

# Plant Health Notice

## Biosecurity SA Plant Health

### New additional certification requirements for Seed Potatoes to cover PSTVd

15 January 2016

In response to detections of Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid (PSTVd) in Queensland and Western Australia Biosecurity SA will be imposing **additional** import restrictions on potatoes entering the state for planting **effective 1 March 2016**.

#### Current Situation

PSTVd has never been detected in Australian produced certified seed potatoes. Crops grown in accordance with a certified scheme undergo a rigorous inspection and monitoring regimes focussed on the identification of virus and virus like symptoms. Mandatory PSTVd screening for new varieties prior to their inclusion into the national germplasm collection has already been occurring for many years.

#### Spread and Damage

PSTVd is a highly contagious disease, transmitted between plants by touch.

The use of cutting or pruning tools, contaminated machinery or any form of physical contact between plants can result in disease transmission. PSTVd can also retain its infectious activity in seed for long periods. In potatoes, PSTVd can also spread from one generation to the next through infected tubers.

Symptoms may be mild in initial infections but become progressively worse in the following generations. Common symptoms of severe infections include colour changes in the foliage, smaller leaves and spindle like elongation. Sprouting also occurs at a slower rate than in unaffected potatoes.

#### Key changes

**Effective 1 March 2016** entry of potatoes produced in another state or territory and marketed or sold for planting in South Australia will be prohibited unless consignments have been:

1. sourced from a property where an officer responsible for agriculture has issued an area freedom certificate certifying that the State or Territory or part of the State or Territory is known to be free of PSTVd; or
2. produced and certified under an approved Certified Seed Potato Scheme; or
3. tested in a manner approved by the Chief Inspector, Plant Health;

and

4. Accompanied by proof in the form of a plant health certificate, assurance certificate, permit or approved certified seed tag, certifying or declaring that the material has been treated in a manner described in the above points.
5. Consignments must be verified and cleared by an inspector or by a person accredited to do so by Biosecurity SA.

## Approved testing

Means the collection of a 300 leaf sample from an actively growing crop by an authorised officer, and testing through an approved laboratory in accordance with nationally agreed principles.

## Further Information

For more information, contact Biosecurity SA Plant Health by

- Phone (08) 82077 814,
- Email - [PIRSA.Planthealthmarketaccess@sa.gov.au](mailto:PIRSA.Planthealthmarketaccess@sa.gov.au) or
- Access our website [www.pir.sa.gov.au/legislation](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/legislation)

These additional entry requirements for PSTVd ensure that the Plant Health Market Access Program continues to provide a high standard of service to industry and will appear in a new Condition 18A in an updated Plant Quarantine Standard scheduled to be released in February 2016.

NOTE; Condition 18A is additional to already existing requirements applicable to Seed Potatoes in the PQS, especially Condition 18 PCN which must continue to be complied with.

If you have any queries please contact our Biosecurity SA Plant Health office on 82077814 or 8277815.

**Geoff Raven**  
**MANAGER, PLANT AND FOOD STANDARDS**

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ENVIRONMENT

