

Overseas visitors and biosecurity in the Australian grains industry



A GUIDE TO HOSTING GUESTS FROM OVERSEAS

Good travel hygiene is essential for all visitors coming to Australia.

Visitors come to Australia for a number of reasons other than recreation and sightseeing activities. They may come for a conference, to attend an agricultural event such as a field day, or be part of a delegation visiting industry members and growers.

If they will be visiting rural properties or grain industry sites, this may increase the risk of an exotic disease or pest entering and becoming established in Australia, and you need to manage the biosecurity risks associated with their visit.

Entering Australia

Plant diseases, pests and weeds are a potential threat that can enter Australia on footwear and clothing. Fungal spores are known to have entered the country on tourists' clothing. Insect pests and weed seeds can also be carried on equipment or in packaging or baggage.

Travelling between regions in Australia

There are some pests, weeds and diseases that are confined to particular regions in Australia. These include herbicide resistant weeds, fungicide resistant pathogens and insecticide resistant pests which may not be evident on visual inspection, so make sure all clothing, equipment and baggage is clean of soil and plant material.



TRAVEL TIPS FOR YOUR VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS

Send the accompanying fact sheet to your visitors before they travel.

You should ensure that your visitors:

- have footwear that is free from dirt
- have cleaned their footwear with soap, water and disinfectant
- washed their clothes before coming to Australia
- have enough clothes to wear clean clothes in each state they are visiting
- are aware of special clothing requirements for places being visited, such as long sleeve garments and enclosed shoes
- are aware of Australian quarantine requirements, particularly for food
- are aware of the strict quarantine requirements when visiting some livestock facilities
- restrict unnecessary contact with or entry to production areas of a farm premises
- keep biosecurity in mind when they return home.

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TIPS FOR ORGANISERS

1. Ensure visitor registers are completed at each event you organise. This can help to trace the origin and spread of any new pests or diseases.
2. Travel with a biosecurity kit containing scrubbing brushes, soap, disinfectant and alcohol wipes.
3. If travelling to a number of sites in Australia, consider providing a foot bath for use between sites. If muddy or dusty boots or equipment can't be cleaned on-site, place them in bags or plastic crates until you can reach a place where they can be washed.
4. Ensure any equipment used to collect plant or soil samples is cleaned and disinfected between sites.
5. Ensure vehicles do not enter production or grain storage areas.



USEFUL LINKS

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources website agriculture.gov.au has sections about biosecurity when travelling to Australia. Interstate travel quarantine is also featured on the page agriculture.gov.au/travelling

The Australian Interstate Quarantine website interstatequarantine.org.au has a section for travellers, including maps of quarantine or biosecurity zones and a guide for travellers that lists what can and cannot be taken from one state to another.

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

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881**

The Grains Farm Biosecurity Program is managed by PHA and funded by growers through Grain Producers Australia together with the governments of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia. Grains Biosecurity Officers in these five states develop and deliver materials to raise awareness and deliver training to growers, consultants and other industry stakeholders. Go to planthealthaustralia.com.au/gfbp for more information.