

# Chestnut blight update

Industry notice November 2015

## Current situation

Chestnut blight is an exotic fungal disease caused by *Cryphonectria parasitica* and is under active eradication. The fungus causes disease in chestnut and oak trees. It was first detected in the Ovens Valley in 2010. It was last detected in July 2014. Freedom from the disease for two years is required before eradication can be considered successful. Surveillance of chestnut groves is required until June 2016 to fulfil that condition, given no new detections. There is no known cure for the disease. In line with the reduced presence of the disease, a new smaller Restricted Area (RA) and changed the Pest Quarantine Areas (PQA) are in operation.

## Changes to the Order

The Order declaring a reduced Restricted Area with respect to chestnut blight in north-east Victoria was declared on 12 November 2015.

The RA and PQA are shown on the maps overleaf. Map 1 is an overview of the Restricted Area and Pest Quarantine Area.

The Order places restrictions on the movement of chestnut blight host plants and materials, those being:

- chestnut (*Castanea* sp.) plant materials
- oak (*Quercus* sp.) plant materials
- equipment and used packaging associated with the above plant types.

Chestnut blight **host plant** means any plant or product (except nuts) of the above two plant types (genus *Castanea* and *Quercus*), including bare-rooted and potted plants, budwood (cuttings and prunings) material and rootstock.

Chestnut blight **host material** includes any host plant, agricultural equipment or used package that has come in contact with host plants or products. Agricultural equipment in this regard means any equipment used for culture, harvesting, packing or processing host plants, including vehicles and pruning tools.



## Host plant/material movement restrictions

The movement restrictions on chestnut blight host plants and materials declared under this Order are as follows:

### For properties within a chestnut blight PQA (see Map 2 and 3):

- No host plants (except nuts) **or** materials (including agricultural equipment) can be moved within the PQA **without** a permit issued under the *Plant Biosecurity Act 2010* (Act). Infected properties will not be permitted to remove host plants.
- Any permit issued for movement will have strict conditions that must be complied with.
- Any breach of permit conditions carries with it a penalty as prescribed under the Act.
- In addition to a permit, movement of host plants and materials **out of** the PQA require an inspection and a Plant Health Certificate issued by a DEDJTR Inspector. There will be no costs involved for this service.

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## For properties within the chestnut blight Restricted Area (see Map 1):

- No chestnut blight host plants or plant products (except nuts) can be moved from the property without a permit issued under the *Plant Biosecurity Act 2010*.
- Any permit issued for movement will have strict conditions that must be complied with.
- Any breach of permit conditions carries with it a penalty as prescribed under the Act.
- Agricultural equipment and used packaging can move unrestricted from the property. However, good farm biosecurity hygiene practices are recommended.

Farm hygiene and biosecurity is important for Victoria's agricultural industry. For advice on appropriate equipment washdown and farm biosecurity hygiene practices, visit: [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au) or contact DEDJTR for advice on 136 186.

Enquiries about movement permits should be directed to DEDJTR on (02) 6043 7929. Allow a minimum of 2 days for DEDJTR to process an application for a permit or certificate.

## Identification

Chestnut blight is a bark-inhabiting fungus which can invade stems and branches of any size and causes cankers that can grow rapidly. The cankers usually develop until the stem or branches are girdled and the tree is entirely colonised and eventually dies.

Other symptoms include cracking bark, bark sloughing, necrosis and resin exudation.

Under favourable conditions, orange fruiting bodies are produced on the outside of the bark inside the canker margins (see photos overleaf).

The disease has the potential to spread from cuttings and dead wood for up to one year.

## Property Identification Codes

A Property Identification Code (PIC) is an eight character alphanumeric code allocated by DEDJTR to a property used for agricultural purposes. If you grow 20 or more chestnut trees within Victoria, you are required by law (*Plant Biosecurity Act 2010*) to have a plant PIC.

Plant PICs enable DEDJTR to quickly alert producers of a plant pest or disease outbreak that may impact their business. This assists DEDJTR, producers and industry to respond to plant pest and disease outbreaks more effectively and minimise disruptions to trade.

You can apply for a PIC online at [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au), contact the PIC Helpline on 1800 678 779 or submit the application enclosed with this notice.

