

Biosecurity Induction Manual for Bundaberg Horticultural Farms

Help reduce the risk of new pests entering, impacting and spreading across the Bundaberg region

Version 1.0





Plant Health Australia (PHA) is the lead national coordinating body for plant health in Australia. PHA works in partnership with industry, governments, researchers and others, providing national coordination to improve biosecurity policy and practice across Australia's plant industries and to build capacity to respond to plant pest emergencies.

www.planthealthaustralia.com.au



Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers Cooperative Limited (BFVG) is a non-trading, not-for-profit grower based organisation funded by members. BFVG represents members in the Bundaberg, Gin Gin, Childers, Hinkler, Gympie, Gayndah and Mundubbera regions, where more than 30 different horticultural commodities are grown. BFVG represents members on agri-political topics and provides up-to-date information to growers.

www.bfvg.com.au

© Plant Health Australia 2010

This work is copyright except where attachments are provided by other contributors and referenced, in which case copyright belongs to the relevant contributor as indicated throughout this document. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior permission from Plant Health Australia.

Requests and enquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to the Communications Manager at PHA.

Phone: 02 6215 7700
Fax: 02 6260 4321
E-mail: biosecurity@phau.com.au
Website: www.planthealthaustralia.com.au

An electronic version of this manual is available from the website listed above.

Disclaimer: The material contained in this publication is produced for general information only. It is not intended as professional advice on any particular matter. No person should act or fail to act on the basis of any material contained in this publication without first obtaining specific, independent professional advice. Plant Health Australia and all persons acting for Plant Health Australia in preparing this publication, expressly disclaim all and any liability to any persons in respect of anything done by any such person in reliance, whether in whole or in part, on this publication. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of Plant Health Australia.

The development of this manual was funded by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry as part of the Engaging in Biosecurity initiative to increase the horticulture sector's capacity to reduce the impact of exotic plant pests. BFVG would also like to acknowledge funding provided through the Australian Governments' Caring for our Country initiative for the Area-wide Integrated Pest Management project.



Farm biosecurity risks

8

Product management

Planting material and farm inputs

Pests can be brought on to the farm in new planting material and other farm inputs. While the risks are reduced by using certified planting material, all farm inputs should be checked closely to ensure no pests are introduced.

Poor quality or infected planting material has the potential to threaten the business.

If you suspect any pests or unhealthy planting material entering or leaving the farm, let the farm manager or your supervisor know immediately.

Harvested produce

Transport of farm produce within and between farms has the potential to spread pests. Examine produce for the presence of pests or unusual symptoms before transporting.

In addition, when transporting any produce ensure that people and vehicle movement recommendations (page 10) have been followed.

Any pests or unusual symptoms in harvested produce, or any transport activities compromising farm biosecurity, should be reported to the farm manager or your supervisor immediately.



