NURSERY PAPERS

MAY 2017

NURSERY INDUSTRY BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

The National Nursery Industry Biosecurity program (NY15004) is a comprehensive levy funded project which aims to ensure that production nurseries in Australia have access to an on-farm biosecurity program (BioSecure HACCP). It also ensures that production nurseries are aware of and prepared for incursions of exotic plant pests and have effective market access mechanisms in place to maintain business functionality.

The program has seen a number of activities completed and this Nursery Paper will highlight some of the work being done in these areas.

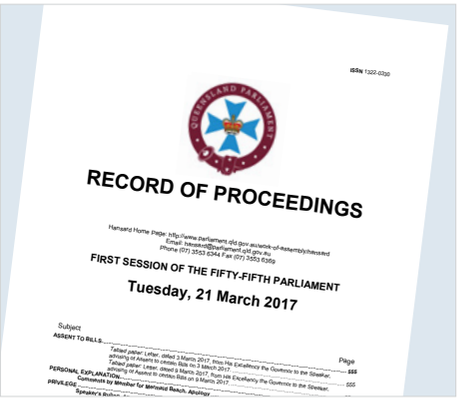
Summary

- Formal recognition of BioSecure HACCP
- BioSecure HACCP Victorian Information Forum
- Tony Filippi NGIA Biosecurity Certification Officer
- Industry Biosecurity Preparedness
- Industry Biosecurity Awareness
- Minor Use Pesticide Program

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION – FORMAL RECOGNITION OF BIOSECURE HACCP

On 21 March 2017 the Queensland parliament passed the Biosecurity Act 2014 third party program amendment. This amendment to legislation represents a significant and ground-breaking win for industry, as this is the first legal approval in Australia allowing the Nursery & Garden Industry Australia (NGIA) or any other third party to be a "Certifying Authority" under biosecurity legislation. This means that NGIA will be able to accredit production nurseries, under BioSecure HACCP, to issue biosecurity certificates, audit those businesses ensuring they are meeting requirements, and suspend, amend or cancel accreditations if there is evidence of non-compliance. In the past this authority was exclusively managed by government, and as such, industry had no alternatives to meeting market access requirements. This change will reduce the regulatory burdens upon industry and will see significant cost savings generated through reduced reliance on government inspection, streamlined access to interstate trade and the generation of supply chain efficiencies. Likewise this change will assist in recognising and rewarding the industry's good on-farm biosecurity practices through BioSecure HACCP certification.

This major win will be used by NGIA to push for legislative change across other state and territory governments using the Queensland legislation amendment as the reference guide. The new NSW and TAS legislation will have the mechanisms in place that replicate the Queensland legislation change. Industry needs to engage with VIC, SA, WA and NT to ensure there are no Australian production nurseries at a competitive disadvantage due to outdated legislation. The passing



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 21 March 2017

Queensland parliament passes legislation on 21 March 2017 allowing third parties to be certifying authorities under Queensland biosecurity legislation.

of the legislative change in Queensland is the culmination of two years work by NGIA, Nursery & Garden Industry Queensland (NGIQ) and Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) working in partnership with Biosecurity Queensland.

Negotiation with state governments has also been undertaken to approve various Entry Condition Compliance Procedures (ECCPs). ECCPs are documented procedural descriptions developed to meet pest specific entry conditions, required by jurisdictions, and implemented by production nurseries using BioSecure HACCP for interstate market access. These procedures need to be met before nursery stock can be shipped interstate. Actions under these are specific to each ECCP but processes could include monitoring and surveillance programs, despatch inspections, pesticide applications or the need to operate in declared areas of freedom. The development of these ECCPs has been complimented with online training courses which will assist growers, and staff, in understanding the requirements and provide evidence that they have undertaken training in how to meet these entry conditions.

Nursery & Garden Industry Australia

This communication has been funded by Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited using the research and development nursery levy and funds from the Australian Government.

Horticulture Innovation Australia

The recent BioSecure HACCP information forum was an opportunity for Victorian growers to find out more about BioSecure HACCP.

