Fact sheet

Is your farm at risk? – Overseas trips

When returning to Australia after travelling overseas, or when welcoming overseas visitors, good hygiene is essential to minimise the risk of introducing an exotic pest.

**Pest** is a term that covers all insects, mites, snails, nematodes, pathogens (diseases) and weeds that can damage plants or plant products.

Australia is fortunate to be free of many pests that hamper production in other countries around the world. If you, or a visitor, travel to rural properties or agricultural areas overseas, there is a risk that you could spread pests on your return to Australia. The risk is greater if you visit:

- farms
- grain stores
- animal stalls
- field days
- markets where produce or animals are sold.

You don’t even need to bring items across the border to risk introducing a new pest to Australia – pests can spread on the things you are wearing. Weed seeds can lodge in clothes and shoes and fungal spores including rust and bunt can stick to clothes, shoes, hair and personal items like watchbands.

*Great care should be taken to prevent the accidental introduction of exotic pests into Australia.*

**Tips for people travelling from overseas**

**Customs and biosecurity requirements:**

- Always comply fully with quarantine border restrictions. Declare any food, plant material or animal products that you are carrying to biosecurity officers when you arrive in Australia.

**Clothing and footwear:**

- Wash clothes and clean footwear. This should be done before you pack to return to Australia, where possible, or otherwise immediately on your return.

- Footwear should be disinfected where possible. Use a disinfecting agent, bleach or an alcohol/water mix.

- If you have been somewhere that poses a particularly high risk, such as an area you know is infested, consider leaving your clothing and footwear behind.
Arrival back in Australia
- Wipe down non-washable items such as suitcases, camera bags, watchbands and belts. Disinfect where possible.
- Remind family members, employees or others travelling with you to take these precautions too.

For more information visit the Department of Agriculture travel site: www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/travel

For further information on how to reduce the risk of spreading overseas pests or farm biosecurity manuals or other factsheets visit the Plant Health Australia website www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/gfbp, the Farm Biosecurity website www.farmbiosecurity.com.au or contact your states Grain Biosecurity Officer.

If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE**
1800 084 881

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>GRAINS BIOSECURITY OFFICER</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>Rachel Taylor</td>
<td>0409 945 069</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rachel.taylor@dpi.nsw.gov.au">rachel.taylor@dpi.nsw.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>Kym McIntyre</td>
<td>0429 727 690</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kym.mcintyre@daff.qld.gov.au">kym.mcintyre@daff.qld.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Judy Bellati</td>
<td>0412 218 228</td>
<td><a href="mailto:judy.bellati@sa.gov.au">judy.bellati@sa.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIC</td>
<td>Jim Moran</td>
<td>0418 377 930</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jim.moran@depi.vic.gov.au">jim.moran@depi.vic.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>Jeff Russell</td>
<td>0447 851 801</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeff.russell@agric.wa.gov.au">jeff.russell@agric.wa.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disclaimer: The material in this publication is for general information only and no person should act, or fail to act on the basis of this material without first obtaining professional advice. Plant Health Australia and all persons acting for Plant Health Australia expressly disclaim liability with respect to anything done in reliance on this publication.