Crop waste

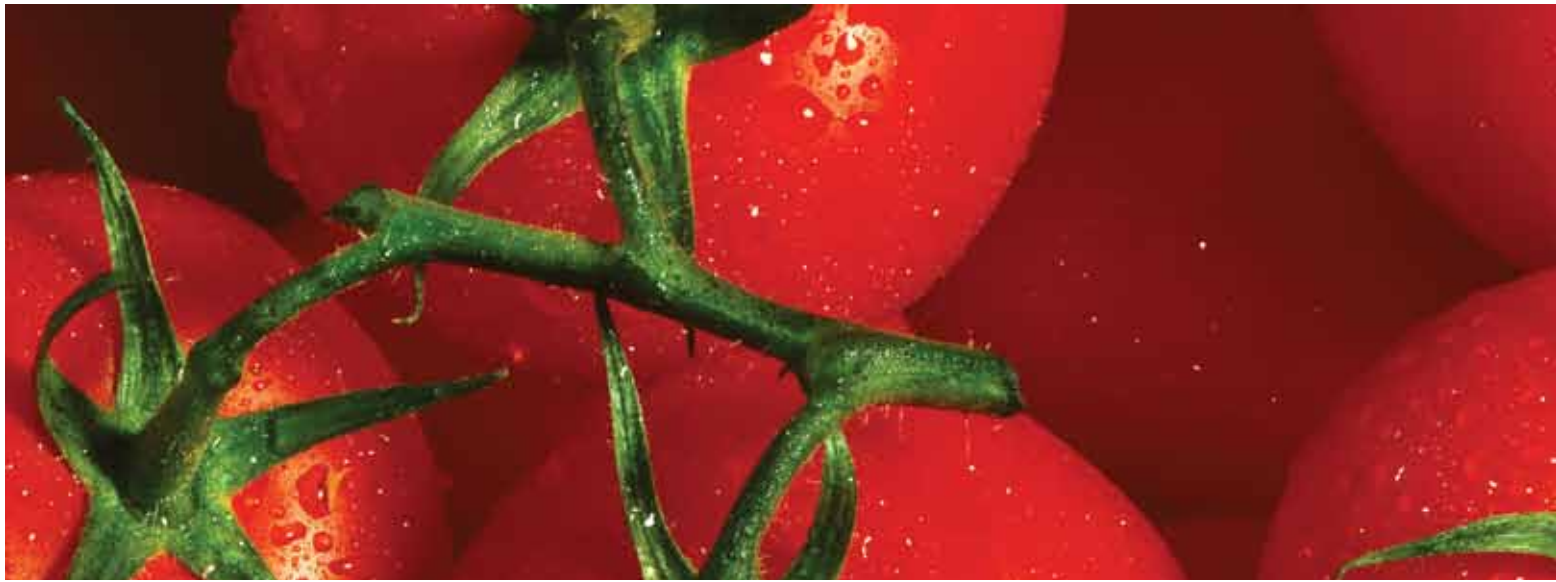
Crop waste that is not disposed of correctly can breed pests and contaminate new crops. This includes crop residues and prunings, as well as packing shed waste.

Follow the procedures put in place on the farm to dispose of waste properly. These procedures could include the following:

- Crop residues and prunings removed or ploughed in directly after harvest.
- Any waste from crops or packing sheds disposed of away from farm production areas and water sources. Waste material may be disposed of by burying, hot-composting or transport to a waste management facility.

- Crop waste to be used as animal fodder must be treated before transport to ensure the removal of all pests.
- Load fruit and vegetables onto trucks on a sealed pad outside production areas.
- No soil, plant material or pests are left on, or in bins and storage areas.





10 People, vehicle and equipment movement

Movement between different farms and regions can spread pests. They are easily spread in soil and plant material on footwear, clothes, vehicles and equipment.

You can help reduce the spread of pests by carrying out these steps:

- When entering the property, use the parking or meeting area and call at the office. Staff should report immediately to their supervisor. Enter your details on the visitor or farm register.
- Read all biosecurity signage and follow the instructions on them.
- Be aware of the biosecurity measures in place on the property.



- Soil, plant material and pests should be removed from vehicles, equipment and tools before entering the farm. Cleaning vehicles and equipment should be done in a wash-down area, preferably with high pressure water. Using an appropriate wash-down area will restrict waste water and new pests to a single, easily managed site. When using wash-down areas:
 - Ensure plant material and soil isn't blown or washed into crop, packing or storage areas.
 - Check whether cleaning products are available and can be used on equipment or machinery.
 - Check whether machinery should be dismantled for cleaning and if so, how to do so.
- Clean and disinfect tools (such as pruning equipment) between each block.
- Use equipment, tools and boots if provided on farm. If using your own equipment, make sure it is clean before you enter the property.
- Where scrubbing brushes and footbaths are provided, use them to clean and disinfect footwear.
- If you have recently arrived from overseas or from another region, make sure your clothes have been washed and your boots cleaned and disinfected before entering the farm.

