

# Blitzing blueberries: it's biosecurity time!

Margaret Uloth, Plant Pathologist, Plant Biosecurity & Sustainability, Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development and Laura Fagan, Development Officer, Plant Biosecurity & Sustainability, Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development

Pest reporters around Western Australia are gearing up for the state's annual pest and disease surveillance campaign, the Biosecurity Blitz 2020. The Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development (DPIRD) initiative runs from 19 October to 16 November 2020. The public are encouraged to participate by reporting interesting insects, plants or animals using the MyPestGuide™ Reporter app.

To participate, simply download the MyPestGuide™ Reporter app, get outside, take photos of interesting organisms and send them to the department during the blitz period. Experts from the department will view and respond to all Biosecurity Blitz reports, providing an identification and information about the organism back to you through the app.

DPIRD Development Officer Laura Fagan, said receiving a large number of reports over a concentrated period provided valuable data to support the department's ongoing biosecurity efforts.



**The Biosecurity Blitz provides us with a snapshot in time of the state of our environment.**

“The more reports we get over this period, the better as it gives us a broad understanding of the kinds of insects, diseases and weeds we have around us, which is critical to detecting and preventing the establishment of new exotic pests. “Biosecurity Blitz 2020 reports also support the department's ongoing surveillance efforts to demonstrate freedom from exotic pests and diseases, which underpins access to essential trade markets.

This means that the public can help support the Western Australian horticulture industry generate greater returns on investments.”

DPIRD Plant Pathologist Margaret Uloth said while reports of all organisms were welcome, there would be a focus on blueberry rust in this year's Blitz.

“We want to gather evidence to show that the disease is still absent from Western Australia. We have developed a blueberry rust activity which asks for photos of any kind of spots on blueberry leaves and provides blueberry rust information and images.”

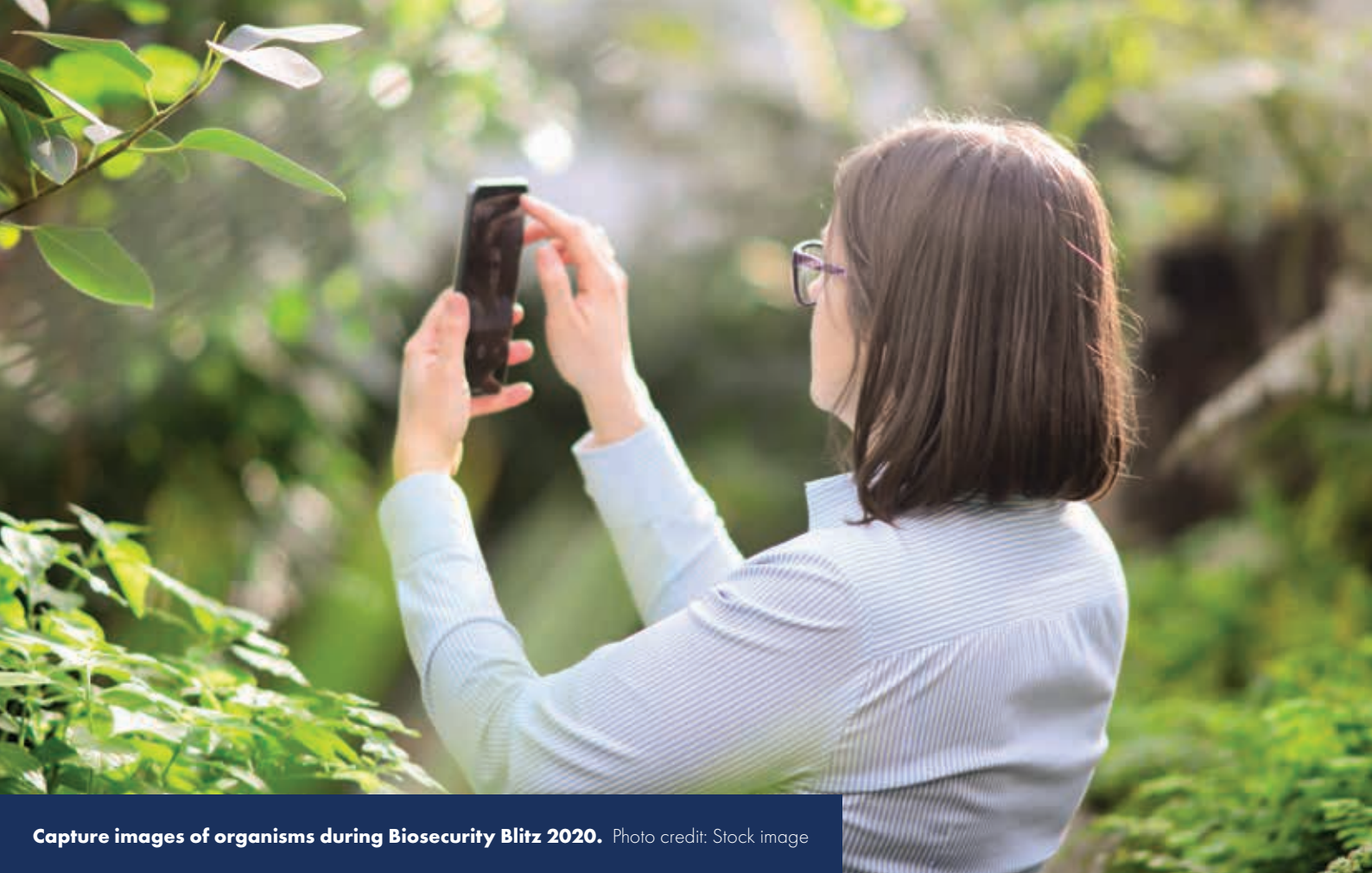
“We would like as many blueberry reports as possible, so take photos of your berry plants, even if they are super healthy. These reports are important to show our freedom from blueberry rust.”

You can make reports using the MyPestGuide™ Reporter app for iOS or Android, or by submitting a report through the community website: [mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au/reporter](https://mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au/reporter)

To find out more and view the available activities visit the Biosecurity Blitz 2020 website: [agric.wa.gov.au/biosecurity-blitz](https://agric.wa.gov.au/biosecurity-blitz)



Department of  
**Primary Industries and  
Regional Development**



Capture images of organisms during Biosecurity Blitz 2020. Photo credit: Stock image



Blueberry plants are of particular interest



### Report your observations



MyPestGuide™ Reporter  
via app or online [mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au](http://mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au)



Pest and Disease Information Service  
(08) 9368 3080 or [padis@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:padis@dpird.wa.gov.au)