

Submitting a sample to CropSafe

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

Pests and diseases to watch out for

- As part of your CropSafe kit, you will have received a guide to exotic pests and diseases of grains. This outlines a number of biosecurity threats to our industry.
- Particular concerns include: barley stripe rust, bunted cereals and rust on lentils or field peas.
- Any new or unusual pest or disease that is suspect, should be forwarded to CropSafe ASAP.

How long does it take to get results?

- Expected turn-around time for samples is about 10 days for samples that require visual or simple lab based diagnosis.
- Samples that require virus testing or more in depth diagnosis by Crop Health Services in Melbourne may take longer. If this is the case it is expected that an interim email will be sent to notify the agronomist.
- Final results will be forwarded via email along with links to additional information related to the pest or disease diagnosed.
- Reports will be produced during the growing season summarising the pests and diseases that are being found in various regions across the state.

Sampling tips

- Collect 2-3 plants with a range of symptoms including roots plus a healthy sample for comparison.
- It is best to dig plants out, as pulling plants from the ground will damage the root system.
- Shake loose dirt from roots, wrap in moist paper and place in a sealed plastic bag.
- For pest specimens, place in a sealed jar along with pieces of host material.
- Record all known information on the CropSafe submission form; distribution of symptoms, paddock and chemical history are all vital to assist with prompt diagnosis. Place the CropSafe submission form into a separate plastic bag to protect the paper from damage.
- Keep samples away from heat and light before putting them in the mail.

Sending in samples

- Send samples to: CropSafe
Agriculture Victoria
Private Bag 260
Horsham Vic 3401
- Send via express post.
- Don't send samples on a Friday as they'll sit at the post office over the weekend. It's better to keep them in a fridge and send Monday.

If you have any further queries you can contact the CropSafe coordinator; Luise Sigel at Agriculture Victoria, Horsham on (03) 4344 3370.

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CropSafe
no exotics for Victoria