



FARM BIOSECURITY ACTION PLANNER

The essentials

COPYRIGHT

Copyright on this document is owned by Passionfruit Australia Inc (PAI) and Plant Health Australia Limited (PHA), except when content has been provided by other contributors, in which case copyright may be owned by another person. With the exception of any material protected by a trade mark and except where otherwise indicated, this document is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence.



This action planner has been adapted from the 'Farm Biosecurity Action Planner' developed by Plant Health Australia and Animal Health Australia under creative commons attribution CC BY. Go to creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0 to view the details the licence conditions, including the full legal code.

Any use of this publication, other than as authorised under this licence or copyright law, is prohibited. All other enquiries should be addressed to admin@passionfruitaustralia.org.au

PAI and PHA acknowledge all instances where copyright in material rests with another organisation. In such cases, the copyright owner should be contacted regarding reproduction of that material.



DISCLAIMER

While every effort is made to present correct information and advice, PAI and PHA do not guarantee, and accept no legal liability whatsoever arising from or connected to, the accuracy, reliability, currency or completeness of any material contained in this document. PAI and PHA recommend that users exercise their own skill and care with respect to their use of this document and that users carefully evaluate the accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance of the material in the document for their purposes. This document is not a substitute for independent professional advice and users should obtain any appropriate professional advice relevant to their particular circumstances.



CONTENTS

04	PREPARING AN ON-FARM BIOSECURITY PLAN
07	FARM INPUTS
08	FARM OUTPUTS
09	PEOPLE
11	VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY
13	PRODUCTION PRACTICES
14	WEEDS
15	TRAIN, PLAN AND RECORD
17	VISITOR REGISTER TEMPLATE

Take biosecurity seriously. Invasive pests
don't respect wire fence boundaries,
nor do they read signs.

Farm Biosecurity

Simple everyday practices can help protect your property from biosecurity risks.

The Farm Biosecurity website has resources for all Australian producers, including:

- crop and livestock specific information
- templates for records and signs
- biosecurity manuals
- checklists
- personal biosecurity toolkits
- information on exotic plant pests
- videos
- links to useful sites
- biosecurity action planner.

Find out more at farmbiosecurity.com.au

SECURE YOUR FARM
AGAINST DISEASES, PESTS & WEEDS

PREPARING AN ON-FARM BIOSECURITY PLAN

The best defence against pests, diseases and weeds on your farm is to implement sound biosecurity practices. Quick and simple measures can easily be built into everyday practices that will help protect your farm and your future.

This farm biosecurity planner is a tool to help you identify and prioritise the implementation of biosecurity practices relevant to your property. When devising a plan for your farm, the biosecurity essentials are a good place to start.

THE ESSENTIALS ARE:

- Farm inputs
- People, vehicles and equipment
- Train, plan & record
- Farm outputs
- Production practices

Completing a self-assessment checklist will also help you to identify biosecurity strengths and weaknesses on your property. It might be helpful to have a map of your property to consider the best places to locate biosecurity zones or 'check points'. This could include signs at entrances to the property, parking areas near the house or site office, where deliveries are picked-up or dropped-off in relation to storage facilities, vehicle wash down areas, existing roads or tracks for movement within the property.

Think about what you can do to minimise the risk of introducing diseases, pest and weed seeds at each of the checkpoints. If you build your plan around daily, monthly or yearly farm routines, then biosecurity should become a habit.

The actual management practices you choose to use will vary from site to site, depending on the size of your property(s), the physical facilities available and the day-to-day management of operations.

With each action, set-out the steps needed to achieve the task – this is especially helpful if a group is working on the plan. A responsible person will need to be appointed to oversee the implementation of the actions.

Good practises do not need to be expensive, but they do need to be easy to follow.

After you have ranked your priorities, think about which ones you can achieve in the short and long term. Go back to the plan periodically and check progress towards your goals.

As a guide, short-term activities can:

- be planned and implemented within 12 months
- help your business comply with regulatory requirements
- be financially feasible in the short-term
- fit in with the time commitments of your enterprise.

Long-term activities:

- are planned and implemented over more than one year
- need additional financial or personnel resources that are not currently available
- enhance the overall quality of service, aesthetics or administrative procedures.



BIOSECURITY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

New legislation under both the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015* and *Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014* has introduced clauses to support biosecurity management as a shared responsibility. If you are a grower in Qld or NSW, you have a responsibility to protect your industry from biosecurity risks you may come across in your day-to-day activities.

In NSW the **General Biosecurity Duty** provides that as far as is reasonably practicable, biosecurity risks encountered are prevented, eliminated or minimised.

