

# DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANT INDUSTRY SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMS IN AUSTRALIA

IPPC International Symposium for Pest Free Areas and Surveillance

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Improving national biosecurity outcomes through partnerships



Plant Health  
AUSTRALIA



# Plant based agriculture in Australia

Figures from 2017/18

Plant industry	Annual value of production	Number of high priority pests
Grains (mainly wheat, barley, canola, sorghum)	\$14.9 billion	53
Plantation Timber	\$2.2 billion	21
Citrus (mainly sweet oranges)	\$627 m	22
Banana	\$479 m	11
Pineapples	\$47.3 million	6
Lychees	\$26.7 million	7

# Plant Health Australia (PHA)

- Not for profit, **public company**, established in 2000
- PHA is the national coordinator of the **government-industry partnership** for plant biosecurity in Australia
- PHA works with its members to improve plant biosecurity outcomes
- **Member-based** company
  - 9 Government members (Australian government and all states and territories)
  - 39 plant industry members
- Custodians of the **Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed**
- Similar Deeds exist for livestock industries and native flora and fauna.

# National Bee Pest Surveillance Program

## Partnership approach

- Funded and assisted by honey bee industry
- Expertise and activities undertaken by government personnel
- Raising awareness through the Bee Biosecurity Program

## Surveillance areas

- 33 ports
- High density commercial areas and hobby bee keepers

## Surveillance

- 178 sentinel hives inspected 6-week intervals, 170 catchboxes, Sweep netting floral resources

## Surveillance targets

- Internal and external mites (Tracheal, Tropilaelaps, Varroa)
- Exotic viruses
- Pest bees (Asian honey bee, Red dwarf honey bee, Giant honey bee)





# Grains Farm Biosecurity Program

## Partnership approach

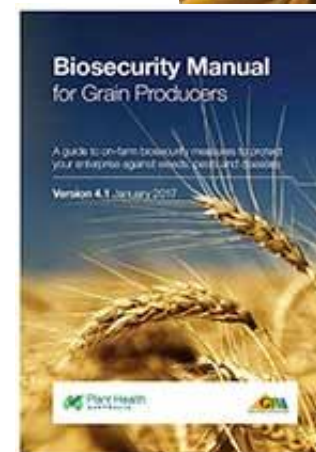
- Funded and assisted by grains industry

## Surveillance

- Extension-focused program to build education and awareness for a range of exotic pest threats
- Facilitate evidence of absence for Khapra beetle
  - Sampling techniques appropriate for host material/environment. (e.g. traps, grain sieving, vacuuming)
  - Multiple samples per site; traps serviced 4-6 weeks over summer
- Biosecurity Blitz campaigns

## Future

- Moving towards a National Grain surveillance program
- Improved planning, prioritisation and coordination
- Broaden the skills and capacity base for surveillance



### Monitor your crops for the presence of pests

Check your crops regularly for pests. Record crop monitoring activities. Be aware of the serious exotic pests of grain and the symptoms they cause. Keep written and photographic records of all unusual observations. Constant vigilance is vital for early detection of any exotic plant pest threat. See page 9.

### Report anything unusual

If you suspect a new pest, report it immediately to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline. Early detection provides the best chance of eradicating a new pest. See page 10.

### Manage people movement

People can inadvertently carry pests with them as they move about. Use farm biosecurity signs to direct all visitors to notify you of their presence, record visits and make sure visitors have clean footwear and clothing. Take particular care with contractors, utility providers and visitors from overseas. Train farm workers about your requirements. See page 12.

### Reduce risks posed by vehicles and equipment

Direct all visitors to park in a designated parking area that can be monitored for new pests. Ensure that all machinery and vehicles that enter production areas are clean. A wash-down facility provides good protection. See page 15.

### Manage produce carefully

Purchase seed from reputable sources and record where it came from. Monitor stored grain regularly, keep this area around them free of spill grain and weeds in to keep conditions too cool for insects to breed. If pests are found, fumigate with a suitable pesticide. Only fumigate in sealed (airtight) silos. Always follow all label instructions when using fumigants. See page 18.

