

INDUSTRY STATEMENT

19 October 2026 | Canberra



***Monosporascus cannonballus* detection in the Northern Territory**

The Australian Seed Federation (ASF) acknowledges the recent detection of *Monosporascus cannonballus* in the Northern Territory and the significant concern this has raised for Australia's horticultural industry.

As the industry works to understand and manage this disease, it is important that discussions about potential pathways of introduction and spread are informed by scientific evidence.

The available scientific evidence does not identify seed as a pathway for *Monosporascus cannonballus*.

Monosporascus cannonballus is a soil-borne fungal pathogen that causes root rot and vine decline in cucurbit crops, including melons. Plant Health Australia, the American Phytopathological Society and the International Seed Federation (ISF) identify the pathogen as soil-borne, with no evidence of seed transmission. Its recognised pathways of spread are primarily contaminated soil and crop debris.

Unsubstantiated claims that seed supply may be associated with the introduction or spread of this pathogen risk unfairly implicating seed companies and diverting attention from recognised biosecurity risks.

The Australian seed industry operates established systems for seed identification, traceability, testing and quality assurance. ASF's Codes of Practice provide an important framework for industry practices, and seed suppliers can assist growers in understanding the information available about their seed.

ASF supports continued collaboration between government, growers and the seed industry to understand the detection, strengthen on-farm biosecurity and ensure that growers have access to accurate, evidence-based information.

Effective biosecurity relies on identifying and managing genuine pathways of risk. ASF remains committed to working with industry and government to support this approach and protect Australia's agricultural industries.

ENDS

Enquiries

Katherine Delbridge
Chief Executive Officer

0410 491 261
katherine@ausseed.org.au