

ASSURANCE MATTERS

Ornamental Horticulture Assurance Scheme

Notes from the Committee Chair



Aaron Bicknell
OHAS Committee Chair

Welcome to the winter 2024 issue of Assurance Matters. Highlighted in this issue are the OHAS subscription and NSF audit fees for next year. Having held both throughout 2024, small increases are having to be made to cover inflationary increases.

To assist members with their storage and use of approved plant protection products, the latest news about product withdrawals is also included. Product revocations are currently happening regularly at both EU and GB level, so to enable products to be used up or disposed of in an approved manner, it's useful to know in advance key expiry dates.

Developments are also underway to create consistent carbon reporting across the supply chain, in both broad agricultural/horticultural terms, and specifically regarding the production of ornamentals. This development is to be welcomed in that there are numerous carbon footprinting tool kits on the market, but few, if any, are relevant to the production of ornamental crops and none have universal acceptance throughout the supply chain.

A relevant, accepted tool kit would help to clarify the way forward with carbon reporting, and underpin both nursery/packhouse and supply chain reduction measures.

Finally, there is a brief reminder about which plant species are covered by the CITES Convention, in place to prevent the illegal harvesting of plants from the environment.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Scheme subscription and audit costs for 2025

The OHAS subscription rates (for non-HTA members) for 2025 will increase by 3%, having been held static throughout 2024. The subscriptions collected are essential as they cover the cost of the Scheme, the development of the various Standards and the benchmarking to GlobalGAP. The new rates are presented on the following page and are based on annual turnover. To fall into line with HTA subscription collection procedures, validation of business annual turnover will now occur every two years to ensure businesses are placed into the correct band. As per original applications to OHAS, turnovers must be stated and verified with an accountant stamp. Letters explaining this will be sent out to members in the new year.

Scheme subscription and audit costs for 2025

Band	Business turnover	2025 Subscription (ex. VAT)	2025 Subscription (inc. VAT*)
1	Below £500,000	£207	£248.40
2	£500,000-£1M	£409	£490.80
3	£1M to £5M	£672	£806.40
4	£5M-£10M	£1016	£1219.20
5	Over £10M	£1353	£1623.60

(*Note: VAT is only charged to UK businesses).

NSF audit fees, also held static last year, will also increase by 4% from the 1 January 2025 as summarised below.

Description	Duration: 8hr day	Fee exc. VAT
Grower Standard	1 Day	£1035.00
Packhouse Standard	1 Day	£1296.00
Combined Grower and Packhouse	2 Days	£1970.00
Growing Media Standard	1 Day	£1035.00
Audit duration exceeding 1 day	Per hour	£113.00
Revisit for closure of non-conformances	1 Day	£681.00
Issue of GlobalG.A.P. certificate*	N/A	£70.00
Assessor mileage	Per Mile	£0.50
Assessor travel day	1 Day	£365.00
PHCS addendum **	N/A	£250.00
GlobalG.A.P supplement	N/A	£57.50

(*Excludes the GlobalG.A.P. certification license and registration fees which will be charged to the client).

(** Excludes the PHCS Membership fees which will be charged to the client dependent on banding).

Auditor expenses including, but not limited to the following will be charged onto the client - accommodation, mileage, flights and subsistence.

If an audit is cancelled, all incurred travel reservation and costs that cannot be cancelled, will be recharged to the client. If the audit is cancelled within two weeks of the audit date, the client may be charged 30% of the audit fee at the discretion of NSF. For additional sites, the above fee assumes the location is in the same country and no further than 30 miles away.

Crop protection news – product withdrawals

Managing the content inventory of pesticide stores can be a complex task because of the sheer number of product approval changes and revocations over a 12-month period. To assist growers with this task, below is a summary of recent and upcoming GB revocations impacting key products used in the ornamentals industry.

- Stocks of Systhane 20 EW (myclobutanol) and Consul, Impact, and Topguard (flutriafol) **should now have been used up.**
- Stocks of Dynamec (abamectin) and Curzate and Dithane (mancozeb) need to be used up by October and November 2025 respectively.
- Stocks of Explicit, Rumo, and Steward (indoxacarb) need using by February 2026.

