



EMPLOYING INTERNATIONAL STAFF

Are you aware of the biosecurity risks to your vines associated with employing staff from overseas who will walk down vine rows? Did you know that shoes, clothing and tools can pick up and spread pests, diseases and weeds?



We know that many viticulturists and winemakers travel to different wine regions both within Australia and internationally during the growing season and for vintage. Also, we know that many Australian wine businesses employ international staff, especially during vintage time.

Unfortunately, there are many pests and diseases that can harm or kill grapevines. Australia, as an island nation, is lucky not to have as many of these as other countries - and we want to keep it that way. Employing international staff who will walk down vine rows in Australian vineyards comes with a risk of spreading pests, disease and weeds that could have been picked up from overseas vineyards or from infested vineyards in Australia.

Almost all grapegrowing regions internationally are affected by phylloxera. People who have been in vineyards overseas could easily pick up phylloxera on their shoes, clothing or equipment and spread it to vineyards in Australia

unknowingly. This tiny insect pest destroys vines by feeding on their roots, and is one of our greatest biosecurity threats.

In Australia, grape phylloxera is currently confined to parts of Victoria and New South Wales. Commercial vine plantings in Australia are predominantly own-rooted *Vitis vinifera* which are highly susceptible to phylloxera. Preventing phylloxera movement to uninfested areas is therefore of utmost importance.

We want your international staff to enjoy our Australian wines and respect our vines.

What must you communicate to your international staff?

- It's important that your international staff don't bring shoes into Australia that have been worn in vineyards or farms overseas:
 - Consider supplying them with footwear once they arrive, or advise them that they will need to purchase new footwear once in Australia and prior to visiting vineyards.



- You must advise them that if they are bringing clothing and hats that have been worn in vineyards or farms for at least 29 days prior to coming to Australia, that these items must be hot washed on the highest setting and tumble-dried on high heat before being worn in vineyards in Australia.
- Advise them not to bring any hand tools (for example picking snips, pruning snips, technical equipment) into Australia that have been used in vineyards or on farms overseas.
- Assume that your international staff are likely to want to travel to other wine regions either before, during or after working for you:
 - Provide them with a map of phylloxera management zones in Australia (<https://vinehealth.com.au/tools/maps/phylloxera-management-zones/>) and help them to safely plan their route of travel to vineyards in Phylloxera Exclusion Zones first, then Phylloxera Risk Zones and finally Phylloxera Infested Zones.
 - When moving between phylloxera management zones and if walking down vine rows, your international staff should expect to be asked to follow best practice farm-gate hygiene procedures for shoes, clothing and equipment (refer Vinehealth Australia's "Biosecurity Planning for Vineyard Owners Hosting Visitors" fact sheet at www.vinehealth.com.au).
- Advise them that if they are travelling by car, they need to ensure their car is cleaned of all soil and plant material before leaving each phylloxera management zone and that the car is always parked on a hard-pack surface, well away from vines.
- They must answer 'yes' on their incoming passenger card when entering Australia, to declare that they have 'been in contact with farms, farm animals, wilderness areas or freshwater streams/lakes etc in the past 30 days' if this is the case..

For further information about how to minimise pest and disease risks visit www.vinehealth.com.au or phone (08) 8273 0550.