



Vineyard Biosecurity Action Planner

Property name:

Property address:

Owner or manager:

Contact number:

Action planner completed by:

Review date:

Every 12 months

Protect your vineyard – it is your asset!

If you see anything unusual – report it!

Contact the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881 or email: biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Vineyard biosecurity action planner

What is vineyard biosecurity?

It is a set of measures to protect a vineyard from the entry, establishment and spread of unwanted pests and diseases. Vineyard biosecurity is everyone's responsibility including the government, the broader industry and individual businesses including every person visiting or working on a vineyard.

With an increase in global trade and tourism, agricultural expansion and intensification, urbanisation and climate change, the industry is currently at its greatest risk of biosecurity exposure. New or exotic plant pests in a vineyard will affect business through:

- increased production costs
- reduced productivity (decreased yields and quality)
- influences on business continuity
- impediment to market access.

Biosecurity legislation

The *New South Wales Biosecurity Act 2015* supports biosecurity management as a shared responsibility. If you are a grower or processor, you have a responsibility to protect the NSW wine industry from biosecurity risks you may come across in your day-to-day activities. For further information on your General Biosecurity Duty, please refer to the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries website (www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/managing-biosecurity/the-general-biosecurity-duty).

Developing the action planner

By implementing biosecurity measures outlined in this planner, you will be playing a key role in protecting the NSW viticulture industry from endemic and exotic pests and diseases. This document will allow you to recognise and minimise the biosecurity risks to your farm by assessing your farm’s strengths and weaknesses and identifying areas for potential improvement. Creating a plan around daily, monthly or yearly farm routines means that dealing with biosecurity threats will become a part of the day-to-day management of your vineyard and winery. This document is based on many scenarios and can be adapted to fit your business circumstances.

Risk assessment

Assess the biosecurity risks to your vineyard by considering what could happen (consequence) and the chances of it occurring (likelihood). Risk assessment is an important element of biosecurity management. This practical approach will ensure you apply your resources to achieve the best outcome without wasting time and money. In the document, rate an activity’s biosecurity risk as low, medium, high or not applicable depending on the likelihood of the activity spreading pests, weeds and diseases into or from the farm and the impact this would have on production.

A risk assessment determines the level of risk an activity is likely to pose to your farm and business. The matrix (Figure 1) is also helpful when property zoning with respect to biosecurity.

Pest, weed or disease being spread into, within or from the farm		Likelihood		
		Unlikely: could happen sometimes; low probability but cannot be ruled out completely	Likely: could happen most times	Very likely: could happen every time
Consequence	Minor: risk may have little impact	Low risk	Medium risk	Medium risk
	Moderate: risk will have some impact	Low risk	Medium risk	High risk
	Major: risk will have a significant impact	Medium risk	High risk	High risk

Figure 1. A risk matrix example. Source: CottonInfo.com.au

Examples: visitors that come on to your farm to visit the house for a coffee, park at the house area and do not enter production areas pose a low level of risk so require no or minimal biosecurity mitigation practices.

However, a visitor who has been in the production areas of multiple properties, such as a consultant, researcher, contractor, hunter or utility provider, or in known disease, pest or weed areas, poses a higher risk. A higher-risk visitor may require more significant biosecurity practices such as washing down vehicles prior to their visit or borrowing a farm vehicle while on the farm to reduce biosecurity risks.

Developing your action planner

If you are already addressing a biosecurity risk using the recommended practice, select 'Yes'. If you are addressing a biosecurity risk using a practice other than the recommended practice, select 'Other' and specify the practice being implemented in the comment box.

If a biosecurity risk is relevant to your farm but currently no biosecurity practice is in place, select 'No' and specify any actions to be completed in the comment box. Identify and prioritise practices to implement over the short and long-term to reduce biosecurity risks to your farm, using the action plan on pages 14 and 15.

Review your farm biosecurity management plan annually.

Action 1: Vineyard monitoring

Potential risk	Risk assessment low/med/ high or n/a	Recommended practices	Yes/no or other	Comments/actions
Early detection of pests and diseases gives you the best chance of preventing them from establishing on your property and avoiding ongoing additional expenses for their control. Early detection also increases the chances of eradicating an exotic pest or disease.		I regularly inspect my vines for any-thing unusual or different and results are recorded including when nothing is found.		
		The vineyard owner/manager is aware of all neighbouring horticultural enterprises.		
		I know how and where to report sus-pected exotic plant pests, the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881		
		I know how and where to report sus-pected endemic plant pests, the NSW DPI Hotline on 1800 680 244		

Action 2: Biosecurity knowledge

Potential risk	Risk assessment low/med/ high or n/a	Recommended practices	Yes/no or other	Comments/actions
People working on the property may not be aware of how easily diseases, pests and weeds can spread and how to prevent this from happening.		Vineyard staff know how and where to report pests.		
		Vineyard staff are familiar with com-mon established and exotic viticulture pests and know how to report them		
		Pest awareness material is available to staff, i.e. 'If you spot me, report me' posters		
		Staff are trained in biosecurity measures and vineyard hygiene prac-tices		
		Business understands biosecurity risks, symptoms and potential impacts on vine health		

Action 3: Controlling visitor access

Potential risk	Risk assessment low/med/ high or n/a	Recommended practices	Yes/no or other	Comments/actions
Property access: multiple, unsecured entry points to your property make it difficult to control and limit visitor and vehicle access		I restrict access to my property with fences (or alternatives e.g. shrubs and trees) and gates. These are locked outside of operating hours		
		I do not allow unauthorised vehicles to drive within my vineyards and I provide a vineyard vehicle for use if necessary		
Visitor communication: signage. Without signage, visitors may be una-ware of the biosecurity procedures enforced on your property. Signs let people know that a plan is in place and what to do when they arrive.		Farm biosecurity signs with contact details are located at all entrances to the property to raise biosecurity awareness and deter unauthorised access		
		There is a designated parking area away from the vines for visitors and contractors that is clearly signposted		
Visitor risk assessment: International visitors or visitors from outside your geographical region are generally a higher risk than 'locals'		All visitors report to the office on arrival and sign a visitor register, recording vineyard regions each visitor has visited in the past 3 weeks and check whether there has been a visit to a vineyard in a Phylloxera infested or risk zone		

