

Biosecurity Guidelines for Contractors

The spread of weeds and soil borne diseases on machinery and vehicles is a major means of infestation onto Kangaroo Island. Machinery and vehicles can inadvertently spread pests, through daily routines, from region to region, property to property and paddock to paddock, as well as roadsides.

It is easy to overlook the risk of carrying weeds and diseases; the consequences however, are not so subtle. Failure to clean down can result in crop losses or permanent environmental damage

Weed Identification and Weed Management

- Attain proficiency in the identification of common weeds on Kangaroo Island
- Obtain at least one weed identification resource (eg book, pocket guide)
- Know what to do in the event of discovering a weed they cannot identify. This may include
 - Collection and submission of a specimen of the plant
 - Supplying information about the plant to the relevant Authorised Plant Control Officer
- Know what to do when weeds are present at a job site
- Become familiar with Kangaroo Island's weed laws and how these apply to contractors

Follow Clean-down site selection and preparation

- Consult with the landholder about an appropriate clean-down site.

- Mark and record clean-down sites with landowner for subsequent monitoring and weed control.

Clean-down Guidelines

When to clean down

- Clean down is advisable after:
 - Operating in an area affected by a weed or disease that is under containment
 - Transporting weeds or soil known to be infected with weed seed or a plant pathogenor before,
 - Moving machinery out of a local area of operation
 - Moving machinery between properties
 - Moving vehicles or machinery to the Island
 - Using machinery along roadsides or along river banks
 - Using machinery to transport soil and quarry materials
 - Using controlled access vehicle tracks

Clean down Standards

- Park the vehicle, machine or time of equipment safely
- Inspect the vehicle, machine or time of equipment inside and out for soil and plant material, including seeds. Remove guards, covers or plates if required.
- Knock off clods of mud. Use a crow bar if necessary.
- Use a vacuum, compressed air or a brush for removing plant material from the radiator and other small spaces
- Clean down with a high-pressure hose and stiff brush or crowbar. Use

freshwater when washing down in the field. Start with the underside of the vehicle then progress to the sides and upper body.

- Clean any associated implements (eg buckets)
- Check for and remove loose soil or plant material that could be easily dislodged.
- Steam treat or rinse with clean water when cleaning in wash bays.
- Sweep or vacuum the cabin, including mats, floor and under the seat.
- Wash effluent away from vehicle. Do not drive through wash effluent.
- No clods of dirt or loose soil should be present after wash down. Smears of soil stains and soil firmly lodged in difficult to access areas are acceptable

Note that some machinery, such as harvesting equipment, cannot be washed with water because of potential damage to sensitive electronic equipment. Always consult and comply with manufacturers recommended cleaning method.

Selecting a field clean down site

- Field clean down may be required to contain weeds or plant pathogens to a particular area or where machinery is moved directly between field sites. In selecting a clean down site, consideration should be given to;
- Siting the wash down at the edge, or nearby any areas where weeds or pathogens need to be contained, choose sites where the land slopes back into an infested area or an adjacent area not susceptible to the problem
- Ensuring run-off will not enter any watercourse or water body
- Avoiding sensitive vegetation or wildlife habitat

- Selecting mud free sites (eg well grassed, gravel) which are gently sloped to drain effluent away from the wash down area
- Allow adequate space to move tracked vehicles
- Potential hazards eg powerlines

Minimise Initial Contamination

- Time and coordinate works prior to weed seeds maturing
- Ensure machinery operators are familiar with hygiene protocols and weed identification
- Map and monitor weed infestations
- Strategically designate clean down sites to minimise weed spread
- Work from non-infested areas to infested areas

Contact Officers

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