



Six easy ways to protect your orchard

You have an important role to play in protecting your orchard and the chestnut industry from biosecurity threats.

Here are six simple things you can do to reduce the threat of new pests entering and establishing in your orchard.

1. Be aware of biosecurity threats

Make sure you and your orchard workers are familiar with the most important exotic chestnut pests.

2. Use high health status, pest-free propagation material from known sources

Ensure all propagation material and orchard inputs are fully tested and pest free. Keep records of your orchard inputs.

3. Keep it clean

Practicing good sanitation and hygiene will help prevent the entry and movement of pests onto your property. Workers, visitors, vehicles and equipment can spread pests so make sure they are decontaminated before they enter and leave your orchard.

4. Check your crop

Monitor your trees frequently. Knowing the usual appearance of your trees will help you recognise new or unusual events and pests. Keep records of all unusual observations.

5. Report anything unusual

If you suspect a new pest – **report it immediately.**

6. Abide by the law

Support and be aware of laws and regulations established to protect the chestnut industry.

If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881



Report suspect pests

Report any unusual or suspect plant pest immediately via the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

Early detection and reporting may prevent or minimise long-term damage to, or quarantine period of, your orchard and the chestnut industry.

Calls to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline will be forwarded to an experienced person in the department of primary industries in your state or territory, who will ask some questions about what you have seen and may arrange to collect a sample.

Do not send samples without first speaking to someone from the state department, who can discuss the correct type of sample, its packaging, handling and transport to the laboratory assigned for diagnosis.

In some states, the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline operates only during business hours. Outside these hours, leave your full contact information and a brief description of the issue and your call will be followed up as soon as possible. Every report will be taken seriously, checked out and treated confidentially.

If you have found a suspected exotic plant pest, the following general precautions should be taken:

- Do not allow movement of people and equipment near the affected area.
- Wash hands, clothes and boots that have been in contact with affected plant material or soil.

Do not touch, move or transport affected plant material. Incorrect handling could spread the pest further or render the samples unfit for diagnosis.

While waiting for the identification of the suspected exotic pest, the following measures should be put in place to contain the pest and protect other parts of your orchard:

- Mark the location of the pest detection.
- Limit access to the area.

Restrict operations in the area.

If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881.

Acknowledgement:

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