# Biosecurity checklist

The checklist provides options to assess yourself and your business against different levels of a set of biosecurity practices, from baseline activities to above industry standard. This level system allows for you to incrementally improve your biosecurity preparedness over time as necessary, practical and affordable.

By completing this self-assessment checklist you can quickly establish where current practices are working well to keep weeds, pests and diseases off your farm, and where improvements are needed.

The checklist will also help you to prioritise areas for improvement and can be used to plan and implement your on-farm biosecurity activities.

It should be revisited and updated as part of your annual farm planning activities to ensure that your day to day farm activities reflect the highest practical level of biosecurity preparedness.

Completion of this checklist is not compulsory and, except where stated, is not a legal requirement. Completion is therefore for the benefit of you as a grower in self-assessing your biosecurity preparedness activities.

Consider including the checklist as part of your QA reporting to demonstrate your compliance with good farm management principles.

# Levels of biosecurity practice

In collaboration with Onions Australia, four levels of biosecurity practice have been developed:

***L1. Baseline*** – minimal biosecurity practices are used and are below industry standard. Improvements should be made to minimise risks.

***L2. Industry standard*** – biosecurity practices that reduce the risk of introducing new pests and diseases to a property are in use, however improvements could be made.

***L3. Above industry standard*** - high level biosecurity practices that are consistently applied to minimise the risk of introducing new pests to, or spreading pests within, a property.

***LR Legal requirement*** – in some cases there are legal requirements which must be met before best practice management is considered. Any legal requirements must be met.

Copies of this checklist can be downloaded from **farmbiosecurity.com.au**

| People, vehicles and equipment | Yes | No | N/A | Action |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Biosecurity awareness** | | | | |
| **L1 -** Signs at entry and control points | | | | |
| **L2 -** Farm biosecurity information sheet signed by visitors on entry | | | | |
| **L3 -** Training of all permanent and casual staff, and management of visitors - i.e. supervised access to the property | | | | |
| **LR -** N/A | | | | |
| **Biosecurity signs** | | | | |
| **L1 -** Signs at gate sites | | | | |
| **L2 -** Signs at gates and critical points on farm | | | | |
| **L3 -** Signs as above in other languages to cater for non-English speaking people who visit regularly - e.g. English + Vietnamese/Korean | | | | |
| **LR -** N/A | | | | |
| **People and vehicle access** | | | | |
| **L1 -** Single point of entry. Gate sign. Requirement to report to office or house | | | | |
| **L2 -** Visitor register used | | | | |
| **L3 -** Visitor register includes recent (the previous 48 hours to 1 week) visits to other farms or nurseries | | | | |
| **LR -** N/A | | | | |
| **Clothes and shoes** | | | | |
| **L1 -** Clothes and shoes checked and cleaned | | | | |
| **L2 -** In addition to L1, boot covers used in higher risk areas | | | | |
| **L3 -** Clothes and boots provided to visitors and employees for use on farm | | | | |
| **LR -** N/A | | | | |

| Equipment access (harvesters, contract sprayers, bins, utility providers, etc.) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **L1 -** Incoming equipment visually inspected and entry to farm stopped if there are signs of soil or plant material | | | | |
| **L2 -** Dedicated wash down area on the farm, using a product suitable for pest and disease risks. e.g. Bio-Cleanse™ | | | | |
| **L3 -** External equipment not brought onto farm | | | | |
| **LR -** N/A | | | | |
| **Farm inputs** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** | **Action** |
| **Propagation material (seeds)** | | | | |
| **L1 -** Seeds sourced from a known supplier. Visually inspected and treated with an appropriate fungicide and/or insecticide before delivery | | | | |
| **L2 -** In addition to L1, seed retreated with an appropriate fungicide and/or insecticide treatment on delivery | | | | |
| **L3 -** In addition to L2, material supplied by a certified producer of clean or resistant varieties | | | | |
| **LR -** N/A | | | | |
| **Organic fertilisers** | | | | |
| **L1 -** Sourced from reputable provider | | | | |
| **L2 -** Sourced from reputable provider and visually inspected for contaminants | | | | |
| **L3 -** Sourced from a provider of certified fertiliser meeting AS4454 (2012) | | | | |
| **LR -** N/A | | | | |
| **Water (surface - dams and channels - and ground water used for irrigation) and natural weather events** | | | | |
| **L1 -** Water courses mapped and checked for weeds and feral plants which could harbour pests and diseases. Weather events recorded | | | | |
| **L2 -** In addition to L1, active monitoring of paddocks and water courses undertaken after major weather events | | | | |
| **L3 -** Structured surveillance undertaken around water courses or after significant weather events and records made of the details of the weather event such as wind direction, speed and anything different noticed in the days, weeks and months after | | | | |
| **LR -** N/A | | | | |

