

Plant Health Policy

English Woodlands recognises the risk posed to UK plant health from imported plants that may harbour pests and disease. We take this very seriously and acknowledge our duty to act in a responsible manner to minimise this risk and we work closely with DEFRA Plant Health Inspectors and the HTA (Horticultural Trade Association) to ensure we not only meet, but exceed, best practice in this area.

Plants coming into our nursery

- Our growers - at English Woodlands we only source the best quality and healthiest plants and only from growers who we know and trust. We visit our growers as necessary to ensure that we understand their plant health measures and to ensure they have robust procedures in place to minimise risks and to meet our standards. In most cases we have long term relationships with our growers and have worked with them for many years to achieve the healthy plants in which we take a pride.
- Where our plants come from – we will wherever possible source our plants from the UK. Where such plants of the required quality, quantity or specification are not available, we will source from one of a handful of growers who we know and trust in Belgium, Netherlands, France and Italy. We will never source any plants from regions where Xylella, or any other serious disease, is known to exist. Such regions are defined and regularly updated by EU Plant Health authorities.
- “High Risk” plants – we have decided not to import certain “high risk” plants notwithstanding that they may be available from our growers – these include Italian Olives and Lavender. We will only hold such plants on our nursery if they have been grown in the UK.
- All plants, and plant health documents, are inspected on arrival - we always inspect incoming plants for pest and disease and maintain full records of such inspections. Plants are also routinely inspected by DEFRA Plant Health Inspectors and where we have any concerns about disease we will contact DEFRA for advice and place such plants in quarantine. In the case of Box plants, we routinely quarantine these for 3 weeks to ensure that they are free from Box Blight before we release them for sale.

Biosecurity measures on our nursery

- Our staff check plants on the nursery daily to monitor for any signs of pests or disease. Any plants that become unsaleable or are unhealthy are destroyed.
- We practice high levels of nursery hygiene and maintain records of any pesticide treatment and disease issues.
- Traceability. All plants on our nursery are traceable to their source and will also be traceable to their ultimate destination with the customer. Plant Passports are provided as required.
- We are fully compliant with all plant health regulations including plant passporting and import notification requirements. We work closely with our local Plant Health Inspectorate to ensure we are meeting these requirements.

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Plants leaving our nursery

- As plants are prepared for delivery to the customer, they are inspected at “order picking” stage and again during loading, to ensure that all plants are healthy as they leave our nursery.
- All plants are accompanied by a detailed Despatch Note which includes the Plant Passport. The customer receives a copy of this on delivery. (See below for an explanation of Plant Passports)

Keeping up to date

- Plant Health is a complex area and we keep up to date with legislation and best practice through the government Plant Health portal, the HTA (Horticultural Trade Association), informal discussion with local Plant Health Inspectors, by attending occasional trade meetings and information in the trade press.
- Nursery staff receive training in identification of pests and diseases and will have a broad understanding of the Plant Health policy. Graham Grimmett, our Nursery Director, has overall responsibility for the monitoring of pests and diseases on the nursery.
- Our MD, Simon Johnson, has overall responsibility for implementing this policy and reviewing and updating it as necessary.

Plant Passports

A Plant Passport is required for the movement of most plants within or into the UK. For certain pests and diseases much of the UK is designated a “Protected Zone” and, to help ensure that these specific pests and diseases are kept out of the UK, plants that are particularly susceptible to these pests or diseases may require, in addition to the normal Plant Passport, a special “ZP code” that, in effect, confirms that these plants have been grown in an area free of these diseases and can therefore be safely moved within or into the UK. These ZP codes appear on the Plant Passport with other relevant details.

At English Woodlands, in common with most plant nurseries, we receive regular inspections and checks from the Plant Health and Seed Inspectorate (PHSI) and this helps give confidence in the health of our plants to both ourselves and our customers alike.

We are authorised by the PHSI to issue Plant Passports for plants intended for planting. Each consignment of plants we supply is accompanied by our Despatch Note and this document constitutes the Plant Passport and provides all the required details including our Plant Passport number and any necessary ZP codes.

All plants supplied by English Woodlands are authorised for movement within the UK and fully comply with Plant Health Plant Passporting requirements.

For further details of Plant Health controls in the UK go to: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plant-health-controls>

If you have any questions concerning this policy please email info@englishwoodlands.com

Simon Johnson
Managing Director

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