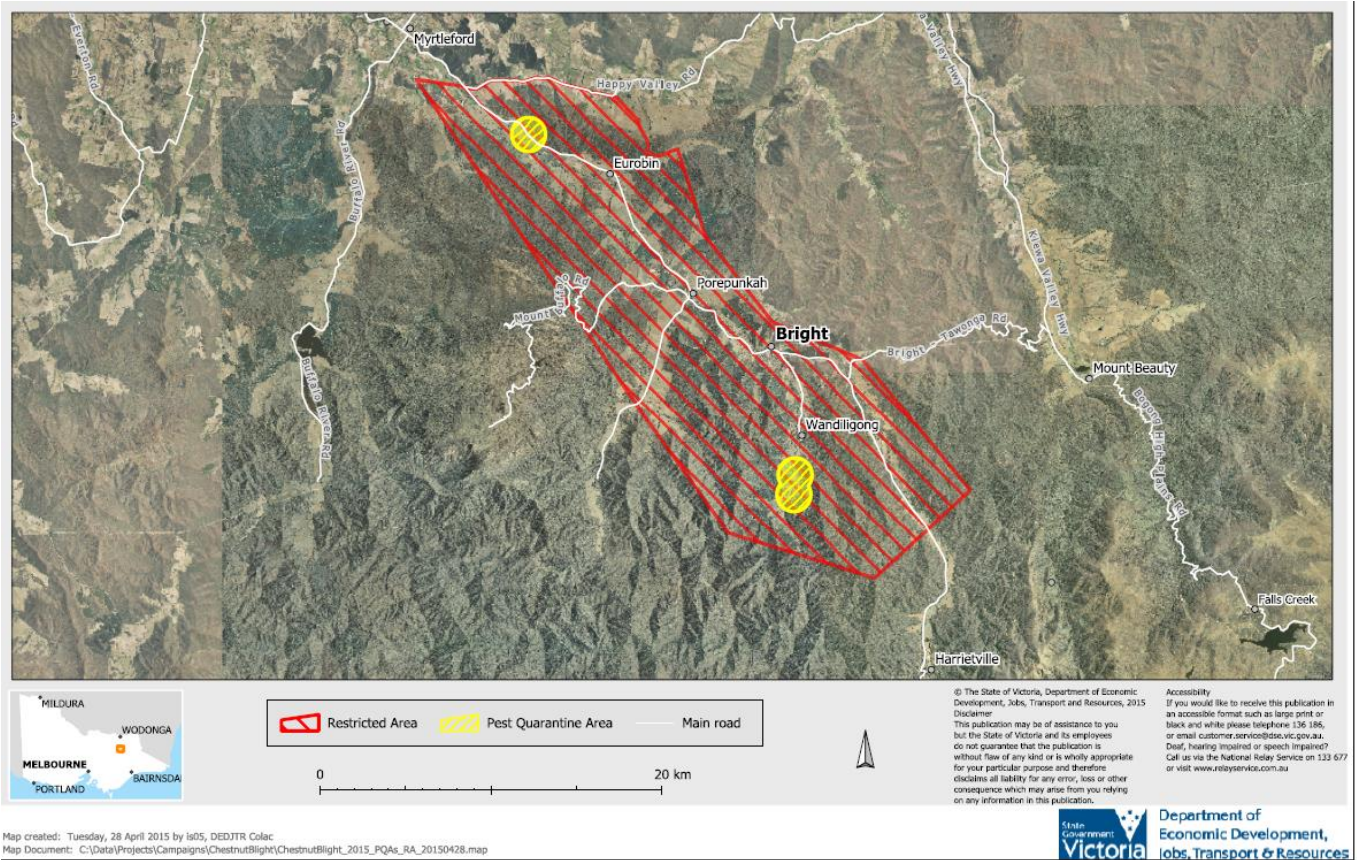
## Reporting

Chestnut blight is a declared exotic disease and landholders are legally obliged to notify DEDJTR if they find suspected chestnut blight symptoms - phone **136 186**.

- Please provide the type of plant and its location.
- Do not collect samples of suspected chestnut blight, as this could spread the disease.

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## Map 1: Overview of the Restricted Area and the Pest Quarantine Areas within the Ovens Valley

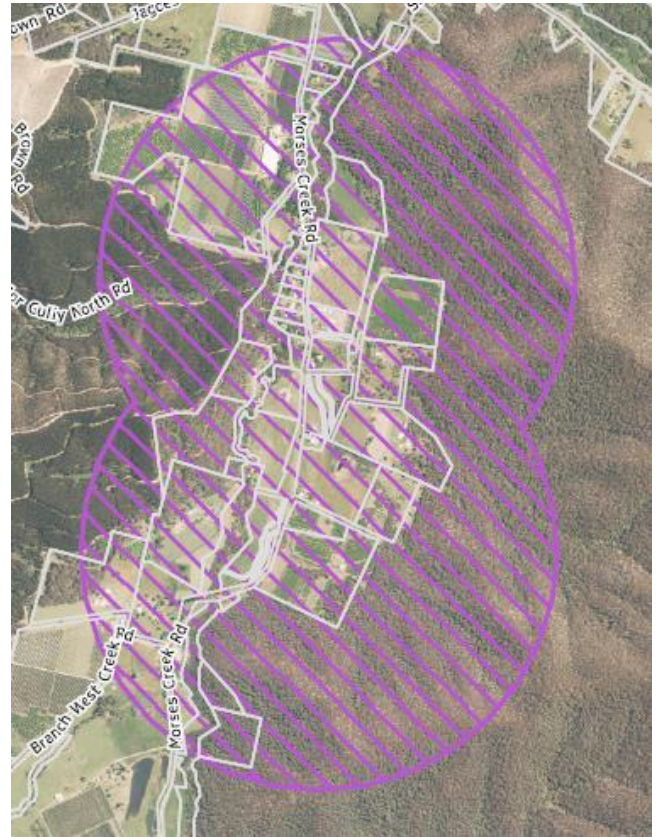


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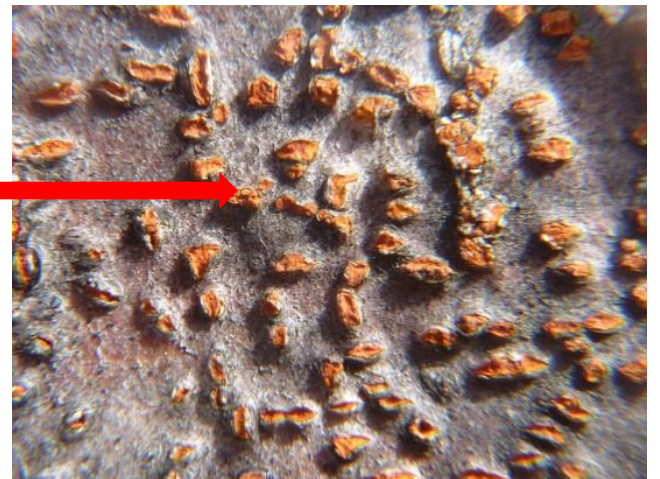
## Map 2: Pest Quarantine Area - Eurobin



## Map 3: Pest Quarantine Area - Wandiligon



## Chestnut blight fruiting bodies



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