BIOSECURE HACCP VICTORIAN INFORMATION FORUM

NGIA hosted the first BioSecure HACCP Information Forum on 16 March 2017 at Boomaroo Nurseries in Lara, Victoria. The forum was an opportunity for growers to develop a deeper understanding of the BioSecure HACCP program and be introduced to some of the procedures and processes used by BioSecure HACCP. One of the important take home messages for growers was that in many instances growers are already carrying out the core biosecurity practices and just need to focus on systematically documenting the conduct of these practices to meet the BioSecure HACCP standard. The forum was also attended by representatives from Agriculture Victoria and two existing BioSecure HACCP Certified businesses in Victoria; Dream Time Nursery and Proteaflora Nursery. Having these representatives at the forum allowed growers to hear some of the benefits of adopting the program as well as first hand perspectives on how to implement the system. The forum also provided an opportunity for the newly appointed NGIA Biosecurity Certification Officer, Tony Filippi, to meet with growers and plan for future visits and assistance in implementing BioSecure HACCP.

INDUSTRY BIOSECURITY PREPAREDNESS

A key focus of the industry biosecurity program is biosecurity preparedness. Each year, on average, in excess of 40 emergency plant pest incursions occur in Australia, and the majority of these involve and affect the Nursery Industry. While some incursions are of minor concern, others have a broader and lasting impact that elevates their ranking to important, not only to our own industry but other horticultural industries as well as the environment. A critical part of the industry's capacity to prepare for and respond to these emergency plant pest incursions rests with ongoing involvement and participation in the Emergency Plant Pest

Commencing with NGIA on 20 March 2017, Tony Filippi is engaged under the National Nursery Industry Biosecurity project. Tony's role as Biosecurity Certification Officer will see him assist growers with on-farm biosecurity training and education and contribute to the industry's broader biosecurity objectives. A key part of Tony's role will include helping growers in their transition to the BioSecure HACCP program and undertaking audits for the program.

Based in Victoria, Tony has extensive experience in horticulture and brings to the role a high level of technical knowledge and a solid grounding in production and compliance management systems. Prior to this role, Tony has worked on market access programs within the citrus industry as well as having roles in the pome, stone fruit, grape and avocado industries.

Tony Filippi NGIA Biosecurity Certification Officer

Response Deed (EPPRD). Facilitated by Plant Health Australia (PHA), the EPPRD is a legally binding agreement between industry, state and territory, and federal government. This agreement covers the management and funding of responses to emergency plant pest (EPP) incursions. The EPPRD also establishes the role of industry participation in the decision-making process, as well as determining co-contributions towards approved response costs.

As a signatory to the EPPRD since 2005, NGIA on behalf of industry, has a number of obligations to fulfil and the National Nursery Industry Biosecurity program provides a means to fulfil these obligations.

A key obligation is to provide industry representation on both the EPPRD National Management Group (NMG) and the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP). The NMG and CCEPP are convened upon when as emergency plant pest is detected. These committees are responsible for determining the national status of a new emergency plant pest incursion. This includes the cost of a response and whether it would be beneficial and technically feasible to eradicate. The committees also approve the expenditure associated with implementing an eradication program, known as a Response Plan, and the allocation of owner reimbursement costs. As an affected party the industry must be in position to contribute to the decisions of these committees to ensure that growers are represented and their key concerns and interests addressed, for example market access. Since the National Nursery Industry Biosecurity program commenced in February 2016 the project has participated in more than 50 CCEPP teleconferences and out of session consultations.

An example of a recent significant incursion has been the Tomato Potato Psyllid (TPP) in Western Australia, February 2017. Since the discovery of the incursion, the NGIA National Biosecurity Manager, John McDonald, has been involved in numerous meetings with the CCEPP, engaged with affected growers in WA and had multiple discussions with government biosecurity agencies and other industry stakeholders such as AUSVEG and Australian Processing Tomatoes Research Council. Through this role NGIA has contributed towards the development of interstate market access protocols as well as a response plan and is working to assist in facilitating market access. At the time of writing the engagement around TPP is ongoing and NGIA is working with all parties to develop a Transition to Management Plan to assist industry in WA recover from the impacts of TPP and get back to operations and trading.

Tomato Potato Psyllid is just one example of a recent emergency plant pest which caused the NMG and CCEPP to be convened.

INDUSTRY BIOSECURITY AWARENESS

The National Nursery Industry Biosecurity program is also working to enhance awareness around biosecurity issues within the industry.

An initiative of the project has been the development of ELearning resources to support the BioSecure HACCP program including ECCP training courses and procedural training such as crop monitoring, site surveillance and dispatch inspection. These courses can be accessed through the ELearning portal which is available on the Nursery Production Farm Management System Website **www.nurseryproductionfms.com.au**. This website is the portal for nursery technical information, and resources are being constantly updated.

The project also contributes to guiding the linked project NY15002 Resilience and on-farm biosecurity capacity, which has produced a number of resources aimed at improving biosecurity awareness such as pest fact sheets, management plans and contributing to the ongoing development of the industry Pest ID tool **www.pestid.com.au** which provides in-depth information on a wide range of important industry pests.

