



The Place To Be

# Media release

From the Department of Primary Industries

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## MOVING GRAPEVINE MATERIALS? – DO THE RIGHT THING

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has issued a reminder about regulations for moving grapevine planting material within Victoria.

The regulations relate to quarantine zones in place across the State to prevent the spread of grape phylloxera, a destructive pest of grapevines. Significant fines apply if nurseries distributing grapevine planting material to re-sellers do not follow the regulations.

DPI Plant Standards Program Manager Bill Ashcroft said there were good reasons for the regulations.

“Grape phylloxera is an aphid that reduces root growth, weakens or kills grapevines and is a serious threat to Australia’s viticulture industry,” said Mr Ashcroft.

“It is most commonly spread through the transport of grapevine cuttings, rootlings, grapes, soil, used vineyard equipment or packaging.

“Victoria has strong quarantine protocols and uses three types of quarantine zone to stop the spread of phylloxera and protect market access for our viticulture industry.”

The quarantine zones are:

- **Phylloxera Exclusion Zone (PEZ):** where phylloxera is known not to exist or which has been surveyed and found to be free of the pest;
- **Phylloxera Risk Zone (PRZ):** where phylloxera is thought not to exist, but which has never been formally surveyed; and
- **Phylloxera Infested Zone (PIZ):** where phylloxera is known to exist.

The movement of potted grapevines from either a PIZ or a PRZ is prohibited under any circumstances, due to the possibility of the potting soil harbouring phylloxera. This ban applies regardless of the origin of the potted vine.

The movement of grapevine cuttings and bare-rooted rootlings from PIZs is also prohibited. They may be moved from a PRZ to a PEZ, but only with a permit which requires disinfestation treatments to be applied.

Mr Ashcroft said that a large area of Victoria has been declared a PEZ and DPI is working to increase this area, as part of the Victorian Government’s *Future Farming* strategy.

“These regulations are in place to facilitate trade and help protect an industry that is facing a number of unprecedented challenges,” he said.

Enquiries about grapevine material movement should be directed to the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186. Further information about phylloxera is available on the DPI website at [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/psb](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/psb)

*Image caption:*

Phylloxera management zones in Victoria.

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