



TACKLING PHYLLOXERA

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA AND THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA VIGNERONS ASSOCIATION (MPVA) NEED YOUR HELP TO PREVENT PHYLLOXERA SPREADING TO THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA'S INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED VINEYARDS!

WHAT IS PHYLLOXERA?

Grape phylloxera is the number one biosecurity threat to commercial grapevines on the Mornington Peninsula. This tiny insect destroys grapevines and decorative vines by feeding on their roots.

Once infested, own rooted vines can be impacted by a reduction in yield and in some circumstance's eventual death. There is no eradication treatment, so infested vineyards must be replanted on phylloxera-resistant or tolerant rootstock. This is a very costly exercise, and replanted vines can take about three years to produce a commercial crop.

WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA?

Agriculture Victoria in collaboration with the MPVA has been undertaking an extensive annual vineyard inspection program across the Peninsula's wine growing region since 2018. The aim of the program is to declare the region as phylloxera free; in other words, to declare the region as a Phylloxera Exclusion Zone (PEZ).

Vineyard inspections for Years 1, 2 and 3 have been successfully completed with no phylloxera found.

Year 4 inspections have now commenced and includes amenity or non-commercial vines (decorative).

WHAT ARE AMENITY VINES AND WHY ARE THEY INCLUDED IN 2020 INSPECTION PROGRAM?

Amenity vines are fruiting or non-fruiting grapevines that are used for non-commercial purposes. You can find amenity or decorative grapevines growing in any backyard or farm, or in public places such as outside cafes and restaurants. It is possible, but highly unlikely, phylloxera could be found in the roots of an amenity vine.



Phylloxera insects feeding on a vine root.

To confirm the phylloxera status of the Mornington Peninsula, a significant number of amenity vines will undergo inspection for the presence of phylloxera this year.

WHEN WILL YEAR 4 INSPECTIONS BEGIN?

It is expected that Agriculture Victoria inspectors will commence the inspection program on December 15. The Department expects to finish by mid-January 2021.

WHAT DOES AN INSPECTION INVOLVE?

The Department's inspection team will look for any signs of visibly weak vines. If the inspection is inconclusive, a very small sample of shallow fibrous roots may be removed for analysis by Agriculture Victoria.

HOW CAN AN INSPECTOR BE IDENTIFIED?

An Agriculture Victoria inspector will be carrying formal inspector identification with their photograph, name and the Victorian State Government logo printed on it.

HOW CAN I HELP?

An inspection officer from Agriculture Victoria will contact you in the next few days. Before we can survey your vines, we require your permission.

When an inspection team visits your property, they will work in a COVID 19-safe manner, following all social distancing and hygiene requirements.

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

If you have any questions about the inspection program, or you want more information about the phylloxera rezoning program, please contact Agriculture Victoria via market.access@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

Or visit: www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/vvb