Cleaning and disinfecting equipment, tools and machinery

Tools and equipment need to be cleaned and preferably disinfected within and between properties. This is done by first removing all soil and plant material then disinfecting with an appropriate solution.

Equipment should be disinfected, but the approach will vary depending on the equipment, farm and potential pest threats:

- Check with the farm manager or supervisor as to whether any specific cleaning procedures or chemicals are recommended or provided.
- If an appropriate chemical is not available, hot soapy water will kill many pests.

- Equipment may also be cleaned by soaking for 10 minutes in bleach solution (1% available chlorine), although long periods of soaking can rust metal and bleach clothes.
- Dipping equipment such as pruners in methylated spirits will disinfect them and kill many pests.
- Machinery will need to be dismantled and cleaned using farm specific instructions.



Further information

12 More information on biosecurity, farm hygiene, pest details and the horticultural industry can be obtained through the following sources.

Organisation	Contact details
Plant Health Australia	Phone: 02 6215 7700 Email: biosecurity@phau.com.au Website: www.phau.com.au
Farm Biosecurity	Phone: 02 6215 7700 Email: info@farmbiosecurity.com.au Website: www.farmbiosecurity.com.au
Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers Cooperative	Phone: 07 4153 3007 Email: bfvg.info@bfvg.com.au Website: www.bfvg.com.au
AUSVEG	Phone: 03 9544 8098 Email: info@ausveg.com.au Website: www.ausveg.com.au
Horticulture Australia Ltd.	Phone: 02 8295 2300 Website: www.horticulture.com.au
Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	Phone: 13 25 23 or 07 3404 6999 Email: callweb@dpi.qld.gov.au Website: www.deedi.qld.gov.au
Pest and Disease Image Library (PaDIL)	Website: www.padil.gov.au

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

EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881



Induction and farm biosecurity risk checklist

Name: _____ Date: _____

14

Pests

Who do you report suspect pests to?

