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Who is Vinehealth Australia?

Vinehealth Australia is the South Australian statutory body that works in conjunction with vineyard owners to protect the state's vines from pest, disease and weed threats. Our activities are funded by South Australian vineyard owners and we maintain a Register of every vineyard in the state of 0.5 hectares or more. The Register is vital for biosecurity management.

Embrace biosecurity this growing season

Vineyard owners and contractors are busy undertaking a range of operations this growing season in preparation for vintage 2024.

Vinehealth Australia, the biosecurity expert for the South Australian grape and wine industry, is encouraging vineyard owners and contractors to take advantage of the free resources on its website (www.vinehealth.com.au). These include fact sheets, posters and guidelines on easy-to-implement farm-gate hygiene practices that will help keep vines safe.

"Protecting your vineyard from pests, diseases and weeds doesn't have to be a complex, expensive, or daunting task," said Suzanne McLoughlin, Acting CEO of Vinehealth Australia.

"Whether you're a seasoned vineyard owner or new to the industry, there are simple and effective biosecurity measures you can adopt to keep your vines healthy and prevent outbreaks which are likely to cost you more to rectify – and which could have been prevented."

Key biosecurity tips include:

1. **Engage in conversations:** Strike up conversations with all visitors to your vineyard, especially contractors. Ask them where they've been before visiting your property. By doing so, you can identify potential risks associated with their previous stops. Are they coming from an area known for specific pests or diseases, such

as an interstate region that has phylloxera? If so, don't allow entry into your vineyard.

2. **Check cleanliness of machinery and footwear:** If you have machinery coming onto your property, inspect it to ensure it's clean and free of soil and plant material, including weed seeds, before it's used down your vine rows. Weed seeds can also easily be tracked on footwear. Ensure you check your own footwear often and that of all visitors, to minimise the spread of weed seeds onto, within, and off your property.
3. **Monitor the health of your vines:** When driving or walking down your vine rows during your vineyard

operations, monitor for any vines that look unusual. Get help to identify issues.

4. **Give new vine plantings the best chance to thrive:** Use planting material that has been virus-tested. Monitor for and control insect vectors that could spread viruses on your vineyard, including scale, mealybug, bud mite and blister mite.

"And the small team at Vinehealth is always ready to help South Australian vineyard owners with their biosecurity and farm-gate hygiene questions. Give us a call on 8273 0550 and we can give you some advice on the simple things you can do to keep your vines safe," Suzanne said.

KEEPING SA VINES SAFE SINCE 1899

The Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia, trading as Vinehealth Australia, is your partner in biosecurity and farm-gate hygiene. Visit our website for free resources or phone us for a chat. We're here for South Australian vineyard owners.

(08) 8273 0550
www.vinehealth.com.au

