Plant Exchange – How it works for members

The Plant Exchange offers members a rewarding way to take an active role in plant conservation by propagating and sharing plants at risk of being lost from cultivation. By exchanging these plants, we help preserve horticultural diversity, directly support our charitable aims, and have fun along the way.

Plants in the exchange should have two or fewer known suppliers. This should be checked using the RHS Plant Finder and a general online search. Plants offered need to be well-rooted, healthy plants which can withstand being transported to and from exchange location, which might take several days.






To find out whether there is a Plant Exchange representative in your area, visit the Plant Heritage Members' Area via the website and navigate to **Resources for Local Groups and Volunteers > Plant Exchange > Find Your Plant Exchange Coordinator.**

The online **Offers and Wants form** are **only for members in areas without a coordinator**. Interested in becoming a regional Plant Exchange Coordinator? We'd love to hear from you!

Members requesting plants are responsible for arranging collection and transport, so please plan ahead and don't assume delivery will be available, particularly if there is no coordinator in your area.

1. Late September/October – invite Offers and Wants

Plant Exchange coordinators circulate this information to members in their area, usually through the local Group Secretary or Area Representative. It is also promoted through the Plant Heritage website and newsletters.

For each **Offer**, we need:

- the correct plant name **- please check against the RHS Plant Finder.**
- the number of plants available
- the name of the donor/supplier

2. End of November – collated lists received at National Office

By the end of November, Plant Exchange Coordinators send the lists from their area to the Conservation Team at the Plant Heritage office.

3. New Year – Offers and Wants are published

The Conservation Team will collate and check the **Offers** and **Wants** received from groups across the UK and prepare the full list for circulation to plant exchange coordinators to share with their local members and is also published on the Plant Heritage website; look for **Conservation>Annual Plant Exchange**.

4. Early February – deadline for requests

Members submit their **requests** for plants from the **offers** list to their local Plant Exchange Coordinator; or where there is no coordinator, they can submit via the online forms.

Coordinators collate the requests from their area and forward them to the Conservation Team.

5. Early April – allocations are sent to Coordinators

The Conservation Team confirms **plant allocations** with Plant Exchange coordinators.

Please provide what is requested – you can provide more if you wish to make spares available to be allocated on the day.

6. Coordinator confirms allocations with members

The Plant Exchange Coordinator confirms with members:

- which plants they are offering
- which group or member they are going to

Members who have offered plants should then label them clearly with **two labels**:

1. **Plant name and source**, if known
2. **From [Group name] – To [receiving group, e.g. Suffolk]**

This makes it much easier to identify plants when they arrive at the central Exchange.



7. In the lead up to Members' Day

Liaise with your coordinator to deliver plants so they can be transported to the Plant Exchange event location.

Your **Group Committee or other local volunteers** may also be able to help with collecting and transporting plants.

8. After Members' Day

Once the plants return to your area, liaise with your coordinator to collect any plants you will be receiving. This could be a collection point at an agreed place and time; or individual collection arrangements.

9. Record the plants you receive onto the Plant Guardian scheme - complete the online registration form **Record your plant**.

By registering your plant with our Plant Guardian scheme, you'll help us keep track of where these plants are being grown. If someone is searching for a plant you grow, we can let you know. Your registration also supports our research and the wider Threatened Plants Programme.

Don't forget - Arrange deliveries and collections in advance

Members requesting plants are kindly asked to consider collection arrangements before submitting their request, to ensure they have a suitable way of getting their plants home. Please liaise with your nearest representative to explore possible collection arrangements. If there is no representative in your area, please make your own arrangements to collect your plants, either in person or through another member who is attending. While we will do our best to facilitate collections where possible, delivery or transport cannot be guaranteed.

The Plant Exchange relies on members working together and communicating clearly. By planning ahead and including your intentions on the request form, you help ensure that plants can be exchanged smoothly and reach the members who want them. Thank you for supporting the Plant Exchange and helping our plant-sharing community grow!





