

Industry Biosecurity Plan for the Citrus Industry

Australia's geographic isolation and quarantine systems have meant that we have remained relatively free of many pests that cause significant issues for citrus production overseas. Freedom from exotic pests provides both a yield advantage as well as real trade benefits for the Australian citrus industry.

Biosecurity planning provides a mechanism for the citrus industry, government and other relevant stakeholders to assess current biosecurity practices and future biosecurity needs. This is achieved through determining pests not currently present in Australia and analysing the risks they pose. Biosecurity planning also identifies procedures that can be put in place to reduce the chance of pests reaching our borders or minimise the impact if a pest incursion occurs.

Plant Health Australia (PHA) works with the citrus industry, represented by the Citrus Australia Ltd., and Government Members to identify, prioritise, and manage key plant health risks. An important step in this process is the development and implementation of the Citrus Industry Biosecurity Plan (IBP).

The Citrus IBP was first developed in 2004 and has been recently reviewed by PHA in collaboration with industry and government stakeholders.

Industry Biosecurity Plans are an industry's blueprint for providing the best possible protection against exotic plant pests. IBPs cover:

- identification of the highest risk pests to the industry (threat identification and analysis)
- how an industry guards against exotic pests (risk mitigation activities)
- how an industry will know when an exotic pest has arrived (surveillance) and how to identify it (diagnostics)
- how an industry deals with exotic pests if they are found (contingency plans)

Development of an IBP involves significant consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. PHA would like to recognise all who have contributed financially and in-kind to the development of the Citrus IBP, including:

- Citrus Australia Ltd.
- The Australian Government and all state and territory governments
- The Citrus Industry Biosecurity Group

The Citrus IBP provides:

- a more rigorous basis for strategic planning, with a structured consideration of key risks
- assistance in setting priorities for further industry action and investment in biosecurity
- reduced costs, as a result of early detection and management of biosecurity risks
- effective and efficient biosecurity programs
- greater transparency and inclusiveness in decision-making and ongoing management processes
- optimisation of resources
- reduced loss and damage from pest incursions
- combined industry and government ownership of decisions, and a commitment to delivering real outcomes
- the capacity to examine arrangements for key pest threats across other plant industries affected

Identifying key pest threats for the citrus industry

The development of the Citrus IBP began with the production of Threat Summary Tables, which contain the exotic pest threats identified for the citrus industry. Through expert consultation these pests were ranked for their potential threat based on entry, establishment, spread and economic criteria and, from this information, the high priority plant pest threats were determined. These high priority pest threats provide a focus for further risk mitigation activities such as surveillance, contingency planning, and on-farm biosecurity and awareness activities.

High priority pest threats for the citrus industry include:

Invertebrates	Pathogens
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asia citrus psylla• Citrus fruit borer• Exotic fruit flies• Glassy-winged sharp shooter• Citrus whitefly• South African citrus thrips	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Citrus canker• Citrus variegated chlorosis• Huanglongbing• Post bloom fruit drop• Mandarin stem-pitting strain of CTV• Stubborn• Bacterial spot• Citrus leprosis disease• Powdery mildew

Implementation of the Industry Biosecurity Plan

The Citrus IBP provides a framework for the implementation of biosecurity risk mitigation measures in the industry. Through Citrus Australia the industry is implementing biosecurity preparedness through activities such as:

- development of pest-specific contingency plans
- development of an *Orchard Biosecurity Manual*
- promotion of biosecurity through the development of exotic pest awareness material
- regular reviews of the citrus industry's biosecurity preparedness and key exotic pest threats

Want more info?

If you would like more information, or to download a copy of the Citrus IBP, visit www.planthealthaustralia.com.au, email admin@phau.com.au or phone (02) 6215 7700.