Name: _____

Contact number: _____

Product management

Crop waste is disposed of

Location: _____

How: _____

Packing shed waste is disposed of

Location: _____

How: _____

Cleaning and disinfecting equipment, tools and machinery

Equipment to be disinfested with, and the frequency

Hot soapy water

Equipment

By whom

How often

Bleach

Equipment

By whom

How often

Methylated spirits

Equipment

By whom

How often

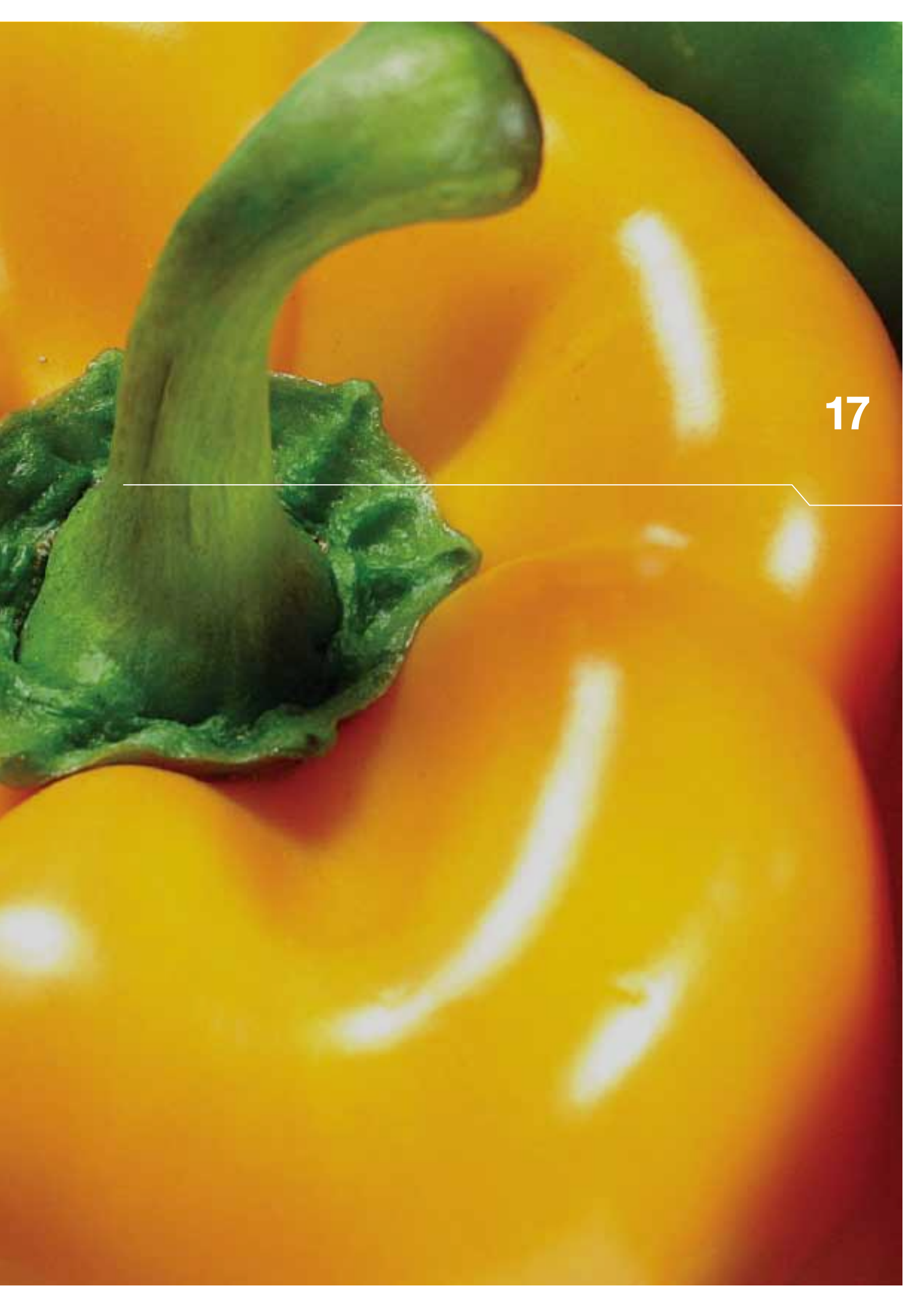
Other specified products: _____

People, vehicle and equipment movement

Parking area	Location:
Wash-down area	Location:
	Equipment/vehicles to be cleaned:
	Cleaning products available:
On-farm equipment, clothing and tools	Available items:
	Location:
Footbaths	Location:
	When to use:
Farm-specific biosecurity measures	

Notes

16



Farm biosecurity risk summary

SUSPECT OR NEW PESTS

Many pests become established by people not reporting them.

- If you suspect a new pest or see unusual plant symptoms, report it to the farm manager or your supervisor.

PRODUCT MANAGEMENT AND WASTE DISPOSAL

Do not bring plant material or fruit from another region onto the farm.

- Follow waste disposal procedures in place on the farm.
- Do not remove waste from farms unless authorised.

PEOPLE MOVEMENT

Sign farm register on arrival or report immediately to a supervisor.

- Ensure clothing and footwear is clean before entering the farm.
- Use footbaths, if provided, before entering high-risk areas.

EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES

Park in designated parking areas.

- Know the location of, and how to use, wash-down facilities.
- Know how to clean equipment, vehicles and tools.
- Only use the equipment and clothing provided (if applicable).
- Make sure your own equipment is cleaned before entering new properties.

Plant Health Australia

ABN 97 092 607 997
Suite 5, FECCA House
4 Phipps Close
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Phone 02 6215 7700
Fax 02 6260 4321
Email biosecurity@phau.com.au
www.planthealthaustralia.com.au



EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881