

How can I help?

When you're overseas:

- wherever possible, don't visit crops — contact with growing crops greatly increases the risk of contaminating footwear or clothing;
- if you are visiting crops, wear clothes and footwear you can discard before you return to Australia;
- wash or dry clean all the clothing you took overseas as soon as you return, regardless of whether you have visited a crop;
- thoroughly disinfect or wash footwear with a soapy cloth, removing all signs of dust or dirt; and
- materials that cannot be washed should be kept away from agricultural, horticultural or forestry regions for at least four weeks.

If you have visitors from overseas:

- wherever possible, don't let them have contact with crops, contact with growing crops greatly increases the risk of transferring rust to your crop from contaminated footwear or clothing not visible to the naked eye; and
- if your guests are visiting farms, provide them with clean clothes and footwear to use during their visit.

Travellers from one region of Australian to another:

- take the same precautions as above to minimise the movement of rusts and rust strains.

Remember:

You **MUST** report visits to farms in countries outside Australia on your Incoming Passenger Card when you return. This is a legal requirement and failing to complete your Passenger Card correctly could lead to prosecution and a criminal record.

Where can I get more information?

Visit the [travel biosecurity page at www.grdc.com.au/biosecuritylinks](http://www.grdc.com.au/biosecuritylinks)

See these information resources:

- GRDC biosecurity research
- AQIS website brochure 'What I can't take into Australia?'
- DAFWA website brochure 'Australian Grains Industry – Farm Biosecurity Plan'

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

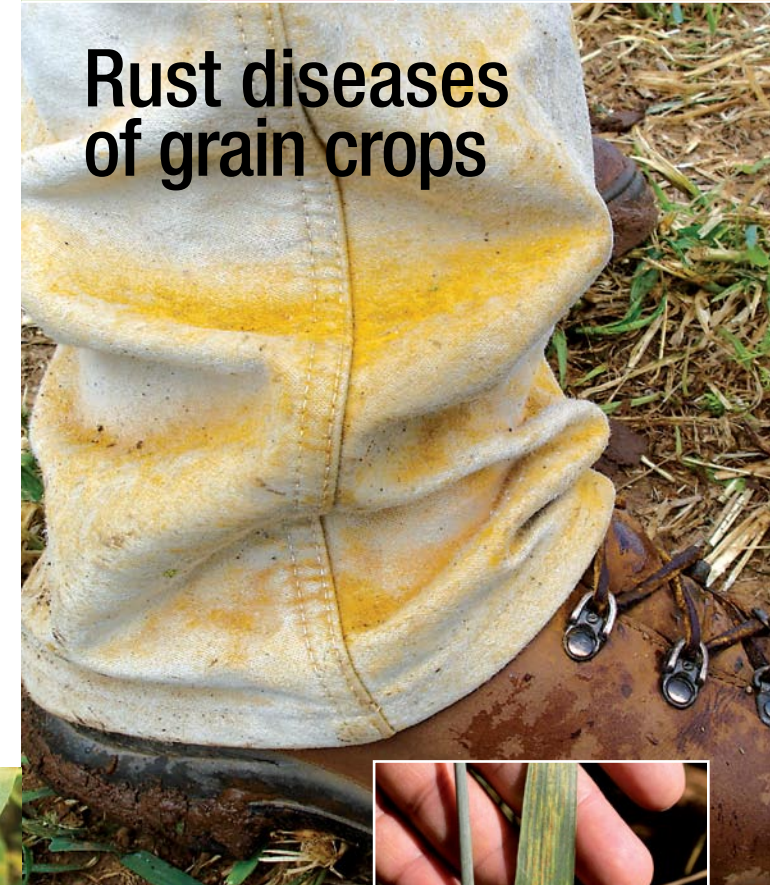
The Grains Research and Development Corporation thanks the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia, the University of Sydney Plant Breeding Institute, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Plant Health Australia, CRC National Plant Biosecurity and AQIS for their help with photographs and information



This exotic rust of lupins has not occurred in Australia (SOURCE: DAFWA)



Rust diseases of grain crops



Rust spore contamination on clothing and boots can appear as dust or dirt (SOURCE: DAFWA / BRAD COLLIS)

What can Australian travellers do?

Important information on rusts

What's the problem?

Rusts are microscopic fungi that are among the world's most destructive plant diseases. Rusts attack grain crops — especially cereals (wheat, barley, oats) and legumes (beans, peas, lupins) — greatly reducing yield. Rust pathogens that haven't been recorded in Australia could devastate our grains industries if they found their way into production zones. Many of our crop varieties are susceptible to exotic rusts.

What are the symptoms?

Rust infections usually appear as brown, orange, yellow or white spots. Infected plants produce large amounts of powdery spores that can hitch-hike on travellers' clothing or footwear.

How do rusts move?

Rust spores can move on wind currents, but they're also easily carried on clothing, footwear or equipment. Growth in international air travel has significantly increased the chance of inadvertently introducing exotic rusts to Australia.

How serious is the biosecurity risk?

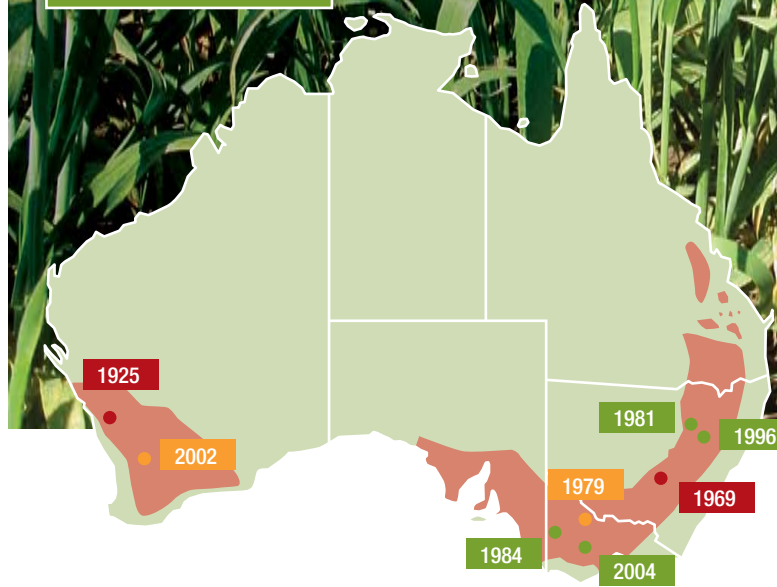
All grain crops are at risk from exotic rust strains. That means all agriculturalists (including producers, agricultural scientists and agri-business persons) need to be aware of the risks. The University of Sydney's Australian Cereal Rust Control Program monitors rusts in Australia's wheat, barely and oat crops. The stripe rust incursion in 2002 is estimated to have added additional control costs of \$40-90 million per annum for Australian wheat growers.

Initial detection points of exotic wheat rust incursions

Stripe rust

Stem rust

Leaf rust



Stem rust in wheat.

(SOURCE: BRAD COLLIS)



Trousers showing severe contamination from walking through a stripe rust affected crop. Thoroughly launder clothes after travel as rust contamination may be microscopic and difficult to see.

(SOURCE: University of Sydney, NSW Department of Primary Industries / DAFWA)