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## News

### Disease Threatens Australian Avocado Industry - 23/11/2006

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Avocados Australia has uncovered a major threat to the Australian industry. An exotic disease has been uncovered in New Zealand during the development of the Australian industry's biosecurity plan.

Avocados Australia was shocked to find that Biosecurity Australia had not discovered the extremely damaging disease.

The disease Avocado Blight, affects most avocado producing countries in the world, but not Australia.

"Australia is free of the disease our growers do not want this devastating fungus" exclaimed Mr Henry Kwaczynski Chair of Avocados Australia.

"We can not afford to have Avocado Blight in Australia, productivity losses would be devastating for our growers", Mr Kwaczynski explained.

Avocados Australia notified Biosecurity Australia of the discovery and asked that Biosecurity Australia implement the appropriate measure to ensure Australia's protection from the disease.

Biosecurity Australia has developed what amounts to a piece of scientific swiss cheese said Mr Kwaczynski.

The protection systems proposed lack the rigor of science to back up the method being applied. Avocados Australia is preparing a challenge to the systems proposed and we expect that as an interim measure, that all avocados from New Zealand be stopped from entering Australia until a robust scientifically based system is put in place.

Avocados Australia only expects the protection from disease that other countries such as New Zealand are constantly imposing on Australian fruit and vegetables into their markets.

For further comment:

Henry Kwaczynski, Avocados Australia Chair on 07 5442 1767 or 0409 261 461

Avocados Australia Limited is the Peak Industry Body in Australia for Avocados. We are a "not for profit" membership based organisation. Our members are Avocado growers along with associated businesses and industry people.

Avocados Australia seeks to work with all parts of the chain from production through to the consumer. By working together we seek to continually improve the ability of growers to provide a healthy, profitable and safe product for all consumers. As part of this continual improvement we guide a "research & development" and "marketing and promotion" program for the Australian Avocado industry.

The Australian Avocado industry comprises 1300 growers across the country and produces 40,000 tonnes of Avocados each year worth \$AUD80 million. Key growing areas are north, central and southeast Queensland, northern and central New South Wales, the Sunraysia or Tristate area (South Australia, Victoria and south western New South Wales) and Western Australia.

For more information contact Avocados Australia at [admin@avocado.org.au](mailto:admin@avocado.org.au)

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