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PHC Bulletin Newsletter



Updating you on recent activities of the Plant Health Centre

Issue 2, September 2020

In this Bulletin - launch of the Key Principles



Events - Launch of the Key Principles

PHC News



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH

2020

UK Plant Health Week and launch of the Plant Health Centre's Key Principles

Hello and welcome to the second edition of the Plant Health Centre's short-form news bulletin. We are using this edition, circulated at the start of the UK's Plant Health Week (as part of the UN's International Year of Plant Health), to launch our "Key Principles to minimise plant health risks in Scotland". These principles have been created in response to interactions with our members and the wider plant health community, that flagged as an issue the huge volume of plant health advice promoted, which was found to be very confusing. We set about trying to distill the advice and knowledge available from the different land-uses into a set of overarching principles that would apply to anyone involved in the buying, selling, cultivation and movement of plants, that they could use as a framework to assess their own biosecurity practices. It is hoped that through the identification of gaps in plant health practices and the promotion of 'best practice' examples between different industries and land-uses, that the overall health of Scotland's plant-based assets can be better protected in the future.

During the UK Plant Health Week (starting 19th September) we will also be bringing these principles to life through a series of stand-alone news pieces, each highlighting the importance of plant health to some of Scotland's iconic plant-based assets - from Whisky and Gin to our Celtic rainforests. Keep an eye out for these via our twitter account (@planthealthscot) and our website (planthealthcentre.scot). We have also created a [short video](#) to introduce you to the principles.

We hope that you all join us in taking the opportunity of the UK Plant Health Week to promote the importance of protecting Scotland's plants as much as we all can!

-Sonia Humphris, Plant Health Centre Manager

Events - Launch of the Key Principles for Plant Health in Scotland



As we know, Scotland's plants underpin the health of the nation, but plant pests and diseases can cause major economic, environmental and social harm. Risks to plant health in Scotland are rising due to increasing global movements of plants and soil, coupled with environmental change allowing novel pests and diseases to establish, or endemic ones to flourish. We all need to act to address these threats. The following Key Principles outline important steps to protect plant health in Scotland:

Source plants with care: Human movement of plants is an important pathway for spreading pests and diseases which may hitchhike on plants, in seed, soil and packaging.

Keep it clean: Biosecurity best practice can reduce the spread and establishment of plant pests and diseases. These organisms may be microscopic and can easily go unnoticed.

Plan now for future challenges: Designing, modifying and managing systems to increase their resilience can reduce the impacts of pests and pathogens in future.

Embed plant health in policies and practices: Developing consistent practices, incentives, guidance and regulation can minimise the risk of outbreaks and their consequences.

Promote widespread understanding and awareness of plant health threats: Informed individuals and businesses can minimise threats to plant health and reduce the unwanted impacts of pests and diseases.

A conversation about the Principles

To introduce these principles and furnish them with some examples, our Directorate have filmed a conversation about them that you can watch [here](#).

More information

We have put together an information booklet that further details these principles, that you can find on our [website](#), also available as a PDF to [download](#). Please read and circulate these to anyone you think might benefit from the messages and advice in them. We also hope that you find these Principles useful when considering your own plant health needs, and the Plant Health Centre are very happy for anyone to get in touch with us if they would

like to discuss these Principles further and how to apply them.



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The Plant Health Centre is a virtual centre of expertise funded by Scottish Government through RESAS (Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services Division) to help tackle plant health challenges for Scotland



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