

Industry Biosecurity Plan for the Strawberry Industry

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

Biosecurity planning provides a mechanism for the strawberry 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, as well identifying procedures that can be put in place to reduce the chance of pests reaching our borders and minimise the impact if a pest incursion occurs.

Plant Health Australia (PHA) works with the strawberry industry, represented by Strawberries Australia, 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 Strawberry Industry Biosecurity Plan (IBP).

The Strawberry IBP was first developed in 2005 and has been recently reviewed by PHA in collaboration with industry and government stakeholders.

The Industry Biosecurity Plan – an industry's blueprint

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 Strawberry IBP, including:

- Strawberries Australia
- Horticulture Australia
- Landmark
- The Australian Government and all state and territory governments



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THE NATIONAL STRAWBERRY
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The Strawberry 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 strawberry industry

The development of the Strawberry IBP began with the production of Threat Summary Tables, which contain the pest threats identified for the strawberry 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 pests were determined. These high priority pests provide a focus for further risk mitigation activities such as surveillance, contingency planning, and on-farm biosecurity and awareness activities.

High priority plant pest threats for the strawberry industry include:

Invertebrates	Pathogens
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tarnished plant bug (<i>Lygus lineolaris</i>)• Western plant bug (<i>Lygus hesperus</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angular leaf spot (<i>Xanthomonas fragariae</i>)• Strawberry red stele rot (<i>Phytophthora fragariae</i> var. <i>fragariae</i>)• Nepoviruses (<i>Raspberry ringspot virus</i>, <i>Strawberry latent ringspot virus</i>, <i>Tomato black ring virus</i> and <i>Tomato ringspot virus</i>)

Implementation of the Industry Biosecurity Plan

The Strawberry IBP provides a framework for the implementation of biosecurity risk mitigation measures in the industry. Following the production and review of the Strawberry IBP, the strawberry industry, through Strawberries Australia, can implement the IBP through activities such as:

- development of pest threat-specific documents
- development of an on-farm biosecurity manual
- official surveillance programs where data is recorded in national databases

Want more info?

If you would like more information, or to download a copy of the Strawberry IBP, visit www.planthealthaustralia.com.au, email admin@phau.com.au or phone (02) 6260 4322.