In Qld the **General Biosecurity Obligation** means that everyone is responsible for managing biosecurity risks under their control.

The introduction of this legislation in both states makes it more important than ever to be aware of the biosecurity risks relevant to you and your property and that you do your best to mitigate these risks. For further information about your responsibilities under these Acts, please visit your State Government website.

MORE RESOURCES

Farm Biosecurity website

www.farmbiosecurity.com.au

Plant Health Australia website

www.planthealthaustralia.com.au



RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX

Use this matrix to help you to assess and prioritise the level of risk that an activity is likely to pose to your farm and fruit production. This is a useful tool to help you to prioritise which new biosecurity practices to implement first.

		LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRING		
		UNLIKELY Could infrequently occur	LIKELY Could frequently occur	VERY LIKELY Could happen every time
IMPACT TO YOUR FARM, PRODUCTION OUTPUT & SURROUNDING AREA IF OCCURS	MINOR Little if any impact	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	MEDIUM RISK
	MODERATE Will have some impact	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK
	MAJOR Will have significant impact	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK	HIGH RISK

*Source: Modified from Farm biosecurity planner: For blueberries and other berry industries, NSW DPI.

FARM INPUTS

Almost anything moved on to your property can be a potential source of plant pests, diseases or weeds. Monitor all plant materials that come on to your property as well as water sources and fertiliser inputs.

FARM INPUTS	POTENTIAL RISKS	ACTIONS TO REDUCE RISK	ACTION(S) FOR YOUR FARM	DONE ☒ ☐
NEW PLANTS OR ANY OTHER PROPAGATION MATERIAL LIKE SCION TIPS 	Plants raised on a different farm or in a nursery in a different region could be carrying unwanted pests or diseases.	Only source plant material from reputable suppliers, preferably those with a health status guarantee. Isolate new plant material away from healthy plants for 21 days until you are sure they are pest and disease free. Regularly check new plantings for signs of pests and diseases and treat before they can become established or spread across your farm.		☐
WATER SOURCES 	Water is a potential carrier of unwanted pests and even diseases; it can carry weed seeds and soil or water borne pests such as fungi or bacteria. Many pest and disease causing organisms can survive for a considerable time in water until they find a suitable host.	If your water source is a dam fed by rain water run-off, inspect the water catchment areas, water inlets and storages for weeds, pests or rubbish which may contaminate the water. Be aware of the risks of recycled water. Prevent algal blooms by treating water or aerating, particularly if it is high in nutrients and stored in an open dam.		☐
FERTILISER 	Organic fertilisers can harbour weeds, pest and diseases if not composted correctly.	Only source and use organic fertilisers that comply with AS 4454 standards. Ensure all organic fertilisers are thoroughly composted to destroy weed seeds, pests and disease organisms. Be aware of the requirements of your Base Certification Food Safety* system when creating your own organic composts. Maintain a record of the source, application locations, rates and dates for all organic fertiliser applications.		☐
HIVES 	Bees from both managed and wild hives can act as vectors for the spread of pests and disease.	Ensure you know where hired bee hives have been located prior to your property and carry out a risk assessment accordingly. If you keep your own bees, check their health regularly. Avoid the use of any potentially harmful chemicals whilst bee populations are active.		☐

* Base Certification Food Safety systems include Freshcare, SQF and Global GAP

FARM OUTPUTS

Responsibility for biosecurity doesn't end when your fruit or plant material leaves the farm gate.
The measures in place on your property support biosecurity in your region and across the passionfruit industry.

FARM OUTPUTS	POTENTIAL RISKS	ACTIONS TO REDUCE RISK	ACTION(S) FOR YOUR FARM	DONE ☒ ☐
MOVING PLANT PRODUCTS OFF THE PROPERTY 	When collecting tips for use in grafting new plants, the tips can still spread pests and diseases from your property to the site where the grafting will take place.	Ensure that your tips are free of pests and diseases before you remove them from your farm and that your transport vehicle is cleaned down before and after transportation.		☐
PRODUCT HARVESTING 	Dirty containers used for harvesting can transfer insect pests and diseases to subsequently harvested fruit.	Ensure that harvesting containers and tools are regularly cleaned in line with the Cleaning Plan as part of your Food Safety System*.		☐
PRODUCT PACKING 	Any soil or residual plant material adhering to the fruit can carry insect pests or other disease organisms.	Ensure your pre-pack cleaning of fruit removes as much soil and residual plant material as possible. Only potable or water tested for E-coli contamination should be used to wash produce in line with your Food Safety System*.		☐
PRODUCT TRANSPORT 	Transport vehicles and bulk transport containers can contain chemical residues or transfer insect pests, diseases and weed seeds. Cross-contamination can occur where reusable bulk containers such as pallet bins are used.	Ensure all containers are adequately cleaned between uses. Avoid the use of pallet bins for the transportation of more than one type of item i.e. dedicate bins to fruit OR fertiliser, never for dual use.		☐

* Food Safety Systems include Freshcare, SQF and Global GAP

PEOPLE

If it can move, it can carry diseases, pests and weeds.