The following products have also been commercially withdrawn - Applaud 25 (buprofezin), Azatin (azadirachtin), and Nissorun SC (hexythiazox). Looking ahead, the following key products have been withdrawn, or face withdrawal, in the EU, which indicates their imminent withdrawal in GB:

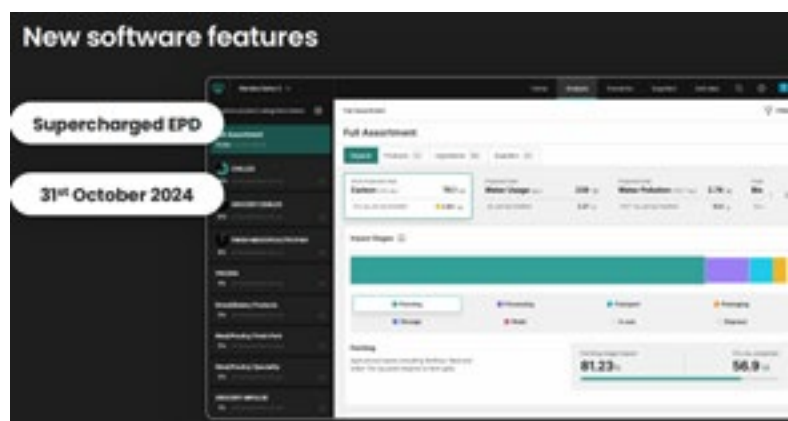
- Apollo 50 SC (clofentezine)
- Batavia (Movento) (spirotetramat)
- Debut (triflurosulfuron-methyl)
- Dual Gold (s-metolachlor)
- Frupica SC (mepanipyrim)
- Paraat (dimethomorph)
- Reflect (isopyrazam)
- Zorvec Enadvia (benthiavalicarb + oxathiapiprolin)

