

Dear Growers,

Important information regarding South Australian and Western Australian blueberry fruit market access

For previous seasons Biosecurity Tasmania (BT) has been able to successfully negotiate blueberry fruit trade into protected markets via a Pest Free Places of Production (PFPF) protocol.

Unfortunately, BT have been formally notified by our South Australian counterparts that they will no longer accept the Pest Free Places of Production protocol for fresh blueberry fruit trade in coming seasons, due to increased Blueberry Rust (BBR) detections in Tasmania during the 2021-22 season.

Trade of blueberry fruit to South Australia can still occur via two mechanisms:

1. Meet the Entry Conditions as detailed in the South Australian Quarantine Standard
https://pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/plant_health/plant_quarantine_standard_and_updated_conditions

Or

2. Complying with the conditions of the *Trade Agreement – Pre-Harvest Treatment & Inspection of Blueberries for Blueberry Rust (TASBBR02)* (available to interested parties by contacting BT)

Further, Western Australia have had multiple detections of Blueberry Rust this year, the first for the state. Consequently, and in consultation with the WA blueberry and nursery industries, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (WA) has concluded that blueberry rust is not technically feasible to eradicate from WA. WA's area freedom certificate for blueberry rust was revoked on 9 May 2022.

WA advises that:

- Thekopsora minima has been declared a permitted species for WA and its status as a declared pest has been revoked.
The updated status is published on the Western Australian Organism List
https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/organisms/144481?search_string=thekopsora&per-page=20&sort-by=taxon&order-by=asc
- Pest-specific import requirements for blueberry rust (WA Import Requirement 057) are expected to be removed Thursday 30 June 2022.

This means market access for blueberry fruit into the WA market is now unregulated for blueberry rust (meaning no specific import conditions for blueberry rust just like other unregulated markets in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory).

This week the Tasmanian BBR Technical Review Reference Group, including representatives from BT, industry bodies and blueberry growers, met for the first time. The group spent the day considering the current BBR situation in Tasmania, efficacy of our current BBR Containment Plan and recommendations for the future. These recommendations will be shared for comment with industry in the very near future.

Further information about any of the content of this email can be provided by contacting:

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Regards Rae | General Manager Biosecurity Tasmania

Primary Industries and Water

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