

# Australian Garlic Industry Association Information Sheet



## FARM BIOSECURITY

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### What is Farm Biosecurity?

Farm biosecurity is about protecting your crop from weed, pest and disease outbreaks. For Australian garlic growers it particularly refers to preventing the spread of allium diseases from one farm to another. There are a number of allium diseases that are endemic to some states (found in a particular growing region) while in other states they have “area freedom” from that same disease (not found in that area). State governments play their part in plant biosecurity by restricting the movement of plant material where there is a known risk. Garlic growers also need to play their part in farm biosecurity by implementing measures to minimise the spread of allium diseases from one farm to another farm.

### Plant Biosecurity Risks for Garlic Growers

There are plant diseases of concern to garlic growers that are found in some areas of Australia but not found in other areas. Two examples include garlic rust (*Puccinia allii*) and white rot (*Sclerotium cepivorum*). Garlic rust is a relatively minor disease of alliums that affects the foliage and if left uncontrolled the leaves will die. Garlic rust is spread by spores and is readily transported on people and farm equipment. White rot is more of a concern as it is a major disease of alliums that affects the bulbs and roots of garlic and if left uncontrolled will kill whole plants and devastate yields. White rot is spread by sclerotia in infested soil or diseased cloves.

### Management

Farm biosecurity applies to everyone and everything entering your property, whether you have itinerate workers coming to help with harvest or simply someone with an interest in your enterprise and just entering to have a look at your crop. Below are some simple, inexpensive biosecurity measures that you can adopt on your property.

- **Check all clothing.** Anyone entering your property needs to have freshly washed clothing. Disease pathogens are easily transported on clothing and it is a high biosecurity risk to allow people on your property from other allium growing properties with unwashed clothes.
- **Check all footwear.** Provide a footbath for people to decontaminate footwear before entering your property. Use a 10% water dilution of Castrol Farmcleanse in a container that holds at least 50mm depth of solution. A 2% water dilution of household bleach can also be used as a decontamination solution.
- **Check all vehicles.** Wash all soil and plant material off any vehicle or farm machinery before allowing it to enter your property.
- **Check all equipment.** Clean and disinfect any equipment (such as pruning shears) in between use on different properties with soapy water and then disinfectant.
- **Use clean planting material.** Ensure all bulbs used for planting are disease free. If the cloves are not certified free of disease it is recommended to have them tested before using them.

Remember to think of others when travelling to see another garlic grower or to attend an alliums field day. Only take freshly washed clothing (including hat and footwear). Park outside the property and if a footbath has been provided, you need to step into it before walking onto the property. When returning home, remember to wash your clothing before using them again on your own property. Practicing these simple steps at the farm gate level significantly reduces the chance of spreading weeds, pests and diseases.