

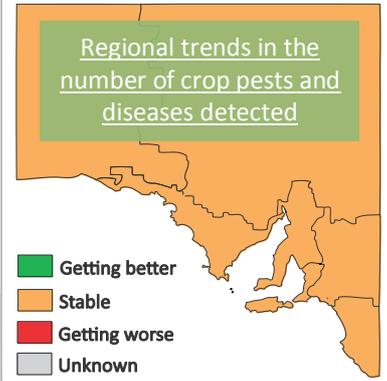
2013 State Report Card

How are diseases and invertebrate pests affecting our crops?

Our cropping and horticulture industries (worth \$3.7 billion in 2012–13) are vulnerable to diseases and invertebrate pests that can reduce crop yield and quality, influence agricultural trade and be costly to manage.

Diseases are caused by bacteria, viruses and fungi, and can be introduced and spread by contaminated materials (e.g. shoes, vehicles, equipment, soil or fruit and vegetables). Invertebrate pests such as nematodes, insects, mites and snails can also be spread by contaminated materials and by their own movement.

Because South Australia is relatively free of agricultural diseases and pests, preventing their introduction and establishment is a high priority. [Biosecurity SA](#) conducts surveillance to quickly detect diseases and invertebrate pests, and enforces strict quarantine measures to limit, contain or manage their spread.



State target

Limit the establishment of pests and diseases and reduce the impacts of existing pests

Trend (2009–13)

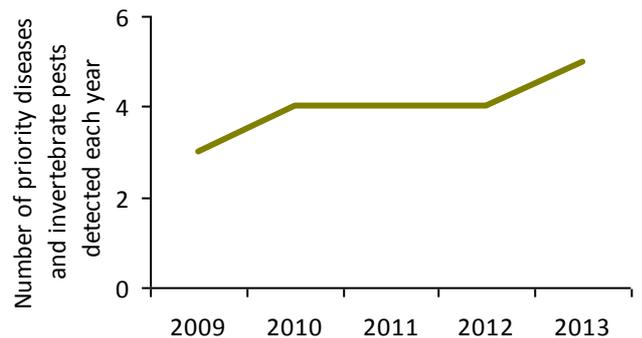
Stable

In the last five years, five priority diseases and invertebrate pests have been detected in South Australia

The Government of South Australia prioritises the management of 29 diseases and invertebrate pests, some to reduce their impacts and others to keep them out of our state. In addition, 10 national priorities are monitored as part of a national biosecurity program.

Results indicate that South Australia remains free of 24 of the 29 state priority diseases and invertebrate pests and all 10 of the national priorities. In the last five years, the numbers that have been detected have remained fairly stable (see graph on right).

Detections include fruit flies, which have been eradicated, and native plague locusts and grasshoppers, garlic rust disease and parasitic branched broomrape, which are all managed to reduce their impacts.



Where we are at (2013)

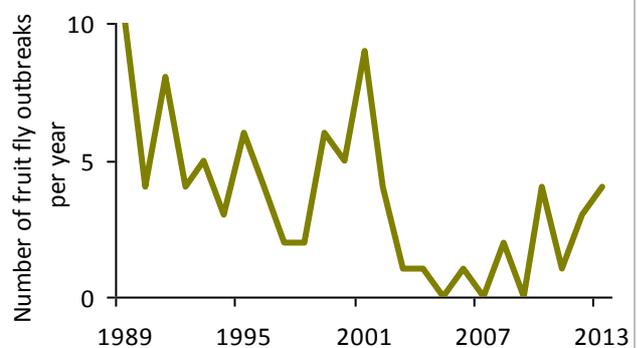
Good

Most major diseases and plant pests are not present in South Australia

South Australia is free of many globally significant diseases and invertebrate pests such as grape phylloxera— an aphid-like insect that feeds on the roots of grapevines and is regarded as the world’s worst grapevine pest.

We are also the only mainland state where fruit flies have not established, so it is an ongoing challenge to keep them out. Despite strict quarantine measures, occasional outbreaks occur. In the last 10 years there have been fewer than five fruit fly outbreaks each year (see graph on right), each of which was eradicated.

Ongoing investments in biosecurity will be required to prevent major crop diseases establishing in South Australia, ensuring our farmers can continue to grow [premium produce in our clean environment](#).



Reliability of information



Excellent

Further information: [Technical information for this report card](#), [Plant health in South Australia](#)

