

If it can move, it can carry pests, diseases and weeds! On-farm biosecurity – Top 5 Tips

Angela Atkinson, Berry Industry Development Officer, Victoria & South Australia

There are many pathways through which diseases, pests and weed seeds can enter your property, or move from one part of a farm to another. Some of these are difficult to control, like birds and animals spreading weed seeds, but many risks can be managed and controlled by implementing a few simple processes. It's all about reducing risk.

1. Signage

Anyone entering your property can unintentionally and unknowingly carry pests, diseases or weed seeds on their clothing, shoes or vehicles.

Putting up a biosecurity sign at your gate, with a contact phone number, is a great way to let visitors know that biosecurity is important to you and that they must report to you before they enter your property.



Figure 1.

Biosecurity signs like the one pictured to the left and printed on corflute are available from <https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/shop/> or you can download the template and get your local printer to print one from <https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Farm-Biosecurity-sign-900x600-V2.pdf>

2. Limit access to your property

Limiting where visitors can go on your property can greatly reduce the risk of introducing pests, diseases and weeds. Ideally there should be only one entry point for visitors to access the property, although this is not always possible. If there is more than one access point, signage as described above should be placed at each point, if possible.

Having a designated visitor parking area with clear signage, that is separate from the production areas, is a great way to reduce the risk of vehicles introducing pests, diseases or weed seeds. If the parking area has a gravel surface even better, as that will decrease the risk of movement of contaminated soil.

