

Industry Biosecurity Plans

Plant biosecurity and Industry Biosecurity Plans (IBPs)

Australia's geographic isolation has meant that the region has been relatively free of many pests that have wrought havoc on plant industries overseas. Freedom from these exotic pests is a real trade benefit for the Australian avocado industry in securing market access domestically and internationally. Maintenance of our plant health status is vital for retaining existing trade opportunities, negotiating access to new overseas markets and ensuring the future profitability and sustainability of our plant industries.

Plant Health Australia (PHA) is a public company, with Members including the Australian Government, all state and territory governments, and a range of plant industry organisations representing all major crops grown in Australia. Using our existing relationships, PHA works with Members to identify, prioritise, and manage key plant health risks. An important step in this process is via the development of national biosecurity plans for each of our plant industries.

PHA has recently developed the Industry Biosecurity Plan (IBP) for the avocado industry. This was done in collaboration with industry and government stakeholders.



Plant Health
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An Industry Biosecurity Plan – an industry's blueprint

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

- ✓ 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); and
- ✓ how an industry deals with exotic pests if they are found (contingency plans).

The benefits of developing and implementing the Grains Industry Biosecurity Plan include:

- ✓ a more rigorous basis for strategic planning, with a structured consideration of key risks;
- ✓ assistance in setting priorities for further industry action & 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;
- ✓ government and industry ownership of decisions, and a commitment to delivering real outcomes; and
- ✓ the capacity to examine arrangements across other plant industries affected by the same key pest threats.



Developing an Industry Biosecurity Plan

The development of each Industry Biosecurity Plan begins with the production of Threat Summary Tables (TST) which contain the Emergency Plant Pests for an industry. These tables identify all the exotic pests for the industry and, with expert consultation, rank their potential threat based on entry, establishment, spread and economic criteria. From this information, the high priority Emergency Plant Pests for the avocado industry were determined for which diagnostic protocols and contingency plans can be developed. These high priority pests provide a focus for further risk mitigation activities such as surveillance, on-farm biosecurity and awareness activities.

Examples of High Priority Emergency Plant Pests for the avocado industry are:

Invertebrates	Pathogens
<p>Small avocado seed weevil (<i>Conotrachelus aguacatae</i>)</p> <p>Large seed weevil (<i>Helipus lauri</i>)</p> <p>Pyriform scale (<i>Protopulvinaria pyriformis</i>)</p> <p>Asian fruit fly complex (<i>Bactrocera dorsalis</i>, <i>B. facialis</i>, <i>B. kirki</i>, <i>B. melanotus</i>, <i>B. papaya</i>, <i>B. pasiflorae</i>, <i>B. philippinensis</i>, <i>B. xanthodes</i>)</p> <p>Persea mite (<i>Oligonychus persea</i>)</p>	<p>Avocado blast complex (<i>Erwinia herbicola</i> and <i>Pseudomonas syringae</i>)</p> <p>Cercospora spot (<i>Pseudocercospora purpurea</i>)</p> <p>Bacterial canker complex (<i>Pseudomonas syringae</i> pv. <i>syringae</i> and <i>Xanthomonas campestris</i>)</p> <p>Avocado scab (<i>Sphaceloma perseae</i>)</p> <p>Avocado blackstreak disease (Unknown etiology)</p> <p>Duke 6 stem pitting (Unknown etiology)</p> <p>Avocado Sunblotch – symptomatic and asymptomatic strains (<i>Avocado Sunblotch Viroid</i>)</p>

The collaborative process – the Industry Biosecurity Group

The development and review of an Industry Biosecurity Plan is a highly collaborative process. For each Industry-specific Biosecurity Plan, an Industry Biosecurity Group (IBG) is formed that oversees the development and biennial review. The IBG is comprised of representatives from industry, government, and research and development organisations.

The process involves significant collaboration and 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 avocado IBP, including:

- ✓ Avocados Australia Ltd
- ✓ Horticulture Australia Ltd (HAL)
- ✓ Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)
- ✓ State and territory governments.

Want more info?

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

