



Decontamination guidelines *Dickeya dianthicola*

Soil, water and plant material attached to vehicles, machinery and equipment are a pathway for the spread of *Dickeya dianthicola*. Decontamination measures are an important part of farm biosecurity, and should be in place to help prevent spread of the bacteria to other areas or crops.

General guidelines

Clean in, clean out

Equipment, vehicles, footwear and surfaces should be washed down or disinfected prior to moving onto or off your property, and when moving between different areas on your property.

- Keep farm vehicles clean from soil
- Where possible, use your own vehicle to transport visitors around your farm.
- Restrict vehicle movement to a minimum, particularly on wet soil.
- Stick to road access.
- Always ensure visiting vehicles, and borrowed or second hand equipment and machinery is clean of all plant material and soil before they enter your farm.
- Avoid movement in areas where water pools or collects.
- Avoid recycling or reusing irrigation water.

Dickeya dianthicola is a serious bacteria that can lead to significant production losses in potatoes, some ornamental crops, chicory and artichoke

You will need...

Clean hot water

Use hot water that is more than 55 degrees. Use a clean water supply that has not flowed over agricultural soil planted to crops, and is from an uncontaminated tank or system capable of removing organisms (eg. chlorinated town water).

Equipment

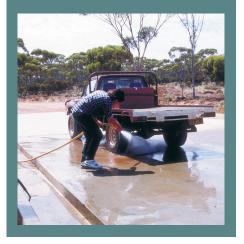
- Hard stand area for wash down to contain run-off water.
- High pressure water cleaner, preferably a mobile water tanker or spray unit.
- A large tarpaulin or plastic container to clean smaller equipment.
- Disposable overalls and gloves if handling infected plant material.
- Strong plastic bags for sealing items for disposal.
- Approved disinfectant solutions. Plastic footbath, bucket and spray bottle to disinfect boots and equipment
- Hand sanitiser and/or soap with a minimum of 5 litres of clean water.
- Rubber boots that are easy to wash.

Soil, clay and organic material neutralises disinfectants so check recommended rates and suspension of disinfectant.

Important

Wash-down facility

- Ensure the facility is well away from crops, waterways and drainage areas.
- The facility should be close to property or production block entry and exit points.
- To prevent run-off to waterways, enclose the area where the washdown occurs.
- Ensure any run-off is directed away from paddocks, crops and waterways.
- Have a sump to collect any waste water.
- Try to contain waste water for as long as possible to allow for biodegradation of compounds (10 to 14 days is usually sufficient).
- Disposal of contained wastewater can be done via absorption and evaporation methods.
- Locate facility on level ground, preferably concrete, bitumen or gravel.
- Regularly check areas around the facility for new pests, diseases or weeds.



Wash-down process

Wash-down should include cleaning to remove dirt and plant material from vehicles, machinery and equipment, followed by disinfection to kill or inactivate bacteria.

Step 1 - Cleaning

- In the first instance use compressed air for removing dry material to clean areas such as radiators.
- Prior to disinfection, use a detergent-based cleanser with a high pressure hose to ensure all surfaces are visibly free from soil and plant material.
- Clean from the top down and pay particular attention to mud guards, protective plates and underneath the vehicle.
- Use a tarpaulin for smaller tools and equipment to avoid recontamination.

Step 2 - Disinfection

- Use a broad spectrum disinfectant on surfaces that can come into contact with soil, such as tyres, axels, mud guards on vehicles, or blades on rotary hoes.
- Potassium
 peroxymonosulphate
 (Virkon S) is recommended
 for vehicles, machinery
 and tools. Mix as per label
 instructions and apply with a
 spray pack. As it is corrosive
 avoid contact with paint and
 glass. It can be rinsed off
 following application.

- Sodium hypochlorite (bleach) is effective but needs exposure of 30-60 minutes.
 Pallets and plastic containers can be soaked in bleach and left to dry.
- Un-used product can be stored for several days – see label instructions.

Step 3 – Rinsing and documenting

Following disinfection, rinse all surfaces with clean water. Ensure waste water drains into the sump.

Record details of each clean down and decontamination in machinery log books.

People

All personnel and visitors who have entered production areas must follow decontamination guidelines. Particularly the decontamination of boots/ footwear, clothing, reusable gloves and hats.

- Brush down clothing and remove soil from boots (check the tread).
- Thoroughly wash hands with a sanitizer.
- Have a foot bath filled with potassium peroxymonosulphate (Virkon S), placed on a hard surface or plastic sheet. Step boots in and out of the foot bath to ensure that all contact areas are soaked with solution.
- Dispose of chemical in footbaths at the end of each day into the wash-down facility sump.

Important disclaimer

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