



Pistachio Industry Biosecurity Statement July 2025

Pistachio Growers' Association Inc is strongly committed to ensuring the Pistachio Industry effectively reduces the potential for incursions of emergency plant pests and diseases that could adversely impact on domestic trade/international trade/market access/public health/food safety/regional and national economy/environment. The Pistachio Industry is also strongly committed to ensuring responses to any pest incursions that may occur are undertaken as rapidly and effectively as possible to minimise costs to growers, the industry, other plant industries, government parties and the wider community.

The major production areas are along the Murray River Valley between Swan Hill, Victoria and Waikerie, South Australia. Further plantings are in central west Victoria and Pinnaroo, South Australia. There are also a small number of growers in central New South Wales; southern Victoria and Western Australia but only produce very small yields. A central commercial processing facility is at Robinvale in Victoria with a second and expanded facility opened in 2025.

The pistachio industry includes a mix of medium-sized and smaller operations. The bulk of the crop is produced on medium-sized orchards.

In 2024, the area under pistachio production had increase to just over 3,000 hectares. In 2024 the pistachio crop was a record Australian crop of 4,450 tonnes (\$48.2 million) and a 4-year rolling average of 3,000 tonnes a year.

The industry continues to expand with new plantings of about 150 to 200 hectares per annum for each of the last few years.

INDUSTRY BIOSECURITY PLAN – PISTACHIO INDUSTRY

The Pistachio Industry through the Pistachio Growers' Association Inc has worked with Plant Health Australia (PHA), a range of government agencies including DAFF, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Agriculture Victoria and Primary Industries and Regions SA and the other nut industries of Almonds, Hazelnuts, Walnuts. Pecans, Chestnuts and Macadamias to develop a comprehensive national approach to managing biosecurity risks in the Pistachio Industry.

The National Nut Industry Biosecurity Plan, consistent with PHA's *National Industry Biosecurity Planning Guidelines*, was officially published in January 2016 following endorsement by Government and Industry but it is currently being reviewed and reshaped and is due for finalisation in the second half of 2025.

Copies of the DRAFT document and the chestnut pest and disease lists plan have been made available to key industry representatives of the Pistachio Growers' Association Inc Executive Committee for review and comment.

The National Nut Industry Biosecurity Plan comprises an introduction and four other key sections.

The threat identification section has involved the development of a priority pest list, developed through the identification, analysis and prioritisation of four (4) High Priority pests/diseases and forty (40) Exotic pests/diseases to monitor.

The risk mitigation section outlines a range of pre-emptive strategies at the national, state, regional and property levels to ensure the exclusion/management of serious plant pests.

The contingency plans and response management procedures section details key industry contacts and communication procedures, relevant counselling and financial counselling providers. These Contingency Plans underpin and will be used in conjunction with the general management structures of PLANTPLAN. Each contingency plan includes pest or industry specific details relating to the management/control/eradication of individual pest threats.

The awareness section identifies a range of existing fact sheets or other sources of information for the high priority pests identified in the priority pest list. Where no existing fact sheets or information was available on particular pests, fact sheets have been and will continue to be developed.

The National Nut Industry Biosecurity Plan for Pistachios does not include any other specific details.

In addition, no national diagnostic protocols have been developed.

Pistachio Growers' Association Inc will work with Plant Health Australia and provide appropriate resources to the ongoing maintenance and reviews of the plan.

PEST CATEGORISATION

Of the forty-four (44) pests identified in the priority pest list of the National Nut Industry Biosecurity Plan, one (1) has been categorised and is listed in Schedule 13 of the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed.

AND

Pistachio Growers' Association Inc commits to ensuring appropriate industry technical experts will be available to participate in Categorisation Groups to consider pest categorisation or funding weight calculations for Emergency Plant Pests with multi-industry impacts.

NATIONAL DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES/PLANTPLAN

Pistachio Growers' Association Inc has endorsed PLANTPLAN (Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan) and will use this document to work effectively with government parties to manage any agreed responses to an EPP.

Pistachio Growers' Association Inc will ensure senior and qualified industry delegates are available at short notice to participate in meetings of the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests and the National Management Group and to take up roles in Local Control Centres or the State Coordination Centres.

Pistachio Growers' Association Inc will also ensure all delegates participate in relevant training delivered through Plant Health Australia's National Emergency Plant Pest Training Program.

BIOSECURITY AWARENESS

Pistachio Growers' Association Inc has been involved in promoting biosecurity within the Pistachio Industry through the involvement with the Khapra Beetle incursions and eradication programs.

Pistachio Growers' Association Inc maintains a Biosecurity section on the industry website.

In addition, Pistachio Growers' Association Inc prepares and supplies to members a range of pest and disease and orchard sanitation technical sheets.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Pistachio Growers' Association Inc has employed an Executive Officer and part of the role is to undertake biosecurity activities directly and/or through a delegated member.

The roles including: -

- a) Representation of Pistachio Growers' Association Inc at relevant Plant Health Australia meetings,
- b) Representation of Pistachio Growers' Association Inc at relevant CCEPP and NMG meetings,
- c) Representation of Pistachio Growers' Association Inc at relevant National and State Biosecurity Roundtables and Exercises.
- d) Ongoing review the pest list within the Nut Industry Biosecurity Plan.

The position of the Executive Officer is funded through general revenue of Pistachio Growers' Association Inc.