Biosecurity Plan for Weed Risk Management

Property name			
Property address			
Property manager		Contact number	
Biosecurity management plan completed by (sign)		Review date (every 12 months)	

If you suspect a new pest – report to the National Exotic Plant Pest (EPP) Hotline 1800 084 881

Download the MyPestGuide Reporter App, use online, or email mypestguide@dpird.wa.gov.au.

MyPestGuide Reporter

These avenues go to DPIRD's Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS) or contact directly Ph. 9368 3080, or email padis@dpird.wa.gov.au.

Further resources:

Visit the federal Department of Agriculture biosecurity page for reporting and support in the case of an outbreak.

Visit www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/report.

For support and resources for farm biosecurity planning and management visit www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit.

For information on Weeds of National Significance (WONS) visit weeds.org.au

Please contact Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development for further information or assistance as per the Contacts page for applicants for non-indigenous plant diversification permit.

There are two stages to developing your farm biosecurity management plan.

1. RISK ASSESSMENT

A risk assessment determines the level of risk an activity is likely to pose to your farm and business. A risk matrix is used to allocate a level of risk based on the **likelihood** of something happening (e.g. an activity spreading weeds, pests or disease onto or off the farm) and the significance of the **consequence** (the impact it would have on production). Risk assessment is an important part of biosecurity planning as it ensures you apply your resources to achieve the best outcome without wasting time and money.

Activity that spreads a weed, pest or disease (pests) onto, within or from the farm		Likelihood		
		Unlikely Could happen sometimes, low probability but cannot be ruled out	**Likely** Could happen most times	**Very likely** Could happen every time
Consequence	**Minor** Risk may have little impact	Low risk	Medium risk	Medium risk
	Moderate Risk will have some impact	Low risk	Medium risk	High risk
	Major Risk will have a significant impact	Medium risk	High risk	High risk

2. BIOSECURITY ACTIONS

Complete the template to assess the risks and reflect current biosecurity actions in practice on your property. Suggested actions are provided, though you may be addressing a biosecurity risk through a different practice. If a biosecurity risk is relevant to your farm but currently no biosecurity practice is in place, this becomes an action to be completed. Identify and prioritise practices to implement over the short and long term to reduce biosecurity risks, using the Action Plan at the end of this document.

Zoning

A **property map** is an important part of a farm biosecurity plan. Use it when considering the best places for biosecurity zoning and identifying features to factor into the plan, such as property entrances, roads and tracks, parking and wash down areas. Zoning is the division of the property into separate areas based on the level of biosecurity that is needed to minimise the possibility of pests, diseases and weeds entering and spreading. An example is to zone irrigation 'stages' separately based on their physical location or the types of plants being grown.

A three-zone system helps create separation to recognise the different management required between various areas.

Zone		Examples	Recommended action
Cool zone	Areas accessed by visitors who have no direct dealings with production.	The house or office. People coming onto the property park in a designated area away from production.	Little action required.
Warm zone	Areas trafficked by off-farm personnel and vehicles that need access to collect or deliver materials/services.	Roadways for essential vehicles leading to high traffic areas like yards, sheds and silos.	Limiting access is rarely feasible. Ensure these areas are kept clean and preferably well-gravelled. Monitor regularly for weeds.
Hot zone	Areas where crop production is located and farm vehicles, machinery and equipment operates.	Production areas including fields or paddocks, machinery sheds, livestock yards etc. It may be appropriate to have separate hot zones on a property.	Restrict access to hot zones. People, vehicles and machinery that comes here must apply 'come clean go clean' practices.

Highlight on the property map any areas with known weed or pest infestations that may require additional management.

Share the property map with staff, contractors or visitors who may need to access the property to ensure they can adhere to biosecurity requirements.

This biosecurity management plan follows a framework around the following essential risk areas (select category to navigate to that page – select icon top right to return to this page):

1. **People, vehicles and equipment**
2. **Production practices – Crop and fodder production**
3. **Farm inputs**
4. **Farm outputs**
5. **Pest animals**
6. **Pest plants (including WONS)**
7. **Training, planning and recording**

The template is designed to determine what is currently being done on-farm to manage biosecurity risks and what actions need to be taken. Common risks and recommended practices are listed, but not all the risks and actions suggested here are likely to apply to your farm, and alternative practices may be better suited to your individual farm and business circumstances. The important thing is to be aware of all biosecurity risks and take all reasonable steps to mitigate those risks.