### Manage risks posed by livestock and feed

Ensure that fodder or grain bought to feed livestock is free from weed seeds. Buy locally when possible and require a Commodity Vendor Declaration. Isolate new stock for 10-14 days. See page 24.

If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline

EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE  
1800 084 881



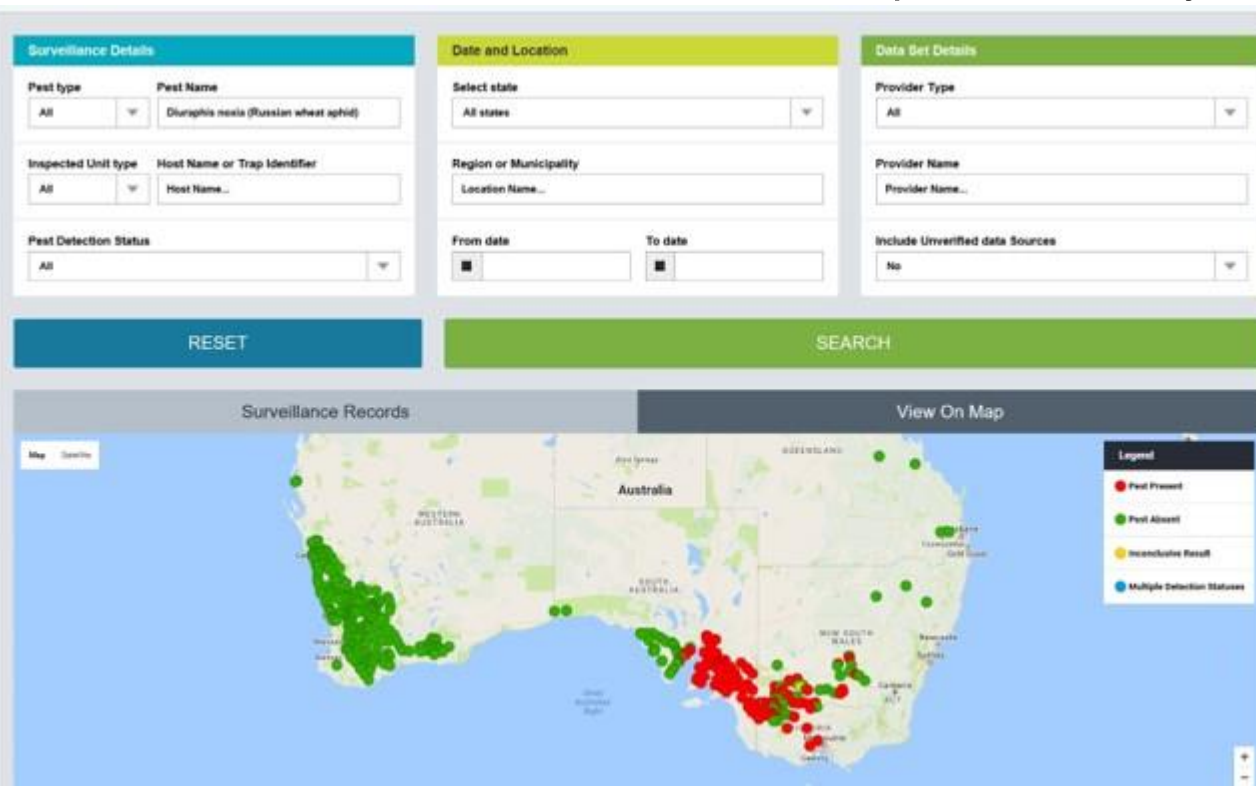




# Surveillance data curation

## AUSPestCheck™

- Links surveillance databases and systems
- Provides an integrated national surveillance data repository
- Receives and provides information back to stakeholders according to needs and with appropriate data security
- Scalable and accommodates tiered permission system



# Summary

- A range of industry and government programs being developed under partnership models in Australia

**Specific (targeted) surveillance**

**General Surveillance**

National Bee  
Pest  
Surveillance  
Program

National Forest  
Biosecurity  
Program

Grain Farm  
Biosecurity  
Program

Botanic  
Gardens  
Surveillance  
Network

National  
Citrus  
Biosecurity  
Program

Bee  
Biosecurity  
Program

Information collection

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**Australian Government**

**Department of Agriculture**