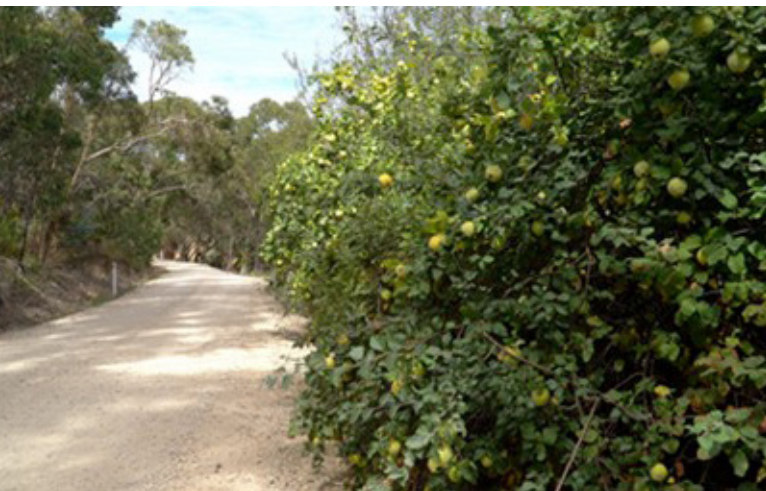


Unmanaged Orchards

The Adelaide Hills supports a highly productive and multigenerational fruit growing industry. Maintaining your orchard to a standard that minimises pests and diseases helps support the industries and communities that prosper in our district.



Fast Facts:

- The Adelaide Hills annually produces 80 per cent of the state's 30,000 tonne apple crop and 93 per cent of its 5,000 tonne pear crop.
- All residents with fruit trees and orchards have a responsibility to manage them appropriately, no matter the size or scale of planting.
- Unmanaged orchards harbor pests and disease that compromise the biosecurity of the Adelaide Hills as a fruit-growing region.

Biosecurity

An unmanaged orchard is defined as a fruit growing orchard that lacks crop husbandry and is not maintained in order to reduce the impacts of weeds, pests, and diseases.

Unmanaged orchards pose a significant biosecurity risk to the thriving fruit-growing industry in the Adelaide Hills. Local conditions are ideal for many pests and diseases to thrive if left unmanaged.

The ability of the Adelaide Hills to produce high-grade produce is reliant upon responsible, integrated pest management, and farm biosecurity planning and implementation.

Cumulatively, the costs to Adelaide Hills producers in the control of pests and diseases is high, and the risk of spread from unmanaged orchards increases this cost.



Supporting local growers

Good land management supports our local growers and the local industry.

As an example, the local apple and pear industry relies on industry certification to supply large supermarket chains and overseas markets with quality produce that is disease-free.

Unmanaged orchards are not only unsightly, but they increase the risk of harbouring pests and diseases that could spread to neighbouring orchards and backyard fruit trees.

Managing your orchards well reaps benefits across the wider community by reducing a reliance on pesticide spraying, and increasing crop yields on neighbouring properties.



The most common pests and disease include Black Spot, and the Coddling Moth (pictured).

Protecting the fruit production industry of South Australia

Unmanaged orchards pose a risk to the whole of South Australia's economy and biosecurity, particularly as new pests and diseases can go undetected and become more difficult to eradicate.

A good example of this challenge is in the work of authorities, industry and the community in identifying and eradicating fruit fly.

Diseases are spread by wind, water, insects and poor crop hygiene practices. Fruit trees should be inspected in particular during their flowering and fruit producing stages to catch any pests or disease as early as possible.

It is also worth noting that a reliance upon stock animals to eat fallen fruit does not resolve the threats of ripening fruit.



If you have an unmanaged orchard

Landholders can implement a number of practices to reduce risks to surrounding properties and the broader industry.

- Regular inspections and treatment for pests and diseases, regardless of harvesting fruit.
- Removal of fallen and rotting fruit.
- Removal of orchards no longer in production.
- Regular discussions with neighbouring producers, agronomists, and industry groups about pest and disease control options.
- Consideration of engaging an orchard management company to control the management sustainably.
- Training in crop husbandry.
- Implementation of an active weed control program.
- Immediate notification of new pests and diseases to the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (SA)



Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA)

Plant health enquiries

33 Flemington Street, Glenside SA 5065
pirsa.planthealth@sa.gov.au
08 8207 7820

Fruit fly and plant pest sightings

24 hour fruit fly hotline: 1300 666 010
Exotic plant pest hotline: 1800 084 881

Contact

Apple and Pear Growers Association of SA

apgasa.com
08 8389 8453