The practices you choose to implement will depend on:

- The location and size of the property
- Physical facilities available
- Day-to-day management of operations

People, vehicles and equipment

Potential risk	Risk assessment (LOW / MED / HIGH or NA)	Recommended practices	Recommended practices undertaken? (Y / N)	Actions to take
Property access Multiple, unsecured entry points to the property make it hard to limit and control visitor and vehicle access.		Where reasonable and practical, limit the number of entry points to the property.		
Visitor Communication Visitors may be unaware of the biosecurity procedures enforced on the property. Signs let people know there is a plan and where to go.		Display farm biosecurity signs at farm entry points to communicate biosecurity procedures. They should provide contact details (phone number or UHF channel). Signs can direct visitors to designated parking areas.		

People, vehicles and equipment (cont.)

Potential risk	Risk assessment (LOW / MED / HIGH or NA)	Recommended practices	Recommended practices undertaken? (Y / N)	Actions to take
Visitors Visitors can carry pests, including weed seeds/ vegetative fragments on their clothing, vehicles or equipment.		Ensure visitors accessing production areas (e.g. consultants, contractors, researchers) are aware of your farm biosecurity plan and expectations. Keep a register of visitors accessing production areas.		
Vehicle movement Unrestricted vehicle movements and parking outside designated areas makes it hard to control and monitor the spread of pests.		Designate a parking area for visitors. Monitor around the parking area for signs of pests, especially spreading weeds. Provide a farm vehicle for visitors to use around the property, or request that they stick to designated roads and tracks. Supply farm maps to visitors to make it clear where people can and cannot access.		

People, vehicles and equipment (cont.)

Potential risk	Risk assessment (LOW / MED / HIGH or NA)	Recommended practices	Recommended practices undertaken? (Y / N)	Actions to take
Vehicle, machinery and equipment hygiene All can carry pests between and within farms. Risk increases for contractor machinery moving between properties. Any equipment, truck or shipping container arriving from interstate presents a higher risk, especially for hitchhiker pests.		'Come clean go clean' Everything arriving on-farm must be mud and trash-free. Provide a wash-down area/facility for vehicles, machinery and equipment. Collect run-off from the wash-down area in a sump or direct away from production areas. Monitor the surrounding areas for establishing pests and control accordingly. Ensure State/Territory biosecurity legislation is met for moving equipment interstate.		

Production Practices – Crop and fodder production

Potential risk	Risk assessment (LOW / MED / HIGH or NA)	Recommended practices	Recommended practices undertaken? (Y / N)	Actions to take
Sowing non-indigenous plant species New or non-indigenous plants have the potential to spread outside production areas and become weeds.		Establish a monitoring program for the containment of sown species. Monitor each zone annually (including roadways, yards and buffer/bush areas) and control as required. Ensure reporting requirements are met. It's important to record absence of spread too.		
Monitoring and surveillance If not detected early, pests and diseases can establish and cost a lot to control. Eradication becomes less likely as time passes without control.		Regularly monitor crops. Be familiar with pests, weeds and diseases commonly found in the area. Know how to report suspected exotic pests. Display information on pests to raise awareness amongst staff.		

Production Practices – Crop and fodder production (cont.)

Potential risk	Risk assessment (LOW / MED / HIGH or NA)	Recommended practices	Recommended practices undertaken? (Y / N)	Actions to take
Weed, pest or disease management Moving machinery that is not clean (mud, trash, weed seed) can spread disease and weeds between fields.		If practical, leave diseased fields last or clean down machinery thoroughly before using in non-diseased fields.		
Water management Water can carry pests through production areas and off-farm.		Closely monitor waterways, drainage lines and areas that have been inundated by floodwater for the presence of new pests and weeds.		

