
From: Mark Joyson [markj@joyson.com.au]
Sent: Monday, 4 July 2011 7:19 PM
To: BA - Plant Biosecurity Contact; [REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I read, with some dismay that Biosecurity Australia was proposing that there be little, if any, protection protocols for fire blight.

Fire blight is the most feared pest or disease that affects pome fruit.

Our pear and apple crops will be decimated by a fire blight incursion.

Antibiotic is the only available protection and that is not registered in Australia. Do we want it to be?

The protocol to send apples to Perth from Adelaide is tougher than the proposed protocol from New Zealand.
We need to fumigate to be able to ship to Perth.

I am a third generation apple grower in the Adelaide Hills. My sons are also involved in our business. We acknowledge this does not give us an automatic right to keep doing what we have done for years. We need to evolve and be competitive in an ever changing world. We will compete with subsidized foreign product.

What we do want is protection from fire blight. We need our government to do this for us now and for the generations of growers and consumers to come.

We need

1. Orchard registration and inspections
2. Chlorine dipping, post harvest and at packing.
3. Fumigation of all fruit on arrival.

These steps do not create any significant financial impost on fruit from overseas but it does give us a level of protection from fire blight and other pests. A level of protection that should be an automatic right.

Yours Sincerely

Mark Joyce

Joyson Orchards
South Australia