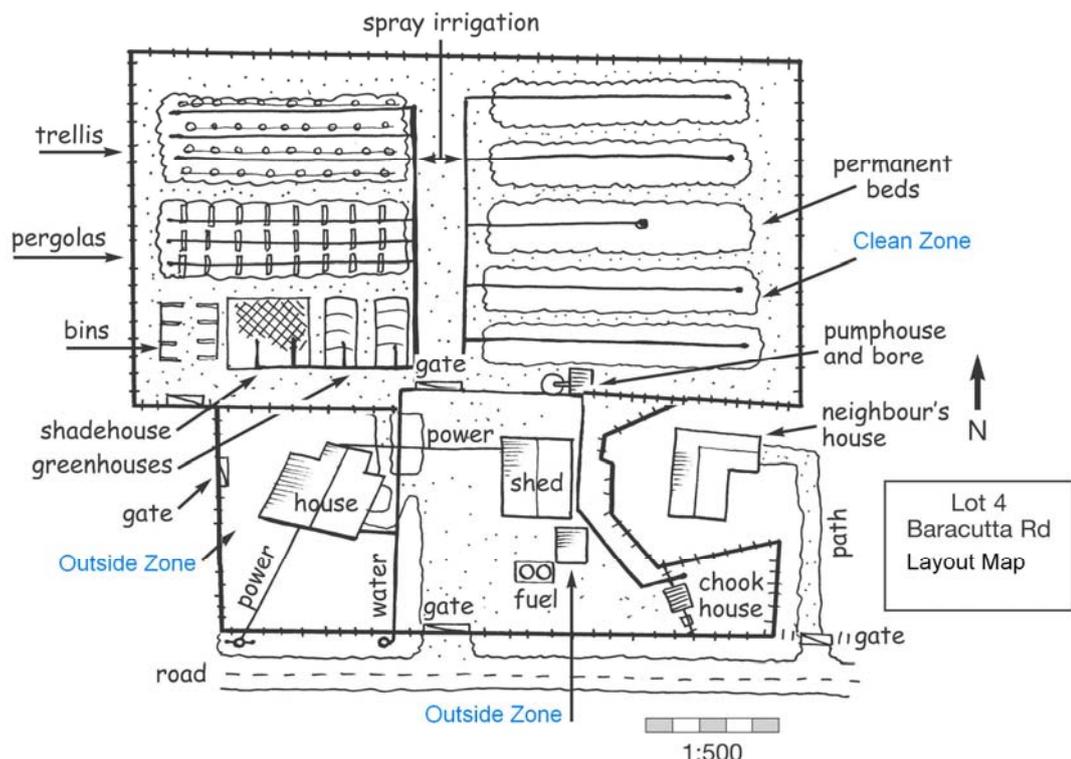
The aim of having a ‘clean’ and an ‘outside’ zone on your farm is so that you can effectively intercept and minimise pest threats. By having a ‘clean’ zone you can keep the production area clean, removing pest problems. Remember term ‘pest’ can include insects, mites, diseases, nematodes, weeds and animals. You can also control the movement of people, vehicles and materials into the production area. This can be done by having gates or check and control points on the boundary of the two zones.

### Establish a ‘clean’ zone

Separate your farm into two (2) zones - a ‘clean’ zone and an ‘outside’ zone. The ‘clean’ zone is the most important part of your farm and is quarantined from the ‘outside’ zone. This includes the crop growing areas, seed raising houses, and the area immediately surrounding these production areas. It also includes the packing shed and roadways.

Equipment and storage sheds that hold materials delivered from outside should be located in the outside zone. You can then be in control of vehicles moving between these sheds and the clean zone.

Movement of employees and visitors onto and



around the farm is a very common way for insect pests and diseases to spread.

## Check and control points

A check and control point may be a vehicle washing bay, a cleaning station for hand tools, hand wash, vehicle restrictions or a footbath, for example. In this way, the 'clean' zone is *quarantined* from everywhere else.

A check and control point does not need to hamper efficient working on the farm. They can be signs that direct visitors to report to the office first where you can ask questions and direct their movements. It is not safe nor is it wise for good pest management to have visitors wandering about the farm.

Check and control points put restrictions in place to prevent unwanted movement of people and vehicles. Place gates and other restrictions on roadways and along the boundary between the clean and outside zones to prevent accidental or intentional movement between the two areas. Place signs at critical locations warning staff and visitors they are entering a clean zone. Have only authorised people move between the zones.

Have visitors, drivers etc report to the office before moving about the farm. Explain where they are to deliver goods and supervise this. Do not let visitors range freely on the farm.

If possible place vehicle and foot wash bays between the clean and outside zones.

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