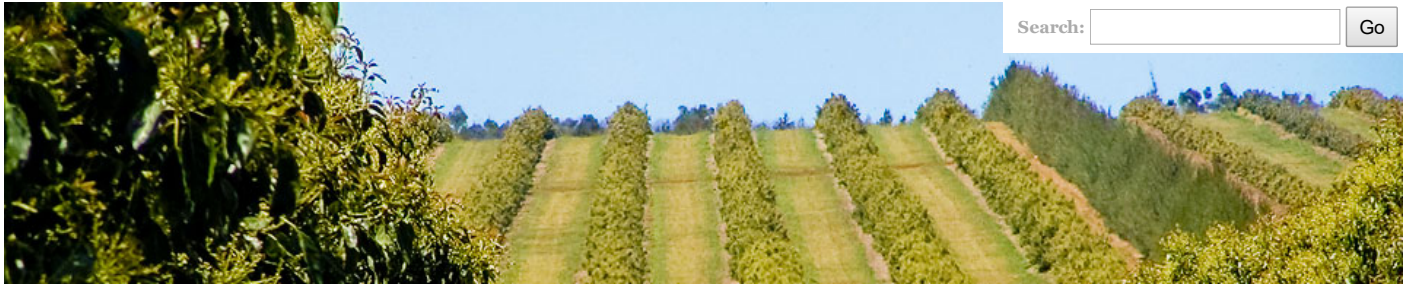




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Search:  Go



## News

### **New Zealand's Changed Avocado Scab Status - 05/03/2007**

[Full News List](#)

Biosecurity Australia (BA) has advised that on 14 March 2007 they will remove the measures put in place in late 2006 designed to protect the Australian avocado industry from the presence of avocado scab (*Sphaceloma perseae*) in New Zealand.

Avocado scab is a devastating disease of both avocado fruit and trees that Australia is free from. It was reported in New Zealand and on further discussion between BA and the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (NZMAF), NZMAF agreed that New Zealand had avocado scab present.

"Avocados Australia's first responsibility in biosecurity issues is to our growers" explained Mr Henry Kwaczynski, Chair of Avocados Australia. "We will always work hard to ensure that our growers' livelihoods are vigorously protected."

NZMAF now claim that New Zealand is free of avocado scab. Whilst BA has revised the measures for New Zealand, Avocados Australia is not in a position to guarantee that New Zealand is free of avocado scab. BA has the regulatory power to ensure that Australia remains free of this devastating disease.

"The competence of NZMAF to demonstrate that New Zealand is free of avocado scab is in question," said Mr Kwaczynski. "This doubt clearly means that we can't be 100% sure that New Zealand is free of the disease," explained Mr Kwaczynski.

"Avocados Australia's continuing preference is that New Zealand is truly free of avocado scab," explained Mr Kwaczynski, "it is the only way Australia can be confident of zero risk to our industry under current BA policies on risk profiles."

Avocados Australia will continue to work to ensure the protection of our industry from this and other potentially devastating diseases. Our work has not stopped.

For further comment:

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

Antony Allen, Avocados Australia CEO on 0438 132 477 or 07 3391 2344

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 \$AUD95 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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