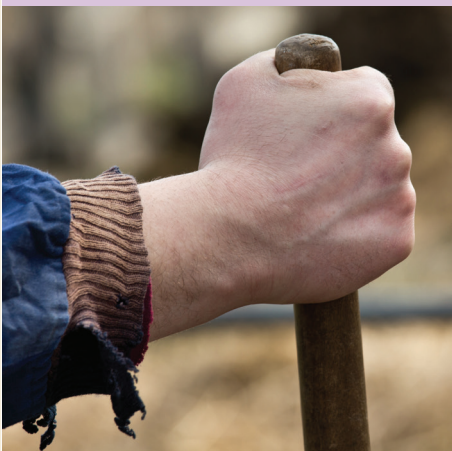
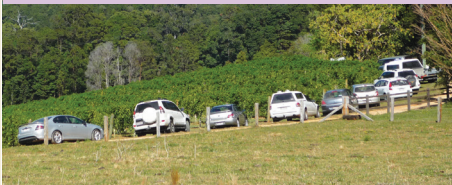
For this reason, people, vehicles and equipment pose a high biosecurity risk and should be managed accordingly.

PEOPLE	POTENTIAL RISKS	ACTIONS TO REDUCE RISK	ACTION(S) FOR YOUR FARM	DONE ☒ ☐
PROPERTY ACCESS 	Multiple entry points to your property, or unfenced orchards, make it difficult to control access particularly high-risk visitors who visit multiple properties each days e.g. sales reps from ag supply companies or agronomists	Use fencing and signage to limit the number of access points to your property including locking unused gates. Use clear signage to direct visitors to designated entry and parking points. Restrict access to production and packing areas to actively employed personnel only.		☐
SIGNAGE 	Assuming that people know what to do when they arrive at your property. Visitors and staff are unaware of the biosecurity procedures for your farm.	Erect clear signage at all entry points to instruct visitors and staff how to behave. Provide relevant contact details in case visitors arrive when no one is present.		☐
VISITOR RISK ASSESSMENT 	Visitors can unwittingly bring diseases, pests and weed seeds on their clothes or footwear. Highest risk is presented by those visitors who move from one farm to another as part of their daily life e.g. agronomists.	Assess the risk potential for your property from visitors and conduct a risk assessment for each visitor at their arrival point on your property. If required, provide cleaning equipment and tools (e.g. disinfectant footbath) or a change of clothing/ footwear to reduce risk. If high risk visitors are unwilling to comply, refuse entry to your farm.		☐
VISITOR TRACING 	If you don't know where a visitor is from, or what they have been doing immediately prior to visiting your farm, it will be difficult to trace in the event of a pest incursion or disease outbreak.	Direct all visitors to an identified parking area away from all crops and packing facilities and ask them to sign in via a Visitor Register. Use the Visitor Register sample found at the back of this guide. Limit access to crop or packing areas to only those visitors who really need to enter those areas.		☐

PEOPLE	POTENTIAL RISKS	ACTIONS TO REDUCE RISK	ACTION(S) FOR YOUR FARM	DONE ☒ ☐
GENERAL HYGIENE PRACTICES 	Pests, disease causing organisms and weed seeds can enter the farm on people's hands, clothing, footwear and personal items.	Provide hand washing facilities, footbaths, shoe covers or alternative clothing for visitors to use while on farm. Train all staff to pay attention to risk points and employ good hygiene practices as they move through farm areas including checking their clothing for weed seeds, frequently washing their hands and keeping their clothing clean.		☐
HOSTING FIELD DAYS OR FARM WALKS 	Bringing a large number of people from other areas to your farm can potentially bring pests, disease or weed materials on their clothing or vehicles.	Reduce risk by: • providing a clearly signposted designated parking area away from production and packing areas • using signage to direct all visitors to a registration area with your Visitor Register • providing hand wash areas and directing visitors to wash their hands thoroughly upon entry to the farm • providing disposable shoe covers or footbaths to minimise foot transfer risks • limiting contact with actual production and packing areas, keeping traffic to main roadways and perimeter tracks rather than through the cropping areas		☐

VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY

Diseases, pests and weeds can enter a farm and be spread by equipment and vehicles, either directly or in plant material, soil or manure. It is important to maintain equipment hygiene and ensure all vehicles that visit your property are clean and well maintained.

VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY	POTENTIAL RISKS	ACTIONS TO REDUCE RISK	ACTION(S) FOR YOUR FARM	DONE ☒ ☐
EQUIPMENT HYGIENE 	Tools and equipment can carry diseases, pests and weed seeds. The risk is heightened when equipment is borrowed, lent or purchased second-hand from other farm properties. Cultivation equipment can transfer insect pests and diseases to subsequently managed crops.	Clean and properly disinfect tools and equipment both before and after use. Thoroughly clean and disinfect second-hand, borrowed or lent equipment both before and after use. Ensure no soil, pests (including eggs & larvae), plant material or seeds are left on machinery or equipment by removing any contaminants and disinfecting. Suitable disinfection methods include alcohol cleaners, disinfectant solutions and steam. Have dedicated tools, clothing and footwear available for use in areas of the farm that are potentially affected by pests and disease to reduce the likelihood of transfer. Always work with sick plants last (work from clean to dirty) before a thorough clean of tools, equipment and clothing/footwear.		☐
VEHICLE ENTRY POINTS 	Multiple unsecured entry points to your property make it difficult to restrict and control access. High risk visitors include those who visit multiple properties each day in the course of their job like utility providers.	Restrict entry to a small number of points using fencing and clear signage. Use clear instructional signage to inform visitors how to behave whilst on your property e.g. where to park, where to sign in.		☐
VEHICLE MOVEMENT AND PARKING 	All parts of a vehicle can carry disease causing organisms, pests and weed seeds, and these can be spread through the property if vehicle access is not managed correctly to production areas.	Restrict all visiting vehicles to a designated parking area well away from production areas. Where possible, have designated farm vehicles that are only for use on-farm or use your own farm vehicle to transport visitors around the property. Monitor areas around parking facilities for signs of diseases, pests and weeds.		☐

VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY	POTENTIAL RISKS	ACTIONS TO REDUCE RISK	ACTION(S) FOR YOUR FARM	DONE ☒ ☐
VEHICLE HYGIENE 	All vehicles used on the farm can carry disease causing organisms, pests and weeds seeds. Run-off from vehicle washing areas can contain diseases, pests and weed seeds.	Provide a wash area for vehicles that need to enter production areas. If possible, use a high pressure wash down or blow down facility located well away from cropping areas for cleaning vehicles and equipment. For maximum protection, it is recommended that you also disinfect after washing where possible to do so. Collect run-off from vehicle wash areas in a sump or direct it well away from production areas as well as away from water catchment areas. Monitor areas around cleaning facilities for any signs of pests or diseases and treat weeds before they set seed or become established.		☐
ROADS AND TRACKS 	There is an increased risk of introducing or spreading diseases, pests and weeds when vehicles travel off or divert from established roads and tracks on the farm.	Have a supply of farm maps on hand to give to farm workers and be explicit in your induction to all new staff that they must travel around the farm using established roads and tracks only – no short cuts. Ask visitors to stay on established roads and tracks and use signage around the farm to reinforce this instruction. Check areas next to roads and tracks for signs of pests, diseases or weeds and treat before they can become established.		☐

'One study found 18, 566 weed seeds belonging to 259 different species in the bottom of an automatic car wash'

PRODUCTION PRACTICES

Good on-farm hygiene reduces the risk of spreading pests and diseases.

Implement simple hygiene practices for water, product packaging, storage facilities, waste materials and plant propagation activities.

PRODUCTION PRACTICES	POTENTIAL RISKS	ACTIONS TO REDUCE RISK	ACTION(S) FOR YOUR FARM	DONE ☒ ☐
WATER MANAGEMENT 	Managing water supply is important for the production of healthy plants and safe food. If water sources become contaminated, they can spread pests or diseases throughout production areas.	Where possible, use drip irrigation for recycled water to avoid aerosol formation. Prevent algal blooms by aerating or treating water that is high in nutrients and is stored in dams.		☐
PLANT WASTE 	Plant material can still harbour pests and diseases even after it is removed from the growing plant.	Collect all plant waste that shows signs of pests or disease and dispose of it by deep burial or burning, well away from water sources and production areas. For cuttings or healthy waste plant material, use a dedicated waste management facility or compost it thoroughly.		☐
MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE 	Early detection of pests and diseases gives you the best chance of preventing them from establishing on your property and ongoing expenses for their control. Early detection also increases the chances of eradicating a new pest or disease from your property. Noticing and recording the absence of pests or diseases is just as important as recording their presence.	Regularly monitor your crop areas and record your observations. Become familiar with pests and diseases commonly found in your region so you will know if you see something different. Monitor along road sides and fence lines along the perimeter of your farm for new weeds. Display posters showing common pests and diseases to help staff with identification.		☐

WEEDS

Weeds are a widespread nuisance, but can also cause harm to your business, so they do need to be actively controlled.

