

## **April 2026**

As National Collections Holders we maintain a genetic library of plants from the everyday to the rarest. It is therefore important that they are protected to the best of our ability. Even the most insignificant-looking genus may hold the genes that might survive drought, floods or provide salt tolerance. We don't know what lies in the future.

The increase in invasive pests and diseases is placing more pressure on to Collection Holders. We must also duplicate collections as part of the need to move them northwards in the face of environmental change.

It is essential that all stock is free from pests, viruses, bacteria and diseases. The correct protocols for that genera must be followed – shortcuts could prove fatal. Nothing will provide 100 per cent protection but a good biosecurity system will dramatically reduce the risk of spread. It is essential therefore that all National Collection Holders have an effective biosecurity plan centred on a risk-based process.

Plant Heritage is held in high esteem for its contribution to plant genetic preservation and it is important that Collection Holders do their best to maintain the charity's standards. If Plant Heritage is seen to be spreading pests and diseases, our reputation may be damaged. A Biosecurity plan is used to instil practices that will help protect your collections by reducing the risk of pests, diseases and invasives to the collections.

## **My Collection biosecurity plan**

**National Collection:**

**Holder:**

**Date last reviewed:**

**Aims:**

- **A Check list of things that can be done to reduce the risk**
- **To make these processes part of the everyday routine**
- **To keep Biosecurity at the forefront in any new processes introduced**

**Apply site biosecurity risk:**

**THE HAZARD ANALYSIS AND CRITICAL CONTROL POINT (HACCP) SYSTEM**

- 1. Identify pathways**
- 2. Try to eliminate that pathway**
- 3. Reduce exposure of the chances of it happening**
- 4. Engineer it out**
- 5. Plans to deal with the occurrence**

**1) Biosecurity risks to this site:**

What pests, diseases and invasives could affect my stock? Present in UK or imminent arrival?

What are they likely to arrive on: (Mark main possible sources)

Plants

Cuttings

Seeds

Bulbs/ tubers/ corms

People: clothing/ footwear

Used machinery

Other equipment: secateurs

Pallets

Soil imports

Delivery lorries

Wind

Water (non-tap water)

Organic matter: mulches/ untreated compost

Visitors/ volunteers

Other:

## 2) Try to eliminate that pathway

Do I need to be registered with Plant Health (APHA) as a professional operator? Y/N

Do I need to register with APHA to issue Plant Passports? Y/N

Is it a known or unknown supply source?

(unknown is more risk)

Is it plant/ cutting/ seed?

(seed is lower risk than green material)

Is the growing media a threat?

(is it best to repot if possible/ buy bare root/ wood chip could pose a threat)

Is the plant dormant or in active growth?

(If dormant less likely to see things such as virus: Quarantine)

Do I need to get it tested before arrival?

(what could it be carrying like virus; a pre-test stops entry)

Take delivery of stock near the front gate, so that trucks not coming through the site?

(Move hard standing drop off close or pre-entry to site)

Can plastic crates and carriers be used?

(Less likely to carry something and easier to clean down / disinfect)

Any borrowed / hired machinery?

(try to use your own - if not, make sure it cleaned before arrival/ and before return)

Inspect stock on arrival and check any paperwork,

(reject if not to standard or missing paperwork)

Where possible quarantine newly arrived plants away from main collection for a period of at least six weeks of active growth to prevent transfer

(Use separate equipment or provide wash down so new viruses etc are not transmitted)

Any mulches brought site?

(have I checked if its healthy chipped material / heat treated)

Any volunteers help out: do they bring their own kit?

(Provide for them or clean before arrival and before departure)

### 3. Reduce exposure of the chances of it happening

Test stock before arriving on site, if a threat.

(Any virus or nematode issues that could affect stock)

Inspect stock on arrival and check any paperwork that the correct checks have been done

(any issues to be raised as soon as possible or stock returned)

Where possible quarantine stock away from main stock (or partition off)

(If problems stop spread to other stock, minimising controls and losses)

Is new stock restricted to a one or few personnel to reduce risk of transfer of P&D?

(Reduces the risk of spread by cross contamination)

Is separate equipment used or is there a sterilisation kit available to use with new stock

(So, no cross over into the main stock unless clean)

Is the supplier: Plant Passport registered / part of Plant Healthy / A known good supplier

(If unknown put more precautions in place rather than treat as known standards)

If possible, supply in active growth if possible, so P&D is visible

(Often can arrive dormant, look at pre-delivery checks/ tests)

Do I clean my kit after handling or trimming the new stock?

