



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



Putting biosecurity at the
heart of horticulture



planthealthy.org.uk



@beplanthealthy

@HTAnews



Thank you

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