

Notice to producers, processors and packers of Potato Cyst Nematode host produce

National reforms to PCN management, 1 November 2013



From 1 November 2013 there will be changes to how Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) will be controlled. This follows recent negotiations between the states that will change land use practices and market access arrangements for host produce marketed nationally (except Western Australia).

Current interstate quarantine controls which are based on the treatment and certification of all host produce (*see definition*) sourced from within 20 km of a known PCN detection, will be replaced by property-based controls effective **1 November, 2013**.

These changes represent the most significant national reforms made to PCN management since its first detection in Victoria in 1991. Focussing quarantine controls on movement pathways identified as being the highest risk for the spread and establishment of PCN enacts the key recommendations of the recently developed National PCN management plan.

The Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) wishes to thank industry for their assistance with the development of policies and protocols which enable these reforms to be enacted.

Changes

From **1 November, 2013** quarantine agencies in all states and territories (except Western Australia) will enact uniform legislation that will require the following.

- The movement of PCN host produce from land known to be infested with PCN and land known to be linked to a PCN infestation will be regulated.
- All interstate potatoes **marketed as seed** and potatoes sold for planting will be tested for PCN prior to entry.

Previous controls prohibiting the movement of all host produce sourced from within 20 km of a known PCN detection will be removed.

Occupiers of land known to be infested or linked to a PCN infestation will be contacted by DEPI regarding controls regulating the movement of PCN host produce from their properties.

The changes aim to ease trade restrictions whilst creating a national standard for the distribution of PCN host material, and manage the biosecurity risks associated with spreading the pest.

News for 'linked' property growers

Under the new management regime, 'linked' growers will be able to continue marketing their crops to most markets under pre-existing accreditation arrangements.

Please note

For the movement of fruits and vegetables, soil, used packages and agricultural equipment and machinery there may be additional quarantine conditions that apply to Phylloxera, Fruit Fly and other pests and diseases in to interstate markets, including the NSW Seed Potato Protected Areas.

The requirements associated with sending PCN host material to Western Australia will remain unchanged.

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Definitions

PCN host produce

- Potatoes (includes all stages from seed to ware and processing)
- *Solanaceae* seedlings – including tomato, capsicums, chillies and eggplant
- weeds – purple nightshade
- soil
- ornamental plants produced in soil
- agricultural machinery used in the cultivation of potatoes and ornamental plants.

Land status

Infested land: Any defined paddock, or area, which has had a positive PCN in accordance with national sampling and testing regimes.

Linked land: Any land which:

- has been farmed with equipment used on known PCN infested land
- borders PCN infested land
- receives direct drainage from PCN infested land or
- is currently, or has previously been planted with seed sourced from PCN infested land or land exposed to PCN as a result of a regulatory violation.

Practice on-farm biosecurity

Biosecurity is important for protecting industries from unwanted pests and diseases and for assuring continued market access.

PCN lives in soil for up to 20 years and can be easily transported onto and around properties via soil movement from vehicles, people, equipment and machinery.

Implementing on-farm hygiene practices can help prevent new pests and disease infestations from establishing on your property. Examples include:

- restrict visitors from entering your property and production area without authorisation
- have designated areas for visitor vehicles and for cleaning vehicles
- use clear signage
- use your own farm vehicles, equipment and machinery on your property - avoid sharing across other properties
- do not use contract machinery if appropriate disinfestation steps have not been taken
- clean and disinfect equipment and machinery after use
- plant seed sourced from a known PCN free origin
- manage self-sown potatoes
- grow resistant cultivars
- control movement of bin and bags
- rotate paddock production
- implement weed management programs
- don't bring foreign soil onto the property.

Further information

For further information, or to apply for Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) accreditation, contact your local Plant Standards Officer on 136 186.

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