BIO SECURE PLANTING

Merlin Brooke-Little (Director of Plants)
Why Bio Security all of a sudden?

Economics – Ornamental Horticulture and Landscaping Industry worth £25 bn. 1.6% of Workforce

Environment – Tree P&D outbreaks regularly impacting the native ecology

Politics - Insularity crossover to industry

Public Opinion – As inspired by media, information sharing, and industry responsiveness

Opportunity – For homegrown, for border control, for joined up thinking
WHAT IS BIO-SECURITY?
A set of precautions to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful organisms

WHAT ARE HARMFUL ORGANISMS?
Non-native pests and diseases harmful to the environment, health and economy

WHAT ARE BIO-SECURITY MEASURES?
The practical steps designed to reduce the risk of introducing or spreading pests and diseases
What threat..?
Escalation of pests / pathogens over 40 years
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAKEHOLDERS - the danger</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CLIENT</strong></td>
<td>Wants instant big impact planting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONTRACTING AGENT</strong></td>
<td>Can help with anything and nothing is a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONTRACTOR</strong></td>
<td>Will get plants through any means to keep Agent happy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUPPLIER</strong></td>
<td>Can’t supply owing to legislation, supplies from cheap overseas source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REPUTATION</strong></td>
<td>Compromised</td>
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Key points for all stakeholders to focus on

Policy
Standard Practice
Risk assessment
Sourcing
Quality and inspection
Quarantine
Knowledge, training & supervision
Lead by example
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CLIENT</strong></td>
<td>Well informed of opportunities and restrictions on plant sourcing. Aware of UK supply versus imports. Confident in their choice of Agent to carry out work; that they are knowledgeable, able to offer solutions that are sensitive to budget, expectations, realities and risk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONTRACTING AGENT</strong></td>
<td>Up to date on legislation and threats. Able to make appropriate recommendations in light of legislation and appropriate specification. Working with Quality Assured contractors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONTRACTOR</strong></td>
<td>Aware of sourcing requirements. Knowledge of trusted suppliers. Understanding of lead times. Awareness of species and site suitability and good relationship with Agent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUPPLIER</strong></td>
<td>Able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding. Provide assurance / documentation that plant material has been inspected, passported, reported and quarantined where necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REPUTATION</strong></td>
<td>Intact and enhanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder Category</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government and Agencies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Horticultural Trades Association</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Landscaping Industry</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nurseries</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Garden Centres</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Forestry &amp; Woodland Organisations</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Champions for Plant Health

• The Government

• Defra, Forestry Commissions, Apha
• 2018 All-Party Parliamentary Gardening and Horticulture Group led an enquiry into the key issues facing the horticulture sector, what is needed from Government to secure the sector’s future post-Brexit?
Conclusions of October 2018 report...

- The evidence submitted in this inquiry clearly demonstrates the importance of the horticulture sector to the UK.

- The sector is doing all it can to invest in its nurseries, protect against pests, innovate and develop, as well as attract and retain a highly skilled workforce. However, it needs further Government support and coordination at national level to achieve all its outcomes.

- The various aspects of horticulture cover a number of different Government Departments; however, it is not clear how, or if, their overlapping remits work in tandem. *If ever there was a case for joined-up Government thinking, this is it. There is a clear need for Government to ensure that there is united policy on all matters relating to horticulture.*
Information Sources

• DEFRA Plant Health Portal
  https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/

• UK Plant Health Register
  https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/index.cfm

• E Domero Register
  http://edomero.defra.gov.uk

• Forest Research
  https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/pest-and-disease-resources/

• Arb association Fact Sheets
  https://www.trees.org.uk/Help-Advice/Pests-and-Diseases

• Observatree
  https://www.observatree.org.uk/
Champions for Plant Health

- The Government
- Landscape Industry Leaders
- The Horticultural Trade Association
- RHS
- The Forestry Commission

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**Identify a tree pest or disease**

*Identify a tree pest or disease: overview*
26 September 2018  Guidance

**Find a specific tree pest or disease**

26 September 2018  Guidance

**Report a notifiable tree pest or disease**

*Report a tree pest or disease: overview*
26 September 2018  Guidance

**Manage a tree pest or disease**

*Manage a tree pest or disease: overview*
26 September 2018  Guidance

*Prevent the introduction and spread of tree pests and diseases*
26 September 2018  Guidance
Champions for Plant Health

• The Government
• Landscape Industry Leaders

“We the undersigned, offer our commitment to “spread the word” through training, information and informal discussions to our members & industry colleagues, of the importance of protecting our industry, economy & country from the threat of plant diseases and pests, by working to agreed standards and a monitored & standardised supply chain.”
Plant Health and Biosecurity: The Landscape Consultant’s Toolkit

LI Technical Guidance Note 01/19

This guidance helps practitioners apply biosecurity principles to their work
Champions for Plant Health

• The Government
• Landscape Industry Leaders
• The Horticultural Trade Association

• Developing with industry and working with Government to produce the Plant Healthy website. This provides a self-assessment tool for horticulture businesses and organisations to improve the biosecurity of sourcing systems and advance plant health management practises. [www.planthealthy.org.uk](http://www.planthealthy.org.uk).

• The tool is based on the recently published Plant Health Management Standard (PHMS) – an initiative that Grown in Britain and HTA have been working hard to advance,

• Working with government to set up governance structures and appointing certification bodies, independently to audit businesses demonstrate that robust plant health management practises are integral to their operations.
Champions for Plant Health

- The Government
- Landscape Industry Leaders
- The Horticultural Trade Association
- RHS

- 500,000 enthusiastic members and expert eyes. 9,600 plant health enquiries in 2018. Working with APHA and the Forestry Commission to follow up
- RHS diagnostics identify new issues including Box Tree Moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*)
- Banning Xylella hosts from shows. Quarantining imports for 3 months prior to shows. Isolating imported semi-mature trees for RHS Gardens for 12 months
Champions for Plant Health

- The Government
- Landscape Industry Leaders
- The Horticultural Trade Association
- RHS
- The Forestry Commission
- Nurseries

- Trading and selling responsibly
- Establishing and maintaining good supplier relationships.
- Communicating with industry, sharing expertise and experience, training
- Supporting assurance schemes and requiring same of trading partners
- Positive messages rather than scare-mongering.
- Promoting UK grown production
At Nicholson's, we aim to source UK and encourage suppliers to grow to our needs. We visit our overseas suppliers, inspect and choose stock, and take Plant Supplier Accreditation. We have on-site QC checking and quarantining as standard and comply with all Government regulations on reporting plant movements. We do not purchase Xylella hosts from overseas. We support clients to make the right choices and make tough commercial decisions to help clients and protect the environment.
Finally...we are focussed on growing and supplying healthy plants that will enhance the environment for our clients and future generations.

THANK YOU