

Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN)

- How to report suspect PCN
- How to apply for a permit

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

Industry Notice: 6 August 2019

REPORTING SUSPECT PCN

PCN is a significant biosecurity threat to the potato industry that can increase production costs through crop losses and lost market access.

To facilitate the management of PCN, legislation declaring it a notifiable pest under section 19 of the *Plant Biosecurity Act 2010* (the Act) has been enacted.

If you suspect you have PCN on your property you must notify Agriculture Victoria within 7 days of becoming aware of its presence. Report suspect PCN by emailing market.access@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

Once a report has been received, an Inspector will contact you to confirm collection of diagnostic samples from the affected land.

POSITIVE PCN SAMPLES

According to the Act, if viable PCN is confirmed, the parcel of land from which it was collected will be declared as 'PCN infested land'. Parcels of land with linkages to the infested land will be declared as 'PCN linked land'.

This means that an Order will be enacted under the Act to restrict the movement of PCN host plants, soil and used equipment (including vehicles used in the cultivation of potato crops) unless a valid permit is issued.

Failure to apply for a permit or undertaking movements outside the permit's conditions is an offence under the Act and this may result in a penalty and/or revocation of the permit.

Landowners should notify their tenancies of the PCN status of the land and the requirement to apply for a movement permit for host plants, soil and used equipment.

APPLYING FOR PERMITS

Landowners/tenancies operating on PCN infested and linked land must apply for a movement permit.

To obtain a permit application form, contact your local Plant Standards Officer on (03) 8401 6900 or email plant.standards@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

Once you have been issued with a permit follow the stated conditions for moving host plants, soil or used equipment used in association with host plants.

Permit conditions for processing and ware potatoes includes the requirement to either obtain a PS-14 accreditation or consign to a facility accredited with PS-14. Permit conditions

for nursery stock movement includes the requirement to obtain an approved accreditation.

Authorised Agriculture Victoria Inspectors will conduct random permit audits throughout the year. Please feel free to discuss any aspect of the PCN permit with them.

CONTACT AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

If you want to be added to the PCN containment program's email distribution list, contact Agriculture Victoria at: market.access@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

DEFINITIONS

Host plant means any:

- plant or plant product of the *Solanaceae* family (e.g. potatoes, tomatoes and eggplants)
- root vegetable (e.g. carrot, radish)
- bulb (e.g. garlic, tulip)
- seedling
- nursery plant or tree.

Infested land means any parcel of land with a known viable PCN infestation.

Linked land means any parcel of land that has linkages to PCN infested land, this includes land that:

- was operated by a business/farmer who was also farming land that was reclassified as Infested Land; or
- was operated by a business/farmer contrary to PCN permit conditions
- has been previously farmed using equipment which has been used on Infested Land; or
- borders Infested Land; or
- receives drainage from Infested Land.