



Frequently Asked Questions Quarantine Area Notice – Tomato potato psyllid

24 March 2017

The emergency plant pest tomato potato psyllid (*Bactericera cockerelli*) has been found in Australia for the first time, in the Perth metropolitan area and some regional areas.

The Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA) has implemented restrictions on the movement of commercially-grown fruit and nursery stock produced in these areas to help prevent the spread of the pest.

Effective from Monday 27 March 2017, a Quarantine Area Notice is in place for the Perth metropolitan area, Mandurah and regional shires extending to Augusta-Margaret River in the south, to include Dandaragan in the north, and east to include Brookton. *Please refer to the Quarantine Area map at the end of this document.*

This Notice applies to the movement of all plants in the Solanaceae and Convolvulaceae families, including but not limited to:

| Scientific Name | Example (common name) |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Solanum tuberosum</i> | potato |
| <i>Lycopersicon</i> spp. | tomato |
| <i>Capsicum</i> spp. | pepper, paprika, capsicum, chilli |
| <i>Solanum melongena</i> | eggplant |
| <i>Solanum betaceum</i> | tamarillo |
| Ornamental & weed <i>Solanum</i> spp. | nightshades, potato vine |
| <i>Physalis</i> spp. | ground cherry |
| <i>Lycium</i> spp. | matrimony vine, goji berry, African boxthorn |
| <i>Convolvulus</i> spp. | field bindweed |
| <i>Ipomoea batatas</i> | sweet potato |

View the published Quarantine Area Notice on the department's website
agric.wa.gov.au/tpp

See over for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Quarantine Area Notice to assist commercial producers and industry. Please note: these FAQs will continue to be updated as required. Visit agric.wa.gov.au/tpp for updates.

1. What is a Quarantine Area Notice (QAN)?

A QAN is a notice under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* that declares a quarantined area due to the presence of a harmful pest or disease. In this case, the Quarantine Area (QA) has been declared because the tomato potato psyllid has been discovered in the metropolitan area and in some regional areas.

2. What is the aim of declaring a QA?

The aim of the QA declaration is to restrict the movement of host plants and other materials that could spread tomato potato psyllid from the QA to other parts of the State. The QAN forms part of a national response plan which includes emergency containment measures for tomato potato psyllid (TPP) and increased testing and monitoring for *Candidatus liberibacter solanacearum* (CLso), which poses a significant risk to the WA horticulture industry.

The Quarantine Area is made up of two zones — the Control Zone (red zone) and the Suppression Zone (orange zone). Outside of this QA, the remainder of the State is considered a Watch Zone (blue zone). The treatment requirements and movement restrictions differ by zone, whether or not tomato potato psyllid has been detected on the property, type of host material being moved, and where the produce or plants are destined.

More information on zone movement controls and treatment requirements is available on the department website agric.wa.gov.au/tpp.

Note, where the psyllid is found on a property, additional control measures apply via an individual pest control notice.

3. What areas are in the control zone?

The metropolitan area, which includes the shires of Wanneroo in the north, Serpentine-Jarrahdale through to Mandurah in the south, and Mundaring in the east, and the shires of Gingin, Chittering and Murray, is in the control zone.

4. What areas are in the suppression zone?

The suppression zone includes the shires of August-Margaret River, Beverley, Boddington, Boyup Brook, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Brookton, Capel, Collie, Dandaragan, Dardanup, Donnybrook-Balingup, Harvey, Manjimup, Moora, Nannup, Northam, Toodyay, Victoria Plains and Wandering, and the cities of Bunbury and Busselton.

5. What are the treatment options for solanaceous and convolvulaceous fruit grown within the QA for movement outside of the QA?

The effective treatment currently recognised for tomato potato psyllid is fumigation with methyl bromide for two hours at one of the following rates:

| Flesh Temperature (°C) | Methyl Bromide (g/m ³) |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 21 - 31.9 | 32 |
| 16 - 20.9 | 40 |
| 11 - 15.9 | 48 |
| 10 - 10.9 | 56 |

The following fumigators are accredited under the Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) system:

- Fresh Express, Canning Vale (08) 9455 4800
- Luckens Fumigation Services, Bibra Lake – (08) 6595 0800
- Southern Produce Traders, Cockburn Central – (08) 9417 3659
- Tigers International Solutions (formerly Fumi-link), Perth Airport – (08) 9479 0303

An alternative post-harvest protocol for solanaceous fruit involving a range of washing, flood spraying, brushing and drying methods is now available under a certification assurance arrangement. More information is available from Quarantine WA Exports Officer: Phone: 9334 1800; Fax: 9334 1880; Email: qa@agric.wa.gov.au

6. Is a post-treatment inspection required after fumigation?

7.1 For intrastate (within WA) movement

No – only a record of the treatment, as specified in the QAN, is required to demonstrate the QAN process has been followed. DAFWA officers will conduct targeted compliance activities.

7.2 For interstate movement

Yes – for states requiring fumigation of fruit, consignors and exporters will need to comply with the operational procedure described in ICA-04, and will require a ‘600 unit inspection’ by a Quarantine WA inspector after fumigation.

As per international export sampling rates, a ‘600 unit inspection’ is classified as 600 units, or 2% (minimum 3 packages) of the number of packages in each consignment. The consignment may consist of produce from more than one grower; each grower’s produce must be represented in the sample.

Once the consignment has been inspected and certified, it can be split and sent to various consigners with valid records.

