

PLANT DISEASES AND PESTS

- Learn about the major pests and diseases of your crop and garden plants.
- Inspect your crop regularly for signs of insect pests or disease. If you find something suspicious in your plants, please report it to the phone number below.
- Collect and dispose of all fallen fruit by effective composting or burial. If you find maggots in fruit please contact us.
- Neglected fruit trees, or crop plants, are significant biosecurity risks. Remove any fruit trees that you are not intending to closely monitor and remove crop debris promptly when harvest is complete.
- Apply the correct insecticide, fungicide or other chemical, at the correct dosage, for the problem at hand. Always read the label before application.
- Only buy certified 'free from pests' seed or plants from a reliable supplier so you minimise the risk of bringing disease or pests onto your property.
- Do not bring plants, or plant parts into Tasmania from overseas, or interstate, without appropriate permits.

If you think you see a different type of plant pest or find maggots in local or imported fruit, please call 1300 368 550 to report your find.

WEEDS

- Make sure you can identify the “declared weed” species and other significant weed threats in your district (eg gorse, ragwort, thistle etc). If you have any on your property, firstly ensure they do not spread onto your neighbour’s property and secondly take action to eradicate the weeds.
- If you see any of the more significant weeds on your neighbours’ properties, check that they are aware of them.
- If you are buying in hay or grain to feed your livestock, where possible get your supplies from weed-free sources and be familiar with quarantine requirements for the import and management of feed grain and livestock. Feed out in a designated area and eradicate any germinating weeds.
- There’s a lot of fact sheets and other information on identifying and managing weeds, as well as the latest Weed Alert Bulletins and the Dennis Morris Weed Database on the DPIW website. Go to www.dpiw.tas.gov.au and follow the links through “Weeds” – or phone 1300 368 550 for a hard copy



HOBBY FARMERS AND SMALLHOLDERS



Picture courtesy of DPI Queensland

*Some basic tips on how to meet your **BIOSECURITY** obligations*

WHAT IS BIOSECURITY?

For many people, the word “biosecurity” is about preventing terrorists smuggling anthrax into Australia or something similar. In fact, biosecurity is much, much more than that.

Biosecurity is about protecting our primary industries, and through them the wider community and our environment from the negative impacts of significant disease, pest or weed outbreaks.

Tasmania’s approach to biosecurity has three parts.

The first part is focussed on **keeping new diseases, pests and weeds out of the State**. Essentially, this is about quarantine and border security.

The second part is to identify any outbreak early and to **quickly contain and eradicate** the biosecurity threat. Essentially, this is about preparedness.

If either of the first two parts fails, and if it is practical to do so, the third part is to **isolate and manage** the biosecurity threat to prevent it from spreading elsewhere in the State.

As someone with land and possibly livestock, you have a major part to play in Tasmania’s biosecurity.

One weak link amongst Tasmanian farmers and hobby farmers puts us all at risk..

LIVESTOCK DISEASES

If you are buying livestock (including poultry)

- Where possible, check that where you are buying from practises good biosecurity.
- For some endemic diseases, such as Johnes’s disease in cattle or sheep for example, you can insist on a vendor declaration about the disease status of the source property.

When you bring new livestock home

- Where possible, keep the new animals separate from your other livestock for two weeks, so you can see if there is any disease problem in the new animals.
- For all livestock other than poultry, a quarantine drench on arrival will help minimise the risk of bringing worm disease onto your property.

Routine biosecurity

- Make sure you know what the major diseases for your species of animal look like.
- Check your animals regularly for signs of sickness or injury.
- Get a copy of DPIW’s basic biosecurity tips for your species of livestock. They are available free online at www.dpiw.tas.gov.au or by phoning 1300 368 550.

If you think you see the signs of emergency disease, including unexplained sickness or mortalities in your livestock, immediately contact your local vet or the all hours hotline on 1800 675 888

ANIMAL WELFARE

If you own livestock, you have a legal responsibility to look after them. Thankfully, blatant cruelty to livestock is relatively rare. A far greater problem is neglect, or a failure to provide basics such as adequate feed, water and shelter.

- If you are relying on grazing, make sure you do not have too many animals for the feed available. Overstocking is harmful to both the livestock and the pasture.
- Livestock must be able to access clean water at all times. A bucket is unsatisfactory as it is easily knocked over.
- A tree or hedge windbreak and a shade spot are usually sufficient shelter for most livestock. But goats in particular require some form of housing that can protect them from the wind and rain.
- Learn to condition score your livestock and never let your animals fall below score 2.
- Wandering dogs can be dangerous for livestock, especially sheep and goats. If dogs come onto your property, always report them to the local ranger so that their owners can fix the problem

For the animal’s sake, cruelty (including neglect) should always be reported to the RSPCA on 1300 139 947