



Biosecurity Update: Import of RIFA host materials

1 August 2025

Agriculture Victoria Connect is an online system that provides Agriculture Victoria's external stakeholders with a single-entry point for accessing services related to regulatory compliance. This online system now allows for the submission of a number of plant biosecurity services including notifications and verifications.

Agriculture Victoria has also updated entry conditions for movement of red imported fire ant (RIFA; *Solenopsis invicta*) host material into Victoria.

RIFA QUARANTINE ZONES AND RESTRICTED MOVEMENT

Victorian movement conditions refer to RIFA quarantine zones and control areas that are in place in Queensland (QLD) and New South Wales (NSW).

RIFA interstate plant quarantine zone in Queensland

QLD fire ant biosecurity zones cover 5 km from any known detection and are shown in the Interstate Plant Quarantine (IPQ) zone map covering large areas of south-east QLD. These zones are areas that have restrictions on the movement of host material.

To find out more, please refer to <https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/interstate-plant-quarantine-zone-map/resource/5576f7c5-7abb-4c96-b3d0-346daeab324f>.

RIFA Restricted Movement Control Area in New South Wales

Following detections in NSW, control areas are in place restricting movement of host material from within 5 km of detections. Some zones from QLD detections also extend into NSW.

To find out more, please refer to dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/insect-pests/fire-ants.

INFORMATION ON RIFA

RIFA are reddish-brown with a dark brown abdomen at the rear, small in size (2 to 6mm long), can range in size within one nest, nest in soil and are incredibly aggressive when disturbed.

To find out more, please refer to <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-insects-and-mites/priority-pest-insects-and-mites/fire-ants#h2-6>.

VICTORIAN ENTRY CONDITIONS FOR RIFA HOST MATERIAL

RIFA host material originating from quarantine/control zones in QLD and NSW may only enter Victoria if the following conditions are met.

For interstate exporters

RIFA host material from the quarantine zones is prohibited entry into Victoria unless the consignment:

- Is sent from a property that has:
 - been regularly inspected and found to be free of fire ants; or
 - applied approved control methods to prevent the establishment or spread of fire ants.

AND

- Is accompanied by one of the following certificates to certify or declare that the material has been treated in a manner that meets Victoria's importation requirements for RIFA:
 - a Plant Health Certificate (PHC) stating compliance with the relevant treatment requirements under Condition 36 of the Victorian Plant Quarantine Manual; or
 - a Plant Health Assurance Certificate (PHAC) stating "meets ICA-39" and including the treatment; or
 - a Biosecure *HACCP* Biosecurity Certificate (BHBC) stating compliance with one of the followings procedures:
 - ECCPRIFA21; or
 - ECCPRIFA25; or
 - ECCPRIFA26; or
 - ECCPRIFA28.

AND

- A Plant Consignment Notification is submitted via [Agriculture Victoria Connect](#) prior to dispatch.

For Victorian importers

Victorian importers will receive an alert, via email, notifying of RIFA host material being sent from an interstate exporter. This alert is the result of an interstate exporter notifying Agriculture Victoria of their intent to import.

All businesses receiving consignments of RIFA host material from the quarantine/control zones must:

- Arrange for an Agriculture Victoria Biosecurity Officer to verify the consignment on arrival (fees apply) by requesting a Plant Consignment Verification through [Agriculture Victoria Connect](#).

OR

- Be accredited under a Compliance Agreement CA-17 and ensure each consignment is accompanied by a:
 - PHAC stating "meets ICA-39" and including the treatment; or
 - PHC stating compliance with the relevant treatment requirements under Condition 36 of the Victorian Plant Quarantine Manual; or
 - BHBC stating compliance with one of the followings procedures:
 - ECCPRIFA21; or
 - ECCPRIFA25; or
 - ECCPRIFA26; or
 - ECCPRIFA28.

- If these requirements have not been met, please contact your local Agriculture Victoria Biosecurity Officer on 1800 878 962 for guidance.

Further information

For further information on this Biosecurity Update please email market.access@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

For assistance using Agriculture Victoria Connect, call the Biosecurity Services Centre on 1800 403 224 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm).