

Video transcript:

Protecting the Biosecurity of Agricultural Plant Species

Background information

Plant pests and diseases can damage Victoria's agriculture industry, economy and environment.

If plant pests or diseases enter Victoria, Victorian producers could lose access to domestic and international markets.

What we examined

In this audit we examined if Agriculture Victoria effectively prepares for, prevents, manages and responds to plant pests and diseases.

Our conclusion

We found that Agriculture Victoria is mostly doing this effectively. But there are some gaps in its surveillance, compliance and resource planning.

We made 3 key findings.

Key finding 1

First, Agriculture Victoria does surveillance to detect pests and diseases. But it doesn't always meet requirements, such as trapping targets for some pests, that are set by national surveillance programs.

Key finding 2

Second, Agriculture Victoria is effectively containing plant pests and diseases that are already in Victoria.

But it doesn't always perform scheduled compliance audits and inspections of agricultural producers.

Key finding 3

And third, Agriculture Victoria does have strategies to effectively respond to a plant biosecurity incursion.

But it may not have enough trained and technical staff available to actually respond to an outbreak.

What we recommended

We made 4 recommendations to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action about:

- meeting national surveillance targets
- improving how it monitors and reports on surveillance
- reviewing how it schedules, monitors and reports on compliance audits
- and addressing gaps in staffing resources.

More information

For more information, or to read our full report, go to audit.vic.gov.au