(scateurs could transmit newly arrived virus)

Any borrowed / hired machinery or been lent out:

(make sure washed down before arrival and before it leaves)

Are my staff trained in P&D and know what to look out for

(Need to know what to look out for and possible pathways to watch)

How often do I check my stock - at the right time of year to find the problems?

(Some things could take a while to show symptoms (Xylella f. one year on woody stock)

Is the site clean?

(Weeds and plant debris can harbour pests and diseases and cause re-infection)

#### 4. Engineer it out

Make labels a good readable size from paths

(so that people don't have to step into the beds to read)

Your main P&D prefer certain conditions, know what that is.

(Make it unfavourable for them. Phytophthora and mildews like damp, still conditions, so fill puddles on paths, trim plants to allow airflow etc.)

Can plastic crates and carriers be used?

(Use on mother stock or crates that will be returned. Less likely to carry something and easier to sterilise)

Make sure drainage water from near entrances drain away off site rather than into the site

(Drains away an infection as soon as possible)

Erect barriers and provide directional paths,

(keeps visitors in certain areas and keep to routes, reducing spread risk)

#### 5. Plans in place to deal with the occurrence

Who do I escalate it to, internally?

(Name and contact details)

Do I have a plan for each pest found to quickly stop its spread around the site?

(What needs to be done quickly to prevent spread until identified)

Do I need to let the supplier or customers know of possible problems to minimise further spread?

(Trace forward and backwards of stock to track it down)

Do I know good relevant websites to check to keep up to date?

(Pest and diseases come and go and new ones arrive)

Do I have laboratory contacts for any testing required?

(Laboratory details for testing type of stock, soil or water)

Do I have the contact details for my local Plant Health and Seeds Inspector?

(have links to hand see below)

### **Registration of Collection Holders with APHA Plant Health, as a Professional operator**

It's recommended that National Collections are registered with APHA Plant Health, this makes them aware that you are there, if anything occurs that might impact the collection they can inform you. Also plant health can assist, in some issues for you, such as a new pest or diseases not seen before. It's free and can be done online, if not already registered in some form of capacity with APHA. If not a business with a trading name, then put 'National collection of...'. In the trading box. If you wish to enter the collection as separate, to a business, then do in the same way.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-to-become-a-plant-health-professional-operator>

### **Plant Passport Registration**

If you sell plants and some seeds, to other businesses or do online/mail order, you likely need to be authorised to issue plant passports. If you are selling directly to and/or personally delivering to the end user, then it's not required. This is a chargeable service for the visits on site.

For the list of Plants, seeds and wood that require plant passporting can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-plants-plant-products-and-objects-which-need-a-plant-passport-for-movement-within-gb/plants-plant-products-and-other-objects-which-need-a-plant-passport-for-movement-within-great-britain>

To apply online to be registered for plant passporting:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plant-passports-application>

### **Seed Marketing:**

Seeds marketing is regulated for most agricultural and vegetables species, only seeds which have been certified may be marketed.

You must be licensed if your business is involved in marketing seeds covered by the Regulations. These may include:

- marketing seed
- packing, sealing or labelling seed
- processing seed
- collection and preparation of preservation mixtures

Seeds listed in The Seed Marketing Regulations 2011, Schedule 1 are the seeds covered by the regulations, most flower species are not covered unless used commercially, such as sunflower.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/463/schedule/1/made>

**Some useful websites:****Contact:**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha#plants-and-seeds>

**Pests and diseases:**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-the-introduction-and-spread-of-tree-pests-and-disease>

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/#>

<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/pest-and-disease-resources/>

<https://gd.eppo.int/>

<https://plantnetwork.org/>

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases>

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/search?s=commodity+risk+assessment>

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2019/2072/oj/eng](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2019/2072/oj/eng)

**Invasives:**

<https://www.nonnativespecies.org/>

[https://www.eppo.int/ACTIVITIES/invasive\\_alien\\_plants/iap\\_lists](https://www.eppo.int/ACTIVITIES/invasive_alien_plants/iap_lists)

**Import / export:**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-plant-health-information-and-import-rules>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-plant-export-certificates-and-inspections>

**Schemes:**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/issuing-plant-passports-to-trade-plants-in-great-britain>

<https://planthealthy.org.uk/>

<https://basis-reg.co.uk/>

**Biosecurity Kit:**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-the-introduction-and-spread-of-tree-pests-and-diseases#biosecurity-kit>

**Defra Biosecurity strategy:**

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/plant-biosecurity-strategy/>