

Promoting plant health - perspectives from the trade

**James Barnes** 

Chairman - Horticultural Trades Association

### Plant Health Alliance (PHA)



- **Set up (2018)** to bring together the horticulture, forestry and general land management sectors with government.
- Membership aim to form an effective partnership between: Industry, Government and Third Sector organisations.
- Core Purpose to promote plant health and biosecurity measures to protect plant species and associated ecosystems in the UK and beyond.
- **Key actions taken** publication of the Plant Health Management Standard and soft launch of Plant Healthy Certification Scheme.

### **Plant Healthy Certification**



- What 23 requirements to improve plant health and biosecurity practices across the plant supply chain:
  - Nurseries Retailers Arborists Landscapers Public Gardens
- How (1) Start by taking self-assessment on Plant healthy
  website and receive free report (2) one audit per year by a trained
  auditor. Self-assessment is free, there is a fee for the audit.
- **Resources** Sector specific guidance docs and training modules available on the website.
- Aim to support businesses and organisations protect our industry and natural environment.

## What progress?



- Auditors confirmed and trained
- First two business successfully audited.
- 10 more identified to follow on.
- UCAS accreditation sought
- Combine with existing BOPP certification scheme – to allow greater take up.

## **Plant Passports**



- Now fully introduced
- Principles of traceability and assurance for all plants in trade will always be upheld, now & in the future
- Next stage is working through the details of a potential UK plant passporting system post-transition
- Will this mirror EU one? Questions to be answered
- Will label design change to include a Union Jack flag, or even each nations flag?
- Will it recognise the EU plant passport system for traded material?

### **Professional Operator Registration**



- Part of Smarter Rules for Safer Food regulations, alongside plant passports & comprehensive Plant Health Regulations
- Becomes a legal requirement (in EU) on 14 December 2020
- UK will adopt this
- HTA has highlighted to Defra that professional Operator registration needs clarification ASAP
- Potential for a 2 tier registration system
  - Those requiring authorisation to issue plant passports
  - Those needing to register with plant health & fulfil basic criteria
- Decisions on cost implications needed ASAP from Defra

#### What more needs to be done



#### Quarantine procedures:

- HTA input into a DEFRA survey in 2019
- DEFRA consultation launched this summer on potential quarantine measures
- This will enable all stakeholders to input into and inform future policy
- A key topic raised at the Plant Health Alliance Kew Conference in February 2020.

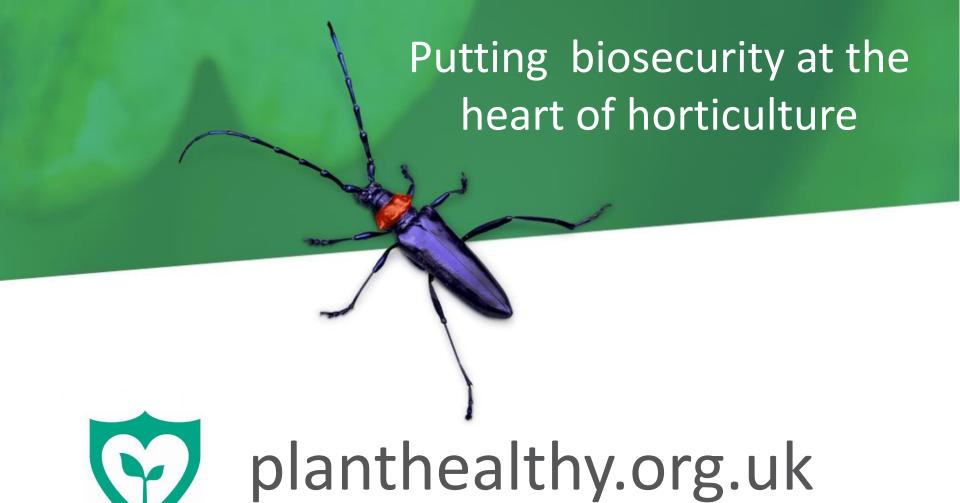
#### Raise awareness

- HTA membership extend influence supply chain audit
- Year of Plant Health Chelsea Garden Plant Healthy week
- Government direct action. Poster campaigns.

## The Opportunity









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# Thank you

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