



# Fact Sheet

## Pest, disease and weed surveillance

Routine checking of crops is an important aspect of maintaining crop

health and gives you the best chance of identifying a new pest before it becomes established.

It is important to be aware of major pests, diseases and weeds in your region and especially those that are often found on your property.

*What information should be recorded?*

During routine monitoring record the date and all observations, such as pests identified, growing area affected, the level of infestation and proposed treatment plans. If no detections of pests are made this observation should also be recorded.

### **Common symptoms of pest infestation or plant disease include:**

- Stem or leaf wilt
- Leaf chlorosis or mottling
- Puncture wounds, chew marks or tunnelling tracks in leaf tissue
- Reduced fruit or vegetable size and reduced crop yield
- Underdeveloped root systems
- Pale fuzzy or powdery growth on leaves, indicating mildew
- Decayed roots, leaves, stems, fruit or vegetables

Becoming familiar with common pests on your property means that spray applications or alternative treatment methods can be used with maximum efficiency.

**Surveillance for exotic pests should also be incorporated into surveillance activities. These records can be important for retaining market access.**

**Consult with neighbours on anything suspicious, as it is unlikely that the problem is restricted to one property.**

A list of exotic pests that may impact vegetable growers can be found in the Vegetable Industry Biosecurity Plan at [ausveg.com.au/biosecurity](http://ausveg.com.au/biosecurity).

#### **Actions to take if an unusual pest is found on farm**

- Report the pest to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881
- Record the pest or disease symptoms and photograph
- Record the location of the pest, and restrict access of farm workers and equipment to that zone
- Wash hands, clothes and boots that have been in contact with affected plant material or soil
- Do not move the affected plant – incorrect handling could further spread the pest
- Identify equipment and machinery that have recently been used in the affected zone and decontaminate



**For further information, visit [farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://farmbiosecurity.com.au) or contact AUSVEG on 03 9882 0277.**

Any unusual plant pest should be reported immediately to the relevant state or territory agriculture agency through the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline (1800 084 881). For further information, see the Farm Biosecurity website at [farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://farmbiosecurity.com.au) or contact AUSVEG on (03) 9882 0277.