To verify specific export requirements for interstate, please contact the Quarantine WA exports officer on 08 9334 1800 or qa@agric.wa.gov.au.

7. What are the approved treatments for non-fruiting plants (seedlings)?

As per the QAN, the approved treatments and application rates are as follows:

For tomato, capsicum, chilli and eggplant plants (seedlings):

- Sprayed with 300mL/ha of the 18g/L active of abamectin (Permit # 14722) or 20mL/100L of the 250g/L active of bifenthrin (Permit # 9795); and
- 24 hours later, sprayed with 40mL/100L of the 240g/L active of spirotetramat (Movento 240 SC label); and
- 24 hours later, sprayed with 200mL/100L of the 225g/L active of methomyl. Note: DO NOT use methomyl in protected cropping situations, such as glasshouses, greenhouses, plastic houses, plastic tunnels or shade-houses.

For host plant ornamentals/nursery stock:

- Sprayed with 25 mL product per 100 L of the 80g/L active of bifenthrin (APMVA Permit # 10043) or 50mL/100L to a maximum of 1.5L for 18g/L abamectin (the registered rate for two spotted mite on ornamentals); and
- 24 hours later, sprayed with 40mL/100L of the 240g/L active of spirotetramat (APVMA permit #81707); and
- 24 hours later, sprayed with 200mL/100L of the 225g/L active of methomyl (Permit # 82428). Note: DO NOT use methomyl in protected cropping situations, such as glasshouses, greenhouses, plastic houses, plastic tunnels or shade-houses.

These treatments must be completed no more than 36 hours prior to movement, and records of the treatment, together with details of transporters and consignees, must be kept.

Host plants being moved outside of the QA must be found free of *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum (CLso)*, under an approved program of testing by the department.

8. If a consignment requires certification by an inspector, at whose cost is this? Who pays for the inspector to certify the host plant?

If certification is required, standard certification and inspection fees will apply to the producer/consignor who has requested the service.

9. Who is responsible for ensuring the fumigation or other effective treatment is done?

The consignor is responsible for treatment if moving host material, or causing it to be moved, to a destination outside the QA.

Records must be kept as per the QAN, including details of treatment.

10. What are the requirements of solanaceous and convolvulaceous fruit/vegetables transiting through the control zone, not grown in the control zone i.e. distribution centres/Canning Vale Markets?

Host produce grown and packed outside the control zone may 'transit' through, provided it remains secure in original packaging.

Wrapped pallets or bins, or cartons with lids, are considered secure for transit. Packaging can include the name of the producer, product and place of production for easy identification. Records, with details of production address (and packing address if different), transporters and consignees, must be made available if required.

Recommended principles to stop spread include:

- these consignments to be kept segregated from produce which is grown and/or packed within the control zone
- all host produce to be kept in cold storage
- packaging to include wrapping of pallets or bins.

11. What should I do if fruit or vegetables produced outside the control zone have been removed from their secure original packaging within the control zone and I want to transport them outside the control zone?

Consignments packed outside the control zone and transported into the control zone can be split in line with the Interstate Certification Assurance [ICA 17](#) 'Reconsigning Whole of Split Consignments and Transporting of Certified Produce'. A consignee who wishes to split a consignment within this area will need to have an accredited quarantine facility and follow the protocol outlined in ICA17. Details of ICA17, including operational procedures, can be viewed at the [Australian Interstate Quarantine](#) website.

For details on accreditation, please contact Quarantine WA Exports Officer to verify export requirements: Phone: 9334 1800; Fax: 9334 1880; Email: qa@agric.wa.gov.au

Alternatively, fruit or vegetables produced outside the control zone that have been removed from their secure original packaging whilst inside, intended to be transported outside the zone, will require treatment as outlined in Question 6, if not split using the ICA17 arrangement.

12. What happens if I don't comply with the QAN?

Failure to comply with a QAN can result in a fine, the Director General of DAFWA taking remedial action under section 133 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, or both. The department will carry out targeted compliance inspections to ensure the requirements of the QAN are being followed.

People moving host material, and potential carriers outside the QA, should consider the impact of the introduction of tomato potato psyllid into WA's key production areas.

13. What are my reporting obligations?

Consigners of host plants to a destination outside the QA must provide the Department with advice of consignments to be moved. This advice must be provided to TPP-OperationsOfficer@agric.wa.gov.au at least a week prior to movement.

All producers must keep a record of treatments, together with details of transporters and consignees.

14. What is an 'approved program' for testing for CLso?

This is a program of testing which is being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia. To arrange testing, contact the TPP Operations Officer on TPP.BiosecurityOfficer@agric.wa.gov.au

15. Who can I contact for more information?

For enquiries regarding the Quarantine Area Notice and TPP response, contact:

Rohan Prince, Department of Agriculture and Food, 0429 680 069
Don Telfer, Department of Agriculture and Food, 0429 014 063

For enquiries regarding chemical use, contact:

Darryl Hardie, Department of Agriculture and Food, 0404 819 600

For enquiries regarding legislative requirements around chemical use, contact:

Chris Sharpe, Department of Agriculture and Food, 08 9368 3815

Further information and general enquiries

- More information, including how to look for and report the pest, is available from the department website at agric.wa.gov.au/tpp
- Pest and Disease Information Service
Phone: 1800 084 881
Email: info@agric.wa.gov.au

