



# Biosecurity alert: Guava root-knot nematode

(*Meloidogyne enterolobii*)

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## What to look for and how to reduce the spread

Guava root-knot nematode (*Meloidogyne enterolobii*) is a microscopic roundworm that parasitises the roots of many crops. Infestation by this pest disrupts the plant's normal growth and functions, reducing plant growth and yield. The symptoms of Guava root-knot nematode are much more severe than other root-knot nematode species present in WA.

It has been detected in Queensland and the Northern Territory but is not known to occur in Western Australia. Its early detection and reporting will help protect WA horticulture industries.

## What plants are affected?

### Vegetables

Significant hosts include beans, capsicum, chilli, cucumber, eggplant, potato, pumpkins, snake bean, soybean, sweet potato, tomato and zucchini.

### Other plants

Basil, banana, cotton, guava, watermelon, ornamental plants and some weed species.



## LOOK for this pest

### Below ground

Symptoms may include:

- Galls on the roots of infected plants.
- Large sized galls in severe infestations.
- Deformed tubers with large galls, a dark and cracked surface in root vegetables.

### Above ground

Symptoms may resemble water and nutrient stress:

- Wilting plants and stunted growth.
- Smaller leaves; leaf yellowing or dull colour.
- Reduced flowering and fruit setting.
- Plant death in severe infestations.



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## Help stop the spread

A nematode generally moves a very limited distance on its own, but can be transmitted via irrigation water or flooding. Spreading over larger distances it can be caused by the movement of:

- Plants and seedlings with infested roots, and below ground vegetables (bulbs, tubers, corms and rhizomes).
- Infested growing media/soils, or infested soils attached to below ground vegetables, machineries, tools and footwear.



## REPORT suspected sightings

- It's important that any suspect guava root knot nematode occurrence is reported.
- Early detection will help protect WA's horticulture and nursery industries.



### Report your observations

MyPestGuide® Reporter  
via app or online  
[mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au](https://mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au)

Pest and Disease Information Service  
(08) 9368 3080  
[padis@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:padis@dpird.wa.gov.au)

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