

NICHOLSONS

BIOSECURITY POLICY

This policy is a statement of the intent of the directors and shall apply to all operations and worksites visited and managed by NICHOLSONS NURSERIES LTD.

Biosecurity is defined as a set of precautions that aim to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful and economically damaging organisms. These may be pests, pathogens or invasive species.

We are committed to:

- Planning and managing our business activities to ensure the possibility of introduction and spread of pest and disease is kept to a minimum.
- Complying with all legal requirements applicable to plant health and biosecurity, for example Plant Health Act and Plant Health Order.
- Ensuring amendments, alterations and additions to the legal requirements are incorporated into working practices.
- Providing the necessary personnel and financial resources to assist the company in meeting its biosecurity objectives.
- Developing and maintaining effective relationships with plant health agencies.
- Diversifying tree populations where our business activities allow, in order to mitigate against possible future pest and disease introductions.
- Ensuring safe handling and disposal of all pests, diseases and all potentially infested materials.
- Ensuring safe storage, handling and use of substances such as pesticides and disinfectants.
- Ensuring all employees and contractors can identify key pest and disease threats through ongoing training
- Ensuring that our visitors and customers are made aware of issues surrounding biosecurity and what role they can play in preventing the introduction and spread of harmful organisms
- Seeking appropriate advice from specialists if specific challenging biosecurity issues are identified before, during or after operations.
- Alerting the appropriate organisation of any suspected quarantine pest & disease outbreak we encounter.
- Providing a framework for reviewing biosecurity objectives and targets.

In order to meet these commitments, NICHOLSONS NURSERIES LTD. shall pursue the following objectives:

- The company shall undertake an annual Plant Healthy audit and inspection to ensure compliance with DEFRA's Plant Biosecurity Strategy
- The company shall aim to work to good industry practice and will ensure we are aware of any changes or updates to biosecurity practices.
- The company shall ensure ongoing updates are fed back to employees and through company and department meetings, targeted email alerts, staff and department training and e-learning
- The company shall be familiar with and utilise government guidance such as guidance on plant health controls (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plant-health-controls>)

- The company shall complete a Site Risk Assessment, prior to commencing work on site, to identify if appropriate biosecurity control measures and transport and disposal options are required by employees or contractors.
- The company shall make recommendations to clients regarding species choice for new tree planting will take into consideration the composition of the local tree population and the resilience of that population to pests, pathogens and invasive species.
- The company shall ensure employees have the necessary equipment, PPE and substances to implement biosecurity control measures including effective hygiene and sanitation practices.
- The company shall ensure employees are briefed and trained during induction, and through subsequent updates via staff meetings and the intranet, on good biosecurity practices appropriate to their role.
- The company shall ensure contractors are aware of biosecurity control measures including effective hygiene and sanitation practices.
- The company shall endeavour to source plant material from UK growers where quality and supply allow, and/or from approved suppliers and Plant Healthy partners. Plants sold to third parties will receive a Plant Passport as standard to ensure traceability
- The company shall ensure thorough Goods-In and Dispatch practices are conducted regarding health and quality checks to ensure plants are in optimum physiological health and free from pest and or disease.
- The company shall no longer import high risk *Xylella* host species. Other *Xylella* host species will only be imported if the suppliers are registered with DEFRA or have undergone independent inspection of plant material by a trained member of the company
- The company shall inform appropriate internal and external authorities in the case of a perceived biosecurity risk, the Forestry Commissions Tree Pest and Disease sightings reporter (TreeAlert)
- The Policy shall be available to all interested parties via the intranet and company website

The company will strive to raise the levels of biosecurity awareness throughout its workforce and to promote this awareness to its customers and suppliers.

Signed:



Name: **Merlin Brooke-Little**

Position in Company: **Director Nicholsons Plants**

Date created: **August 2020**

Date reviewed: **March 2023**