

CITRUS INDUSTRY BIOSECURITY STRATEGY

2023-2028



The growing risk from exotic citrus pest species is related to increasing global trade, increasing numbers of air and sea passengers, and expansion of global species distributions.

As an industry we are increasing our investment into surveillance and capability enhancing operations and are regularly assessing how best to protect and prepare citrus growing businesses more efficiently and effectively. This strategy highlights four priorities and 16 activity areas to guide efforts from 2023-2028.

Vision

A culture of awareness and preparedness for a resilient citrus industry

- The industry demonstrates a culture of biosecurity preparedness.
- The collective awareness of biological threats to the industry is high.
- Industry stakeholders have taken steps to prepare for exotic pest incursions and to limit the spread and impact of established pests.
- Australian citrus growers have confidence in retention of market access.

Priorities

Objectives

1. Data & information

- Improve data collection, collation, and interpretation to support informed and contextualised decision-making.
- Identify emerging industry risks.
- Develop an improved ability to address risks through an informed understanding of the wider biosecurity context (e.g. risk pathways, emerging pest species, industry structure and operations, and advances in technology and research).

2. Education & upskilling

- Achieve a step-change in industry thinking towards the relevance of biosecurity for asset protection.
- Support integration of biosecurity training into relevant learning pathways and create industry opportunities for information exchange, upskilling and boosting of biosecurity leadership capability.
- Increase industry capability to address incursion and market access disruptions in a structured and informed way by building a team of highly skilled biosecurity leaders and advisors for the industry.

3. Business resilience & response preparedness

- Build the capacity for citrus growing businesses to withstand the market shocks caused by exotic pest species incursions through strategic industry level preparedness work and supporting farm business level planning.
- Ensure that businesses are aware of the phases of an exotic pest incursion response, what to do when a response affects their business, and where to go for the source of truth in a response.

4. Communication & collaboration

- Ensure that communication links are in place with all citrus growing businesses, as well as relevant supply chain businesses.
- Understand the best procedures to follow for crisis communication to industry during an incursion.
- Build pathways of communication to support education, upskilling and data gathering during 'peace time'.
- Improve efficiency and effectiveness of biosecurity activities through strategic partnerships.

This five-year strategy has been developed by Citrus Australia Ltd., in consultation with Plant Health Australia, the Citrus Pest & Disease Preparedness Committee, and the wider citrus industry. Read the full strategy at the Citrus Australia website - citrusaustralia.com.au

Image: Asian citrus psyllid adult. Copyright Utkarsh Patil / Dreamstime.com