Action 4: Farmgate hygiene

Potential risk	Risk assessment low/med/ high or n/a	Recommended practices	Yes/no or other	Comments/actions
Visitors: visitors can unknowingly carry diseases, pests and weeds on their clothes, vehicles and equipment		I evaluate the risk of clothing and footwear worn by visitors and only allow vine access under controlled conditions, depending on where the visitors have come from (i.e. – a phyl-loxera zone)		
		Anyone who visits out of region vine-yards is required to clean/disinfect footwear and keep a written record of all vineyard visits		
		All visitors and workers who recently returned from overseas are checked to ensure they have clean footwear and clothing before entering vine-yards		
General hygiene: pests, pathogens and weed seeds can be present on footwear and equipment of visitors		Self-service footbaths and scrubbing brushes are provided to all employees/contractors/visitors before and after they visit the vineyard		
		Equipment and bins used to store fruit are cleaned once emptied		
		Secateurs used for pruning, trimming roots and budding and grafting knives are disinfected between vineyard blocks		

Action 5: Machinery access/hygiene

Potential risk	Risk assessment low/med/ high or n/a	Recommended practices	Yes/no or other	Comments/actions
<p>Vehicle, machinery and equipment hygiene: vehicles, machinery and equipment can carry pests, weeds and diseases.</p> <p>The risk for disease spread is higher when vehicles and machinery are muddy, as well as from machinery that is borrowed/contracted and arriving from other properties.</p> <p>Shipping containers and machinery that is being moved or coming from interstate also poses a higher risk (due to the threat of transporting hitchhiker pest species and the differences in endemic pests, weeds and diseases across regions).</p>		Machinery entering the property is inspected for pests, soil and plant material prior to entering production areas.		
		A record of all machinery, vehicles and equipment entering the property is kept.		
		Washdown facilities are utilised for vehicles and machinery leaving the site or moving between sites to ensure only clean vehicles/machinery leave the site.		
		Vehicles entering the vineyard from another property are decontaminated prior to entry to the vineyard.		
		Legal requirements regarding receiving machinery from interstate are adhered to and any relevant documentation is kept.		
		Borrowed and second-hand machinery and equipment are cleaned and disinfected before use.		
		Cleaning and wash-down facilities, preferably on a concrete pad, provided for people, machinery and equipment are clearly signposted with instructions		

Action 6: Propagation material

Potential risk	Risk assessment low/med/ high or n/a	Recommended practices	Yes/no or other	Comments/actions
Propagation material: introducing propagation material on to your property can allow unwanted diseases, pests and weeds to enter.		Grapevine material is/has only been purchased from accredited suppliers (e.g. accredited nurseries or vine im-provement associations) which have confirmed, in writing, the pest free status of the material http://www.grapevinerootstock.com/		
		Record of planting material and its source are maintained		
		Propagation material is thoroughly checked for signs of pests or diseases upon arrival		
		Equipment used to store, or transport propagation material is disinfected on entry and exit from the property		

Vineyard biosecurity action planner

Practice to be implemented	Priority	Person responsible	Cost	Due date
Vineyard monitoring				
Biosecurity knowledge				
Controlling visitor access				
Farmgate hygiene				
Machinery access/hygiene				
Propagation material				

Property maps and zoning

A property map is an important part of a farm biosecurity plan. A property map can provide a visual representation of features on the property (e.g. entry points, house, sheds and wash-down facilities). It can also be used to highlight any production areas affected by disease or weed infestations that may require additional management. Your property map can be given to farm staff, contractors or visitors who may need access to the property (e.g. utility workers and hunters) to ensure they can adhere to your biosecurity requirements and expectations.

Zoning

A property map may also be helpful should you consider 'zoning' your property. Zoning is the division of the property into separate areas based on the level of biosecurity that is needed to minimise the possibility of pests, diseases and weeds entering and spreading. A three-zone system helps to create separation and recognise the different management required between various areas on the property e.g. visitors accessing the house would have a different risk level than a person accessing fields and production areas.

Zone	What is it?	Examples	Recommended biosecurity action
Cool zone	Areas where visitors may access but have minimum to no contact with vineyards.	The Cool Zone may be the house or the office on the property. People can come and go as they are parked in designated areas and are not near production areas. For example, visitors to the house or office.	Little action required.
Warm zone	Area where a number of people and vehicles may need to access in order to drop off/pick up materials.	The Warm Zone is the 'roadway' for essential vehicles that need to come onto the farm. This zone may include roads through the farm to wineries and sheds. For example, trucks picking up grape juice from the winery.	May not be feasible to limit access. Ensure the area is kept clean and preferably well gravelled. Monitor regularly for weeds and pests.
Hot zone	This is the area where vineyards/ processing is located and vehicles, machinery and equipment operate.	The Hot Zone includes vineyards, paddocks and wineries where vehicles, machinery and equipment may operate. Vehicles, machinery or tools should not enter this area without appropriate measures. For example, machinery should not be removed out of the Hot Zone and taken to another farm and vice versa without appropriate measures being used. For large enterprises or to manage a particular disease or pest issue, it may also be useful to have separate Hot Zones within a property.	Restrict access to this zone. People or vehicles who have a need to enter apply Come Clean Go Clean practices.

Reference number: PUB22/412.

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