

# Discovered something new?

## Have you discovered a new pest or pathogen?

Your research can have significant implications for plant biosecurity. If you find a potential new pest or disease through your research it is vital you report this to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline.

New pests and diseases can devastate farm productivity and native ecosystems, and affect the access of Australian goods to overseas markets, with flow on financial consequences.

By reporting an exotic pest or disease detection early, there is a greater chance it will be successfully contained and eradicated. For this reason, it is vital to report any potential new pests, pathogens or new hosts prior to publishing your work.

**Reporting potential new pests, pathogen or new hosts is a legal obligation under Commonwealth and state legislation.**



## What information do I need to report?

Every report to the hotline is taken seriously and confidentially. Your call will be forwarded to an experienced officer who will ask some questions to help understand the situation such as:

- what was seen (describe or send a photo of the pest or disease) and when was it first noticed
- where it was found and what it was on
- how many pests are present or the severity of the infection
- how widely distributed it is.

If you are in doubt about what to do, ask and you will be advised by a biosecurity officer.

## Will reporting affect my ability to publish?

It is important that you report your finding before publishing since published articles about potentially new pests or diseases in Australia can impact Australia's access to overseas markets.

Calls to the hotline are confidential and your results will not be published.

Reporting to the hotline does not constitute a 'first report', so publishers can still accept manuscripts regarding the pest or pathogen.

**IF YOU SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL,  
CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE**

**☎ 1800 084 881**

## Reporting pests, diseases and weeds

In Australia, any unusual plant pest, disease or weed should be reported immediately to the relevant state or territory agriculture agency through the **Exotic Plant Pest Hotline** on **1800 084 881**.



## What should I do if I discover something new?

Ring the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline (1800 084 881) if you believe that you may have discovered:

- a new pest or pathogenic species
- a new strain of a pest or pathogen
- a pest or pathogen that is new to your state
- a pest or disease of unknown origin.

If you are unsure if you have discovered an exotic organism, it is important that you report it.

If you find a potential new pest or disease, these are the steps you should take:

- isolate all suspect material and do not move it as this may spread the pest or pathogen
- decontaminate any clothing, tools, equipment or footwear that have been in contact with the suspected exotic pest or pathogen
- if possible take photos of the pest or disease symptoms
- mark the area where the suspect pest or disease symptoms were found
- if possible, restrict access to the site where the suspect organism was found.

Do not destroy suspect material as it may be needed for confirmatory diagnosis.

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## More information

For more information about reporting please refer to [planthealthaustralia.com.au/reporting](http://planthealthaustralia.com.au/reporting)

Plant Health Australia has an online course available which provides information on reporting and biosecurity responses specifically targeted to researchers. To access the Biosecurity Online Training (BOLT) website and enrol in the course, go to [planthealthaustralia.com.au/BOLT](http://planthealthaustralia.com.au/BOLT)



Decontaminate clothing, tools and footwear that have been in contact with the suspected exotic organism.



If possible take photos of the pest or disease symptoms.



Mark the area where the suspect pest or disease symptoms were found.

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