| Production practices | Yes | No | N/A | Action |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Insect and disease plant pests** | | | | |
| **L1 -** Crop monitoring undertaken and observations of pest presence and absence recorded in order to control pests at critical points or thresholds | | | | |
| **L2 -** Pest levels recorded for established pests. Management programs implemented on property boundaries for regionally established pests and diseases | | | | |
| **L3 -** Crop monitoring (including pest levels) and treatment activities recorded. Absence of exotic pests recorded | | | | |
| **LR -** Report anything unusual | | | | |
| **Volunteer plants of Alliaceae crops** | | | | |
| **L1 -** Property boundaries are occasionally monitored | | | | |
| **L2 -** Alliaceae crops close to property boundaries are monitored regularly and records kept | | | | |
| **L3 -** Regional approach to management of volunteer plants and weeds is undertaken | | | | |
| **LR -** N/A | | | | |
| **Effective use of chemicals** | | | | |
| **L1 -** Growers are aware of resistance issues and rotate chemical modes of action accordingly | | | | |
| **L2 -** Resistance management strategy in place for herbicides, pesticides and fungicides. Records kept of pest populations before and after treatments | | | | |
| **L3 -** Integrated pest management program and suitable resistance strategy in place | | | | |
| **LR -** Chemicals applied according to the label | | | | |
| **Biosecurity zones** | | | | |
| **L1 -** Discrete blocks or paddocks identified on farm map | | | | |
| **L2 -** Movement plan developed and restrictions on movement from high risk areas of the property (or between linked properties) | | | | |
| **L3 -** Clean down of equipment between blocks - as appropriate, based on a risk assessment | | | | |
| **LR -** N/A | | | | |

| Farm outputs | Yes | No | N/A | Action |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Waste management** | | | | |
| **L1 -** Waste bulbs and plant material are mulched in the field | | | | |
| **L2 -** Waste bulbs and plant material are removed from the field to a designated on-farm disposal site | | | | |
| **L3 -** All bulb and plant waste is removed from the field and destroyed by composting, burial or burning, or taken off-farm | | | | |
| **LR -** N/A | | | | |
| **Harvest management** | | | | |
| **L1 -** Visual inspection of harvest equipment before entry into each paddock (including own equipment) | | | | |
| **L2 -** Wash down of harvest equipment before movement between blocks or paddocks | | | | |
| **L3 -** Wash down machinery between blocks followed by use of a suitable disinfectant. Blocks suspected of infection with disease harvested last. Records kept of all treatments and movements of equipment and machinery | | | | |
| **LR -** N/A | | | | |
| **Packing shed management** | | | | |
| **L1 -** Packing shed cleaned daily and waste disposed of in a pit and sprayed | | | | |
| **L2 -** Packing shed cleaned regularly and waste effectively composted or deep buried | | | | |
| **L3 -** Packing shed cleaned regularly according to schedule with records kept. Waste disposed of away from the field or off-farm | | | | |
| **LR -** N/A | | | | |
| **Waste management for packing shed processing other people's bulbs** | | | | |
| **L1 -** Waste bulbs buried | | | | |
| **L2 -** Waste bulbs piled and covered in black plastic (solarised) for an appropriate length of time | | | | |
| **L3 -** Full destruction (e.g. burning) or deep burial and records kept on all waste removals and treatments | | | | |
| **LR -** N/A | | | | |

| Feral animals and weeds | Yes | No | N/A | Action |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Weeding or spraying** | | | | |
| **L1 -** Weeding or spraying equipment is cleaned with high pressure water and visually checked before each use | | | | |
| **L2 -** Weeding or spraying equipment is cleaned with a suitable detergent/ degreaser and treated with a suitable disinfectant between blocks | | | | |
| **L3 -** Weeding or spraying equipment is cleaned with a suitable detergent/ degreaser and treated with a suitable disinfectant between blocks. Records of movement and cleaning kept | | | | |
| **LR -** N/A | | | | |
| **Wild and feral animals management** | | | | |
| **L1 -** Pests are identified | | | | |
| **L2 -** Some pest management activities conducted (e.g. baiting, trapping and shooting). Risks for disease or insect pest introduction assessed | | | | |
| **L3 -** Regional vertebrate management plan developed and implemented with neighbours or wider farming community | | | | |
| **LR -** N/A | | | | |
| **Abandoned farms** | | | | |
| **L1 -** Aware of risks in area | | | | |
| **L2 -** Regular monitoring of crops near fence lines | | | | |
| **L3 -** Regional pest management strategies in place with monitoring and reporting to stop pests or disease build up | | | | |
| **LR -** State biosecurity obligations - control endemic pests and report suspected exotic pests | | | | |

| Train, plan and record | Yes | No | N/A | Action |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Biosecurity planning** | | | | |
| **L1 -** The *Farm Biosecurity Action Planner* or the *FarmBiosecurity* app is used as part of annual farm planning activities | | | | |
| **L2 -** In addition to L1, a farm map and biosecurity plan has been developed and is referred to when undertaking annual farm planning activities | | | | |
| **L3 -** A farm map has been developed. A biosecurity plan is developed in consultation with an agronomist or consultant as part of annual farm planning | | | | |
| **LR -** N/A | | | | |
| **Staff training** | | | | |
| **L1 -** Shed posters are displayed to draw staff attention to potential pest risks | | | | |
| **L2 -** Biosecurity training included as part of induction of all staff and family | | | | |
| **L3 -** External training is provided to staff on biosecurity management, including risk minimisation, exotic pest ID and reporting | | | | |
| **LR -** N/A | | | | |
| **Record keeping** | | | | |
| **L1 -** General records are kept about the timing of farm management activities including the arrival of new inputs, staff and equipment | | | | |
| **L2 -** Specific records of all movements on and off the property are kept. Records kept of pest presence | | | | |
| **L3 -** In addition to general farm management activities, records are made of surveillance activities including pest absence. | | | | |
| **LR -** Spray records are maintained in line with state requirements for AgVet chemical use | | | | |