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September 2018



Fruit fly protection boosted with new efforts

The State Government will operate additional random roadblocks into the



Positive results in wild dog control program

The efforts in the South Australia's wild dog control program to protect South

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to ramp up protection against fruit fly for the coming summer.

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Lookout for red-whiskered bulbuls

If you notice a bird with a distinctive black crest and a loud chattering call, it could be a pest bird, the red-whiskered bulbul – and it needs to be reported immediately.

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Weed management at your fingertips

Gardeners, farmers and land owners can conduct weed control with confidence with the latest edition of the *Weed Control Handbook for Declared Plants in South Australia* and the SA Weed Control app now available.

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dogs trapped to date.

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New approach for endemic sheep diseases

The management of endemic sheep diseases, Ovine Johne's disease and footrot, has recently changed under new programs being rolled out.

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Keep an eye out for the red-eared slider turtle

They may look like a teenage mutant ninja turtle, but keeping a pet red-eared slider turtle can land you in jail.

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Don't spread pests and diseases farm to farm

There are plenty of opportunities for seasonal workers to travel between farms and regions picking produce – but did you know they can unknowingly spread pests, diseases and weed seeds on shoes, clothing, equipment and vehicles?

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Virus cocktail gets the jump on pest rabbits

Farmers and landowners across Australia have gained an advantage in the fight against pest rabbit populations through the combination of two biological controls.

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DON'T SPREAD PESTS AND DISEASES FARM TO FARM

DON'T SPREAD PESTS AND DISEASES FARM TO FARM

There are plenty of opportunities for seasonal workers to travel between farms and regions picking produce – but did you know they can unknowingly spread pests, diseases and weed seeds on shoes, clothing, equipment and vehicles?

Delicious fruit and vegetables are picked all year round in South Australia, from grapes, apples and citrus to strawberries and capsicums.

While sharing workers can be great, sharing pests, diseases and weeds can have devastating consequences.

Growers can do a few simple things to prevent the spread of harmful pests, diseases and weeds between states, regions and properties, including:

- **Communication:** before pickers arrive, communicate with them about the farm-gate hygiene requirements at your property.
- **Signage:** biosecurity signs should be the first thing people see when they enter your property. These signs should direct people to the farm office and ask them not to enter production areas.
- **Cars:** parking areas for visitors including staff should be away from your vines, trees or plants. Ask workers to stay on hard packed roads and paths as much as possible to limit access to soil, which can harbor pests, diseases and weed seeds.
- **Entry points:** multiple, unsecured entry points make it difficult to control visitor access. Limit the number of access points to your property and lock unused gates.
- **Visitor register:** in your farm office, you should have a log book or register that details every visitor to the farm and any other farming areas they have been to in recent weeks. Workers who have recently been on farms interstate or overseas are particularly high risk.

- **Shoes and clothes:** clothes, hats and footwear should be free of soil and plant material before workers enter your property. Clothing and shoes should be clean when they leave, too. Consider supplying your own farm boots for workers to wear on your property only.
- **Equipment:** any equipment brought to your farm should be clean of any soil or plant material before it's used on your farm. Ensure any equipment moved across state borders complies with state quarantine requirements.
- **Produce:** ensure seasonal workers know they cannot bring fresh produce into South Australia, which is fruit fly free.

Vinehealth Australia CEO Inca Pearce said a key starting point for growers was to consider the ways people could be responsible for bringing a pest, disease or weed onto their property, and dealing with each of those potential risks one by one.

"Many people don't know how easy it is to spread pests, diseases and weeds," Inca said.

"On-farm biosecurity is an investment you can't afford to ignore – just consider the costs of a new pest, disease or weed incursion.

"Hold induction sessions for seasonal workers to make sure they know about your on-farm biosecurity requirements.

"Tell them to keep an eye out for anything unusual and make sure that all of your staff know to report anything they are concerned about."

Executive Director Biosecurity SA Will Zacharin said in addition to entry protocols, another key on-farm biosecurity practice was training staff to regularly check on vine and plant health.

"Minimising the risk of pests entering your property is the key to on-farm biosecurity, but if you do detect anything suspicious, early reporting is a vital tool in reducing disease spread," he said.

"Training staff to immediately report anything to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline (1800 084 881) is good on-farm biosecurity and will minimise the impact of any new pest or disease."

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