Farm inputs

Potential risk	Risk assessment (LOW / MED / HIGH or NA)	Recommended practices	Recommended practices undertaken? (Y / N)	Actions to take
Seed Contaminated seed can also be a source of weeds.		Only purchase seed from verified sources – seed bought from other growers can be contaminated.		
Fertiliser Organic fertilisers like manure and compost can be a weed source if not properly composted.		Ensure manure and green waste are composted thoroughly to destroy weed seeds and pathogens. Maintain a record of fertiliser sources, and application details.		

Farm inputs (cont.)

Potential risk	Risk assessment (LOW / MED / HIGH or NA)	Recommended practices	Recommended practices undertaken? (Y / N)	Actions to take
Product storage Pests can infest product stores, especially stored grain/seed.		Maintain good hygiene around storage areas. Securely store product, feed and equipment to avoid attracting pests.		

Farm outputs

Potential risk	Risk assessment (LOW / MED / HIGH or NA)	Recommended practices	Recommended practices undertaken? (Y / N)	Actions to take
Moving seed and produce off-farm		If product is contaminated with weed seeds or not 'clean' do not move off the property. Ensure transport vehicles are clean.		

Pest animals

Potential risk	Risk assessment (LOW / MED / HIGH or NA)	Recommended practices	Recommended practices undertaken? (Y / N)	Actions to take
Pest animals that damage fencing can spread weed seeds or disease-causing organisms.		Maintain fencing around irrigation zones and remove or contain anything likely to attract pests or vermin. Record pest animal control as required.		

Pest plants (including WONS)

Potential risk	Risk assessment (LOW / MED / HIGH or NA)	Recommended practices	Recommended practices undertaken? (Y / N)	Actions to take
Pest plants that can infest parts of the property, affecting productivity or risking health and wellbeing of livestock.		Know which pest plants are typically found in your region and, if found, report them ASAP. Undertake control as soon as possible, utilising approved control methods.		

Training, planning and recording

Potential risk	Risk assessment (LOW / MED / HIGH or NA)	Recommended practices	Recommended practices undertaken? (Y / N)	Actions to take
Education Farm personnel and visitors may be unaware of biosecurity management. They may not know what to look for and fail to report important information.		Include biosecurity training in staff inductions and make clear your expectations of staff to uphold biosecurity. Emphasise 'come clean go clean' practices. Annually update/refresh staff biosecurity training and record it. Display posters to remind staff of notifiable or high risk pests to watch for in common areas such as the tea room/kitchen, office, back of toilet doors etc. Provide and display channels for reporting suspected high risk pests (e.g. EPP hotline).		
Record keeping Property managers should be able to trace forward or trace backwards any incursion on their property.		Keep records of all goods moving on and off-farm. Keep records of visitors coming on-farm that deal with production. Keep records of monitoring and surveillance activities. Keep accurate spray records.		

Training, planning and recording (cont.)

Potential risk	Risk assessment (LOW / MED / HIGH or NA)	Recommended practices	Recommended practices undertaken? (Y / N)	Actions to take
Reporting/Auditing Permits that require reporting could be revoked, or future applications declined if conditions are not met.		Ensure reporting requirements are met, e.g. annual audit report to satisfy conditions of non-indigenous plant permits. It is important to record the absence as well as presence of spread.		

BIOSECURITY ACTION PLAN

1. Short-term goals

Practice to implement	Risk factor/ priority	Actions to take	Person responsible	Due date
E.g. Build a wash-down pad.	High	Order signs and arrange collection or delivery (download template from www.farmbiosecurity.com.au and arrange for them to be printed locally, or order signs online). Place signs on front gate.		

2. Long-term goals

Practice to implement	Risk factor/ priority	Actions to take	Person responsible	Due date
E.g. Build a wash-down pad.	High	Select the site. Organise quotes for a concrete pad, high-pressure hose, drainage etc.		

ANNUAL BIOSECURITY AUDIT

Year	Person responsible	Signed	Date
2021			
2022			
2023			
2024			

This biosecurity management plan is adapted from the 'Farm Biosecurity Action Planner' developed by Plant Health Australia and Animal Health Australia under creative commons attribution.