WEEDS	POTENTIAL RISKS	ACTIONS TO REDUCE RISK	ACTION(S) FOR YOUR FARM	DONE ☒ ☐
WEED SPECIES 	Weed species are significant biosecurity problems in their own right, as well as being alternative hosts of some horticultural pests. You may also have a legal obligation to control certain weeds in your region. Ask your local council to find out.	Establish a weed management plan for your property, including plans for eradicating, containing or managing current weeds on your property and preventing the introduction and establishment of new species. Control weeds along dirt tracks and roads, and next to vehicle parking and cleaning areas. Monitor for outbreaks of weeds, especially after drought, fire or flood.		☐
PROPERTY AND LAND DISTURBANCE 	Property and land disturbance through excavation activities, fire, flood or storms provide an opportunity for pests and weeds to become established.	Control weeds in fields after flooding, drought or fire. Inspect any areas that have been recently landscaped (e.g. new roads or dams) or affected by land destruction (e.g. fences) and treat weeds before they have the chance to set seed and become established.		☐

TRAIN, PLAN AND RECORD

Ensure that staff are well trained and that you have the ability to trace where plants have come from and where they have been located. Keep accurate records of purchases, sales and movement of all products entering or leaving the property.

TRAIN, PLAN AND RECORD	POTENTIAL RISKS	ACTIONS TO REDUCE RISK	ACTION(S) FOR YOUR FARM	DONE ☒ ☐
BIOSECURITY PLANNING 	An on-farm biosecurity plan will help you to identify and prioritise the implementation of biosecurity practices that are relevant to your property.	Use this planner to devise a plan for your property, prioritise actions, and update the planner as you achieve your biosecurity plan actions. Using the Risk Assessment Matrix on Page 6, identify any areas that are considered to have both a MAJOR IMPACT and are VERY LIKELY (High Risk) and address these first.		☐
RECORD KEEPING 	A property owner or manager should be able to trace back and trace forward if there is a disease, pest or weed incursion on their property.	Keep records of purchases and sales, health certificates and declarations, and pest and disease monitoring activities. Keep a record of problems encountered and where they are to help you manage your property to minimise risk of spread.		☐
STAFF TRAINING 	Anyone working on the farm (including family and friends) may not know how easily diseases, pests and weeds can spread and how to prevent this from happening.	Include a section in your staff induction on your farm biosecurity standards and how important it is to the safety of the farm that everyone operates to those standards. Provide biosecurity training or information sessions for staff on a regular basis. Use posters to remind staff of the importance of farm biosecurity.		☐

TRAIN, PLAN AND RECORD	POTENTIAL RISKS	ACTIONS TO REDUCE RISK	ACTION(S) FOR YOUR FARM	DONE ☒ ☐
MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE 	Active monitoring and surveillance can provide early warning of potential or emerging problems with pests and diseases. Monitoring and recording the absence of pests or diseases is just as important as recording their presence.	Keep a record of all crop monitoring, when and where it has been completed, even if you do not see anything unusual.		☐
SUSPECT DISEASES, PESTS AND WEEDS 	If you see anything that looks unusual, you have a responsibility to report it using the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline IF YOU SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL, CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE 1800 084 881	If you suspect you've found a new pest or disease, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline You will be asked: • what was seen (describe the pest or send a photo) and when was it first noticed • where it was found and what it was on • how many pests are present/ how infected is the crop • how widely distributed it is. Every report will be taken seriously, checked out and treated confidentially.		☐

Image with thanks to Gary Bernon, USDA APHIS, Bugwood.org

VISITOR REGISTER

WHILST ON THIS PROPERTY YOU AGREE TO:

Follow all biosecurity instructions given by your host AND follow any instructions found on signage around the site.

[illegible]



Driving Greater Awareness and Demand for Passionfruit in Australia!

OUR DIFFERENCE

The Jetbest group is a proud supporter of the Australian passionfruit industry. We are a grower focused fresh produce marketing group connecting growers with markets across Australia. We specialise in both retail sales and traditional wholesale markets, and associated logistics & grower support. We offer a choice of market access in all states. Grower focused marketing and promotion - connecting growers to consumers.



JETIPPER.COM.AU

BRISBANE | SYDNEY | BUNDABERG | MAREEBA