

## **AMwith SABRA LANE**

Monday to Saturday from 8.00am ABC Radio and 7:10 am on RN.

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# Vigilance urged against potentially devastating plant disease

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David Coady reported this story on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 08:04:00

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AM: <http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2016/s4670399.htm>

Australia's wine grape growers are being urged to stay vigilant for any signs of our most unwanted plant pest.

Grape growers in California have been fighting Pierce's disease for more than a century and thousand-year old olive trees in Southern Italy are being pulled from the ground to try to stop a strain that spread quickly.

It hasn't yet made it to Australia, but the Government has gathered international experts in Brisbane to hear how agricultural industries can be protected.

Featured:

Dr Kim Ritman, Australia's chief plant protection officer  
Dr Donato Boscia, plant virologist, Italian National Research Council  
Emeritus Professor Alexander Purcell, University of California Berkeley  
Inca Pearce, CEO, Vinehealth Australia

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