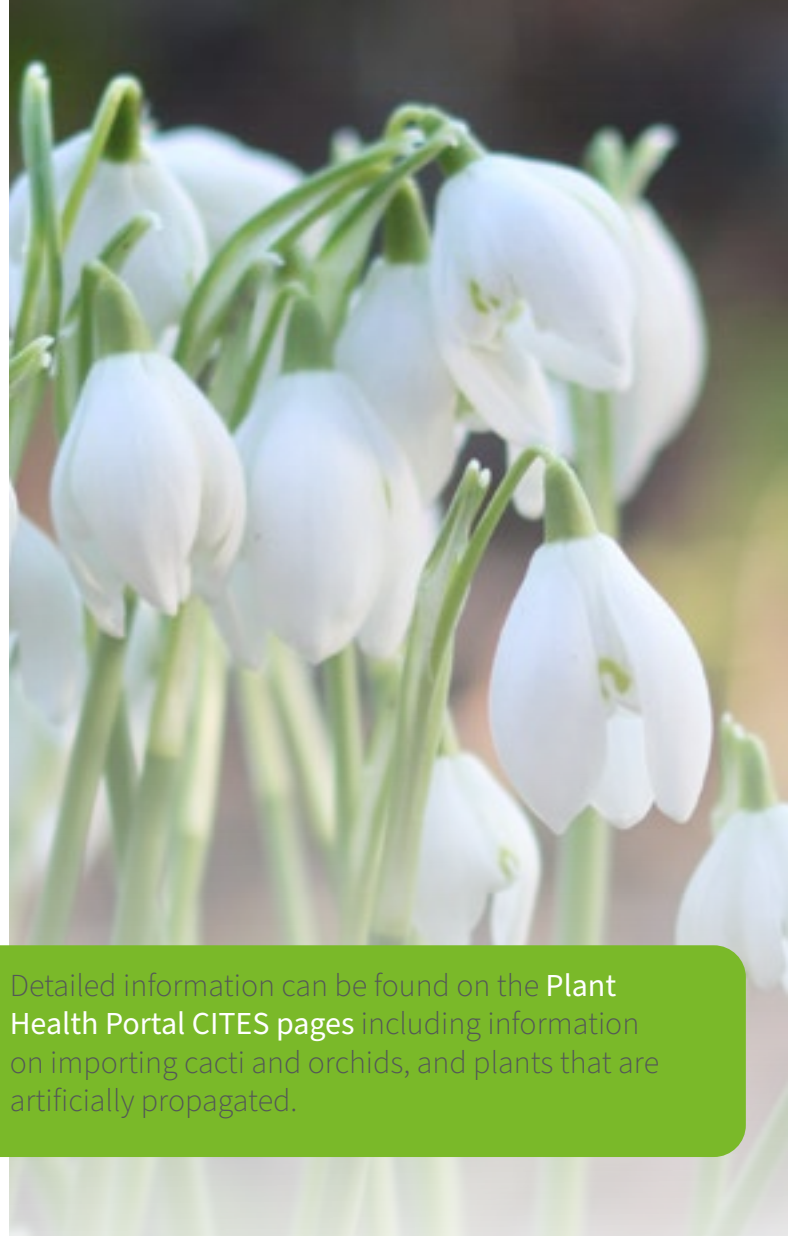
Product carbon footprinting projects

There have been updates on two projects helping to develop carbon life assessments for horticultural products. Firstly, several UK retailers are involved in a project run by the British Retail Consortium in partnership with **Mondra** and have developed and launched a platform to tackle the challenge of consistent carbon reporting across the supply chain, and enable retailers to see the footprint of an individual food item, such as a sandwich or a pint of milk. They are currently focusing on food but will soon be able to move to other fresh produce such as cut flowers and potted plants. The HTA is actively involved in the coalition, as are some producers. They are also exploring options around land-based carbon removals, and whether these can be achieved within the supply chain.

The second project is called **FloriPEFCR** (Flori Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules). FloriPEFCR was developed by Wageningen University and Research, and a Technical Secretariat involving Royal FloraHolland and other organisations. It consists of calculation rules for each category to calculate a product's footprint and specifically covers cut flower and pot plants. The product footprint category rules were ratified in February, and since then development of carbon footprinting tool kits have been underway. There are now two benchmarked tool kits approved for use, the **HortiFootprint Calculator** from MPS/LetsGrow.com and the **FloriFootprint Tool** from Greenhouse Sustainability.

The HTA is linking up the two projects, and Mondra are now investigating how they can incorporate and comply with FloriPEFCR in the future.





CITES permits

If you import species covered under the CITES Convention, then your exporter must have an export permit, and you must have an import permit for each consignment. Information that must be provided to APHA and Defra includes the origin of the species being imported to ensure that endangered species are not being taken from the wild illegally.

Permits can take up to 30 days to arrive and the paperwork must be physically stamped on entry to GB by the haulier at a CITES office (located at most ports).

Species covered by CITES include:

- Aloes (except *Aloe vera*)
- Euphorbiaceae (succulent varieties)
- *Dionaea muscipula*
- Nepenthaceae
- Sarraceniaceae
- Pachypodium
- Galanthus
- Sternbergia
- Cyathea
- Beaucarnea
- Cycadaceae
- *Araucaria araucana*

Detailed information can be found on the [Plant Health Portal CITES pages](#) including information on importing cacti and orchids, and plants that are artificially propagated.

CONTACT US

OHAS membership subscription and HTA membership

If you are a UK-based grower or packhouse, you can become a member of the HTA and, as OHAS is a member benefit, you will not have to pay the OHAS subscription. You can read more about HTA membership [here](#). Please note, HTA membership is not available outside the UK.

Remember that, as detailed in the OHAS Scheme Rules and Operating Procedures, you will NOT be able to book or confirm any NSF audits if your OHAS subscription is unpaid. Your organisation must be an OHAS member to use the logos and describe yourself as 'OHAS certificated'.

To Join OHAS

If you would like to join the Scheme and are not sure where to start, or which Standard best meets your needs, please send your questions or request a call, via email at ohas@hta.org.uk, and our OHAS team will guide you through it.

OHAS Member Toolkit

For all your OHAS template documents and current Standards, go to the member toolkit zone on the HTA website here: [Member Toolkit Zone](#).

OHAS membership and Standards enquiries

For general OHAS enquiries, email us at ohas@hta.org.uk

OHAS audit bookings and enquiries

If you are already an OHAS member, or have joined us recently, and you would like to arrange your audit, please email the Certification Body NSF directly at ohas@nsf.org

Keeping your contact details up to date

Have any of the primary contact details for your business changed (including contact phone number, email address, postal address etc.)? Has a member of your staff who was registered as the contact point with us left, and the details not updated? Please ensure that your contact details or details of the registered contact person are up to date. If you wish to amend any details, please drop us an email with the required amendments to services@hta.org.uk or ohas@hta.org.uk

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