This project has also facilitated a number of webinars with the next on Virus Identification and Management to be held 18 May 10:00 AM AEST, with registrations through **https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7634207580625404161**. Recordings of previous webinars in the series are available on the NGIA YouTube channel **www.youtube.com/user/ausngi**

MINOR USE PESTICIDE PROGRAM

In March 2017 NGIA developed a Strategic Agrochemical Review Process (SARP) survey to support the overall development of an industry wide agrochemical priority list. This was developed to underpin ongoing requests for modern pesticide introductions into Australia for nursery production. This survey was designed to develop an industry wide view of the plant pests of most concern to plant production. The information gained from this survey will be used to inform the SARP and will further influence the ongoing industry Minor Use Pesticide (MUP) program as well as providing guidance to the AgVet forum.

Broadly, Australia represents less than 1.5% of the global agricultural and veterinary medicines market. Because of this small market share, market failures develop where commercial investment is not strong due to the cost of chemical registration, and the limited return on investment opportunities to manufacturers. The AgVet forum is a collaborative approach which allows industries to effectively share their access needs with each other and with chemical companies. In effect this allows for chemical needs across industries to be aligned and helps drive commercially viable investment for chemical companies to overcome this market failure. That is, by combining the same pest management needs of many horticultural crops the agrochemical manufacturer has the opportunity to receive a commercially viable return on the registration investment. The nursery industry is represented at the AgVet forum by Horticulture Innovation Australia (HIA).

The SARP survey highlighted that the industry faces a broad diversity of pests, diseases and weeds. The most prioritised issues across the board were; Mites, Thrips, Scale, Mealy Bugs and Fungus gnats. Specific weeds noted included the spurges and flickweeds. Most noted plant diseases included; *Phytophthora*, Powdery mildew, Pythium, Grey mould, Downey mildew and *Rhizoctonia*.

The MUP Program is progressing strongly with nomination of a range of pesticides for 2016 and 2017 having been agreed and MUP applications submitted to the APVMA for the 2016 selections. NGIA has historically managed the industry MUP program since 2008 and endeavours to identify new pesticides that target common pests accross the greater breadth of industry. In recent years the focus has also been on finding alternative chemistry to the old standards (e.g. organophosphates and carbamates) as well as to build strong pesticide rotation capacity (at least three different mode of action groupings) for pests of most concern to industry. NGIA provides access for industry to the MUPs already issued (since 2008) by the APVMA via the dedicated website (**www.nurseryproductionfms.com.au**) under the **Technical Information** tab.

The following table provides a list of pesticides selected across 2016 and 2017 for applications for minor use permits.

2016 MINOR USE PERMIT APPLICATIONS	2017 MINOR USE PERMIT APPLICATIONS
Cyromazine (DIPTEX)/Leafminers, fungus gnats, shoreflies and sciarid flies	Abamectin (TERVIGO) / Nematodes
Cyazofamid (RANMAN)/ Downy mildew, Pythium, Phytophthora	Cyantraniliprole (BENEVIA) / Aphids, Heliothis, Leafminer, Thrips & Whitefly
Flonicamid (MAINMAN)/ Aphids, Bugs, Psyllids, Thrips, Whitefly & Mealybugs	Dinotefuran (STARKLE) / Borer, Mirids, Weevils & Whitefly
Fluensulfone (NIMITZ) / Nematodes (Cancelled due to US data showing high phytotoxicity across crops)	Flupyradifurone / Aphids, Beetles, Leafhoppers, Mealybugs, Psyllids, Scales, Thrips & Whitefly
Mandipropamid (REVUS)/ Downy mildew and Phytophthora	Oxathiapiprolin (ZORVAC) / Downy mildew, Phytophthora
	Sulfoxaflor (TRANSFORM) / Aphids, Mealybugs, Mirids, Scales & Whitefly

The 'National Nursery Industry Biosecurity Program' (NY15004) is funded by Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited using the Australian Nursery Industry levy and funds from the Australian Government. The program is led by National Biosecurity Manager John McDonald for the period 2016-20.

LINKS TO RESOURCES

Nursery Production Farm Management System Website *www.nurseryproductionfms.com.au*

Industry Pest ID tool *www.pestid.com.au*

PAST EDITIONS OF NURSERY PAPERS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE, on the Nursery & Garden Industry Australia website *http://www.ngia.com.au/Section?Action=View&Section_id=46*