

Is your field day a biosecurity risk?

Field days and on site trials provide valuable agronomic information, however they can also be the perfect occasion to spread unwanted plant pests (weeds, diseases and invertebrates).

Key risks are:

- introducing an unwanted pest to the field site
- pest spreading back to attendee's properties; and
- pest spreading throughout the district and potentially further.

Managing these risks can be simple, safeguarding all involved in hosting and attending field days.

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

Top 10 biosecurity tips for field days

1. **Incorporate a biosecurity message in publicity fliers.** E.g. 'In the interest of farm biosecurity, please ensure all footwear and vehicles are free of soil'.
2. **Ensure all vehicles are parked in a designated area.** This can assist in containing the spread of a new pest and make monitoring for new pests much easier.
3. **Consider using a bus for transport to field sites to reduce the risks associated with vehicle movement.**
4. **Incorporate boot scrapers and a foot bath at site access points.** These can be located either at the entry to the property, or prior to getting on a bus.
5. **Have hand sanitiser available for use.**
6. **Register all attendees.** This facilitates trace forward/trace back in the event of introduction of an unwanted pest, particularly an exotic plant pest.
7. **Ensure the field site has biosecurity signage.** Signs can remind attendees of the importance of biosecurity and requirements at the site.
8. **Remember that caterers, trade/industry representatives and hire staff erecting marquees should also comply with field day hygiene guidelines.**
9. **Monitor the car park and trial site area for any new pests for up to a year after the event.** New pests can take a while to show up and your obligation to the site shouldn't end at the field day.
10. **Remind attendees of the risks and encourage good farm biosecurity practice.** This can include advice for attendance at future field days, as well as information on good farm biosecurity practice.





What do you risk by NOT considering farm biosecurity?

- Reluctance of farmers to participate in trials and, importantly, to host field days
- Increasing reluctance of farmers to attend field days
- Introduction of a new pest to an area with associated control and management issues (possibly long term)
- Negative feedback for your business/organisation
- Failing to take on responsibility and 'duty of care'.

Become biosecurity aware when visiting or running a field day – remember you are at the forefront of good biosecurity practice.

For assistance creating a biosecurity plan, identifying biosecurity risks or sourcing equipment or material to mitigate these risks, contact your nearest Grains Biosecurity Officer.

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

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881**



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