



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Department of Primary Industries

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FURTHER PHYLLOXERA DETECTION IN THE YARRA VALLEY

The Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI) advises that a detection of the grapevine pest phylloxera has been made in an existing control area in the Yarra Valley, north-east of Melbourne.

The Maroondah Phylloxera Infested Zone (PIZ) was declared after a phylloxera detection in December 2006. The declaration restricts the movement of grapevine materials, machinery and equipment out of the PIZ.

The new detection occurred near the edge of the Maroondah PIZ and the boundaries of the PIZ will be extended in line with nationally-agreed protocols.

Senior DPI Plant Standard Officer Greg King said that the property owners noticed poor vigour in a number of vines and notified the Department.

“Samples were taken from the affected vines and DPI’s reference entomologist confirmed the presence of the pest,” Mr King said.

“DPI Plant Standards officers will meet with local growers, winery managers and industry groups to help decide on the most appropriate new boundaries for the Maroondah PIZ.”

Mr King said that grape phylloxera does not affect grape juice or fruit and is not a public health issue.

“Grape phylloxera is an aphid that lives on the roots of grapevines and affects many wine-growing regions around the world, including some in Victoria.

“It causes a gradual decline in vine health and there is no effective treatment for the pest on ungrafted vines.

“It is also a market access issue for both the viticulture and nursery industries, and requires restrictions on the movement of vine products from affected areas.”

The National Phylloxera Management Protocol regulates the movement of filtered juice, whole grapes, crushed grapes and used agricultural machinery and bins from phylloxera-affected areas to wineries in other parts of Victoria and interstate.

Early detection is the best defence against phylloxera and it can be effectively managed with a cooperative approach.

The most recent previous detection of grape phylloxera was near the Macedon Ranges in January 2008.

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