

New Biosecurity Plan for the Berry Sector released

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- Biosecurity planning assesses current biosecurity practices and future biosecurity needs
- The Biosecurity Plan for the Berry Sector identifies high priority exotic pests, and established pests of biosecurity concern
- The Biosecurity Plan identifies actions to reduce the chance, or impact, of an exotic pest incursion
- The plan will be reviewed and updated annually

Biosecurity planning provides a mechanism for industry, government and other relevant stakeholders to better prepare for, and respond to, incursions of pests that could have significant impacts on the sector. An important part of biosecurity planning is the development of an industry biosecurity plan, coordinated by Plant Health Australia, with input from industry and government. A biosecurity plan outlines the commitment to the partnership between industry and government to improve biosecurity for the sector. The *Biosecurity Plan for the Berry Sector version 1.0* was published in December 2020. Previously the Rubus and strawberry industries were covered by separate biosecurity plans. This new plan covers both industries, as they have a number of shared pests of concern, and the single plan aims to reduce fragmentation and duplication of biosecurity implementation activities.

The blueberry industry is currently covered by the *Biosecurity Plan for the Blueberry Industry version 1.0*, which is due for review this year. Recognising the relationship between the three berry industries and the number of shared pests, information from the Blueberry biosecurity plan has been included in the new plan, with the intention of formal inclusion when the Blueberry plan is reviewed.

The Biosecurity Plan is a framework to coordinate biosecurity activities and investment for Australia's berry sector, and outlines key threats to the industry, risk mitigation plans, identification and categorisation of exotic pests and contingency plans. It identifies and prioritises exotic plant pests (not currently present in Australia) and established pests of biosecurity concern and focuses on future biosecurity challenges.

The development of a Threat Summary Table (TST), consisting of a list of over 330 exotic plant pests and the potential biosecurity threat that they represent to the Australian berry sector is the first step in the biosecurity planning process.

Each pest on this list is given an overall risk rating based on four criteria; risk of entry, likelihood of establishment, spread potential and economic impact. Pests with an overall high rating are identified as High Priority Pests (HPP) and are listed in Table 1.

The Biosecurity Plan documents all information and resources available, and activities undertaken to raise awareness, for each of the HPPs and established pests listed. This enables the identification of gaps in knowledge and prioritises specific actions which are needed to increase industry's biosecurity preparedness and response capability. These actions are listed in the plan along with timeframes and responsibilities.

Industry Biosecurity Plans are principally designed for decision-makers, and provide industries and government with a mechanism to identify exotic plant pests, as well as to address the strengths and weaknesses of the industry's current biosecurity position. Annual reviews of the Biosecurity Plan for the Berry Sector will be undertaken to assess progress against agreed activities, with another formal review to be conducted in five years.

The Biosecurity Plan for the Berry Sector version 1.0 is available from Plant Health Australia by emailing admin@phau.com.au

Table 2. Berry Sector High Priority Pests (in alphabetical order of pest type).

<i>Affected Berry Industry</i>	<i>Common Name (scientific name)</i>	<i>Distribution in Australia</i>	<i>Movement Controls</i>
Invertebrates			
Acari (mites)			
Strawberry	Kanzawa spider mite (<i>Tetranychus kanzawai</i>)	NSW, QLD	Movement control of fruit and nursery stock into WA
Rubus	Red berry mite (<i>Acalitus essigi</i>)	SA, TAS, VIC, WA	No formal movement controls
Blueberry Rubus Strawberry	Two spotted mite (<i>Tetranychus urticae</i>)	NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC & WA	No formal movement control
Coleoptera (beetles and weevils)			
Blueberry	Elephant weevil (<i>Orthorhinus cylindrirostris</i>)	NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC & WA	No formal movement controls
Blueberry Rubus Strawberry	Strawberry rough weevil (<i>Otiiorhynchus rugosostriatus</i>)	ACT, NSW, TAS, VIC	Movement control of fruit and nursery stock into WA
Diptera (flies)			
Blueberry Rubus Strawberry	Queensland fruit fly (<i>Bactrocera tryoni</i>)	NSW, NT (Darwin), QLD, VIC	Movement controls of fruit
Blueberry Rubus	Mediterranean fruit fly (<i>Ceratitis capitata</i>)	WA (except Ord river irrigation area)	Movement controls of fruit
Hemiptera (stink bugs, aphids, mealybugs, scale, whiteflies and hoppers)			
Strawberry	Green peach aphid (<i>Myzus persicae</i>)	All states and territories	No formal movement controls
Rubus Strawberry	Rutherglen bug (<i>Nysius vinitor</i>)	NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC, WA	No formal movement controls
Thysanoptera (thrips)			
Blueberry Strawberry	Western flower thrips (<i>Frankliniella occidentalis</i>)	NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC, WA	Movement controls in NT
Blueberry Strawberry	Plague thrips (<i>Thrips imaginis</i>)	Widespread	No formal movement controls
Pathogens			
Fungi			
Blueberry	Blueberry rust (<i>Thekopsora minima</i>)	NSW, QLD, TAS	State movement controls of blueberry material (ICA-31)
Strawberry	Charcoal rot (<i>Macrophomina phaseolina</i>)	NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC, WA	No formal movement controls
Blueberry	Phytophthora root rot (<i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i>)	NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC, WA	No formal movement control