

# Media release



## New Window on the Status of Australia's Plant Biosecurity System

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, 30 May 2011**

Today marks the official release of the 2010 National Plant Biosecurity Status Report. The Status Report provides an overview of the health and achievements of Australia's world renowned plant biosecurity system for the period 1 July 2009 to 31 December 2010.

The 220 page Status Report was compiled by Plant Health Australia, using contributions gathered from government and industry Members to give a detailed picture of Australia's plant biosecurity system to 31 December 2010. The Status Report covers the resources that are deployed across the country and how they combine to safeguard Australian plant production industries, worth more than \$25 billion a year.

It is the comprehensiveness of the information in the Status Report that makes it so useful according to Dr Tony Gregson AM, Chairman of Plant Health Australia. "The Status Report lists the plant pests of greatest concern, so that we know where the threats lie. It covers the organisations and activities involved in keeping Australia's agricultural, horticultural and forestry industries free from these pests. It also collates more than 800 plant biosecurity research projects underway or completed."

"By pulling all of this information together, the Status Report is the ultimate reference volume, providing a veritable mine of information. Being presented in a clear, easy to understand format makes it readily accessible for audiences too."

"We know from previous editions how valuable this resource is to government and industry. It provides reassurance to producers and consumers about the robustness of Australia's plant biosecurity system and has been used to support international trade negotiations."

Dr Gregson said it is easy to take our relatively pest-free environment for granted. "Because of our geographical isolation and the strong performance of our national plant biosecurity system, Australian producers don't face the same pest problems that many other countries do. But we cannot afford to be complacent."

"By providing a window onto Australia's plant biosecurity system, the Status Report is aiding decision making, deployment of resources and application of risk-based approaches to biosecurity and making a direct contribution to preserving our prized pest free status."

The National Plant Biosecurity Status Report and associated images are available on Plant Health Australia's website at [www.phau.com.au/national-plant-biosecurity-status-report](http://www.phau.com.au/national-plant-biosecurity-status-report)

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For more information, or to arrange an interview, contact Sophie Winton on 0404 609 445

[Click here](#) for a high resolution photo / to download a copy of the report. Cover image courtesy of Plant Health Australia for single use only.

Caption: **National Plant Biosecurity Status Report 2010**

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## **Background Information on Plant Health Australia (PHA)**

PHA is the national coordinator of the government-industry partnership for plant biosecurity in Australia. As a not-for-profit company, it services the needs of its Members and independently advocates on behalf of the national plant biosecurity system. PHA's efforts help minimise plant pest impacts, enhance Australia's plant health status, assist trade, safeguard the livelihood of producers, support the sustainability and profitability of plant industries and the communities that rely up on them, and preserve environmental health and amenity. Visit [www.planthealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au) for further information.