



Biosecurity

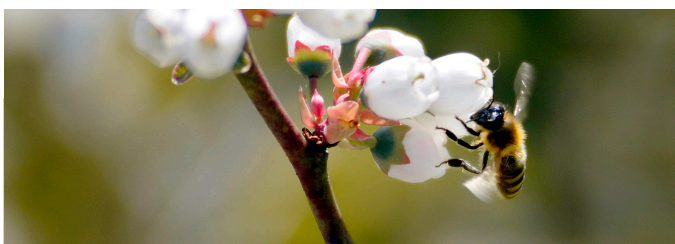


Protecting the livelihoods and lifestyles of Canadians from the introduction and spread of disease and pests

Opportunity

Minimizing risks to Canada's food production systems, its biodiversity and the economy is a priority for the horticultural industry and is consistent with the Government of Canada's objectives regarding biosecurity.

A comprehensive biosecurity system will ensure Canada's food security, productivity and provide guidance on optimal proactive approaches to minimize the risk of introduction and spread of disease and pests. Additionally, it will identify appropriate intervention in the event of an incursion and specify the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders.



Plant health is at the root of horticulture

Horticulture is committed to the development of a consistent national preparedness, prevention and response framework, including mitigation of financial impacts, which can be incorporated in government, industry and farm level business plans. This will enhance Canada's plant health status, sustainability, profitability for horticulture producers, while limiting the need for government ad hoc financial programs.

Canada will achieve improved competitiveness and limit potential disruptions to trade by establishing a biosecurity system that focuses on identifying potential phytosanitary concerns, preparing to address phytosanitary issues early, and implementing certification systems to maintain farm level biosecurity. Canadian growers will be positioned to demonstrate the maintenance of sound phytosanitary systems and enable uninterrupted market access with current trading partners and facilitate market access with potential trading partners.

Action

That the government works with industry to develop and implement an integrated biodiversity and national plant pest response plan by 2016.