



Stakeholder Newsletter

March 2017

This newsletter provides a monthly update of the group's activities to our stakeholders to keep you better informed about key work and initiatives in the pipeline.



Awhitu, Auckland

Group Update

Changes to Subscriber Notifications

MPI is migrating the final content from the old Biosecurity.govt website in preparation to shut it down completely by the end of March. All of our subscriber notifications (including import health standard (IHS) and Importing Countries Phytosanitary Requirements (ICPRs) updates etc.) are currently housed on this website, so expect to see an email over the next few weeks with details of what you need to do to re-subscribe to these news feeds.

Plant Exports

ICPR Search Facility

A new search facility for Importing Countries Phytosanitary Requirements (ICPRs) is being developed as a result of changes being made to the MPI website. The new ICPR search function is focused on ease of navigation and more user-friendly approach. It includes a new webpage layout and sectionalised topics.

The current ICPR search system on the MPI biosecurity site (www.biosecurity.govt.nz) will be decommissioned by the end of March 2017. All the information in the 'old' website will be

transferred into the new MPI website (www.mpi.govt.nz). The current ICPRs stored as PDF documents will remain the same and a link to them on the searchable page will be provided.

MPI will send out notifications to all users about the changes when the details have been finalised.

If you need further information on the ICPR search facility project please contact Plant Exports team at plantexports@mpi.govt.nz.

Christchurch Seed Industry Visit

Hannah King (Adviser, Plant Exports) visited the seed industry in Christchurch as part a two day familiarisation programme. She had the opportunity to visit multiple stakeholders. Hannah visited Thomas Chin, the General Manager of the NZ Grain and Seed Trade Association (NZGSTA). Thomas provided an excellent overview of NZGSTA and the history of the seed industry in NZ.



John Duncan, Operations Director of Agriseeds, and Hannah visited both the Agriseeds distribution plant and research farm. John and the Agriseeds staff provided a comprehensive overview of their processes and the large scale of work that goes in to their plant breeding programme.

Overall, the visit was extremely valuable in getting Hannah up to speed as to how the seed industry operates. Hannah thanks those who hosted her, and she looks forward to working with the seed sector.

Plant Imports

Post Entry Quarantine Facility Standard

The revised facility standard for Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ) for Plants comes into full effect on 8 March this year. The online component of the PEQ operator training programme has now been released to all operators, who must complete an online assessment by 8 March. MPI will continue to work closely with all facility operators to ensure a smooth transition to the new standard. Further information about the implementation of the new facility standard can be found [here](#).



MPI PEQ Inspector Abu Iqram and MPI PHEL Glasshouse Supervisor

New import measures for *Xylella fastidiosa* in tissue cultures

The Plant Germplasm (Imports) team have introduced provisional measures to manage the risk of *Xylella fastidiosa* in imported tissue cultures of host plant species. The new measures have a short implementation period, and come into force on 1 June 2017. Tissue cultures of host species will be required to be de-flasked into a level 2 PEQ greenhouse and grown on for 6 months, and tested for the presence of the bacterium during summer or summer-like conditions.

Xylella is a high impact and notifiable organism for New Zealand and MPI is committed to ensuring every effort is made to keep it out. It causes serious diseases in several valuable plant commodities, including grapevines, Citrus, stonefruit and olives, and can infect numerous ornamental hosts, sometimes without obvious symptoms. Nursery stock is a high risk pathway for the entry of this bacterium.

MPI staff are attending and giving a presentation at the

International Symposium on *Xylella* in Brisbane later this year.

Mango

The Fresh Produce imports team is currently converting 14 existing import health standards (IHS) for mango into one IHS with alignment of pests and measures.

This work was triggered by a request from Mexico for the use of irradiation as an equivalent phytosanitary measure to the existing hot water dip treatment on the pathway. The draft IHS is likely to be released for consultation in April.



Rathayibacter toxicus

MPI is currently assessing the risk of entry and establishment of the bacteria *Rathayibacter toxicus* and its vector the nematode *Anguina funesta* via ryegrass seeds (*Lolium* and *Festuca*) imported into New Zealand. The bacterium can cause Annual Ryegrass Toxicity (ARGT) in livestock, similar to ryegrass staggers.

Plant Imports Work

Programme Updates

The current **Plant Imports work programme** has been recently updated.

Import Health Standard Prioritisation

The Fresh Produce imports team is currently undertaking a prioritisation process for fresh produce and cut flowers IHS requests. The prioritised requests will be added to the 2017–18 and 2018–19 work programmes. We expect to have this completed during March and will update stakeholders of the results.

The Plant Germplasm (imports) team will also be undertaking a prioritisation round in April for IHS requests (seeds and nursery stock) and offshore facilities.

If you are interested in a new IHS for a particular species, or want MPI to review an existing IHS, please complete an **IHS request form** and send into plantimports@mpi.govt.nz.



Offshore Facility Requests

MPI has accredited a number of high-health offshore facilities that specialise in the quarantine and testing of some plant species. Nursery stock produced at these facilities can generally be imported with a lower level of post-entry quarantine (PEQ) requirements into New Zealand. This may mean, for example, a shorter quarantine period with fewer tests which can save importers time and money.

The list of **MPI-approved facilities** are listed on MPI's website.

The accreditation of offshore facilities is a cost-recovered activity for MPI. Generally, facilities are re-visited every 3–5 years as operating procedures, testing methods and staff turnover.

If you are interested in having a new facility assessed by MPI, please complete an **Offshore Facility request form** and send in to plantimports@mpi.govt.nz. The Plant Germplasm imports team will begin a prioritisation round for new offshore facility requests in April, for consideration for the 2017/18 year work programme.

Upcoming Meetings and Travel

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| MPI Internal Workshop, Level 3 PEQ Space Issues | 6 March, Wellington |
| Forest Owners Association (FOA) Workshop | 7–8 March, Rotorua |
| Riversun Nursery visit with Avocados New Zealand. | 9 March, Gisborne |
| Meeting with Zealandia Horticulture to view pelleted seed horticultural operations. | 14 March, Christchurch |
| NZGSTA pre-consultation teleconference on measures for pelleted seeds. | 14 March, Christchurch |
| Forest Product Exports Committee (FPEC) | 21 March, Rotorua |
| Pastoral Genomics Stakeholder Function | 27 March, Wellington |
| International Symposium on <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> | 17–18 May, Brisbane |

Previous Newsletters

All previous newsletter issues can be found on MPI's website using the following link: **News & Resources > Publications** and then filtering by title: **Plants Imports** and by document type: **Newsletter**.

MPI manages a subscription list for this newsletter. If you'd like to receive issues in the future, please **subscribe here**.