

## Industry Biosecurity Plan for the Olive Industry

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

Biosecurity planning provides a mechanism for the olive 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 as 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 olive industry, represented by the Australian Olive Association, 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 Olive Industry Biosecurity Plan (IBP), which has been recently developed in collaboration with industry and government stakeholders.

### The Industry Biosecurity Plan – an industry's blueprint

Industry Biosecurity Plans (IBPs) 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 Olive IBP, including:

- Australian Olive Association
- University of Western Sydney
- The Australian Government and all state and territory governments

The Olive 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 olive industry

The development of the Olive IBP began with the production of Threat Summary Tables, which contain the pest threats identified for the olive 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 exotic 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 plant pest threats for the olive industry are:

- Olive fly (*Bactrocera oleae*)
- Olive thrips (*Liothrips oleae*)
- Olive moth (*Prays oleae*)
- Verticillium wilt, defoliating strain (*Verticillium dahliae*)

### Implementation of the Industry Biosecurity Plan

The Olive IBP provides a framework for the implementation of biosecurity risk mitigation measures in the industry. Following the production of the Olive IBP, the olive industry, through the Australian Olive Association, can implement the IBP through activities such as:

- promotion of biosecurity through the development of exotic pest awareness material
- official surveillance programs where data is recorded in a national database
- promotion of on-farm training programs for best practice biosecurity
- development of pest-specific contingency plans
- development of an on-farm biosecurity manual

### Want more info?

If you would like more information, or to download a copy of the Olive IBP, visit [www.planthealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au), email [admin@phau.com.au](mailto:admin@phau.com.au) or phone (02) 6215 7700.