

Plant Passports – An Introduction

Xylella Notice: Please be aware that ALL PLANTS on the EU ‘host list’ for Xylella must be officially inspected and then move with a plant passport.

What are Plant Passports?

If you’re based in the United Kingdom and you’re moving plants or plant products to other businesses in the EU (including within the UK) that can host quarantine pests and diseases, they may need plant passports. They may also need plant passports for movement in Protected Zones.

You can issue plant passports yourself, but you must be authorised by the relevant Government body. In England and Wales the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA); In Scotland the Scottish Executive Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (SERPID) Horticulture and Marketing Unit; and in Northern Ireland the Quality Assurance Branch. Contact details can be found via www.gov.uk.

Check the following lists to find out if a consignment you’re trading in the EU (including within the UK) needs plant passports: PLEASE NOTE THAT IN FUTURE ALL PLANTS FOR PLANTING ARE LIKELY TO REQUIRE A PLANT PASSPORT. THE PRECISE DATE FOR THIS CHANGE IS NOT KNOWN AT FEBRUARY 2018.

- [Plant and products which must have passports for all movements](#) (PDF, 164KB, 3 pages)
- [Plants and seeds which must have passports if you’re selling or moving them to be grown on](#) (PDF, 357KB, 10 pages)
- [Bulbs and corms which must have passports if you're selling them or moving them to be grown on](#) (PDF, 163KB, 1 page)
- [Protected zones, and plants which must have passports in protected zones](#) (PDF, 179KB, 5 pages)
- [New UK protected zones coming into force 1 January 2018](#) (PDF, 190KB, 6 pages)
- [Hosts of Xylella fastidiosa that require a plant passport for all wholesale movement](#)
- [Quarantine pest and disease index](#) (PDF, 256KB, 10 pages)

What do they do, what do they look like, and what information do they contain?

Being authorised to issue plant passports shows that the business has been officially inspected by the plant health authority. Should a plant health problem occur in the trade of passported plants the registration number included on the passport should allow for traceability from the place of origin of the plant.

APHA has produced the example below as to what a plant passport may look like, showing the various permutations for England and Wales. Under the current rules, the plant passport may be included on accompanying paperwork. This requirement may well change in the future, so that it is a stand-alone document.

Revised March 2015 Appendix I

Example plant passport

Delivery Note

BESTPLANTS LTD
Bestwick, England DH3 3SP

*** EU Plant passport UK/EW 12345** **EU Quality** **Delivery week 50**

Invoice No. 56789
Date 17/10/09

Deliver to:
ABC Nurseries,
Blackdon,
Blexshire,
BL43 8QT

EU Plant passport statement:
Required when marketing any plant genera covered by plant passport requirements.

Delivery week or batch number:
Used to identify/ trace consignments.

EU Marketing Directive statement:
Required when marketing any ornamental propagation material as well as fruit and vegetable plants covered by the relevant EU Marketing regulations.

Botanical name:
All genera covered by the plant passport requirements must be described by their botanical name.

Botanical name:
All genera covered by the EU Marketing Directives must be described by their botanical name.

Replacement plant passport code (RP Code):
A unique letter or number code to indicate the original supplier of passported plants.

RP Code	Quantity	Plant Name	Botanical Name	Notes	RP Code
100	100	Gerbera 'Red Glow'	<i>(Gerbera jamesonii)</i>	seedlings	RP D
100	100	Polyanthus 'Golden Forest Flame'	<i>(Primula polyantha)</i>	seedlings	RP C
100	100	Poinsettia 'Spotlight Dark Red Fandago'	<i>(Euphorbia pulcherrima)</i>	rooted cuttings	RP A
100	100	Geranium 'Scarlet'	<i>(Pelargonium x hortorum)</i>	seedlings	
100	100	Marguerite 'Lemon'	<i>(Argyranthemum frutescens)</i>	rooted cuttings	
100	100	Ivy 'Gold'	<i>(Hedera helix)</i>	rooted cuttings	Country of origin: Kenya PQS/234/123
100	100	Carnation 'P...	<i>(Dianthus caryophyllus)</i>	seedlings	

Quantity:
The number of passported plants of each genera/ cultivar within the consignment.

Protected Zone (ZP) statement:
Information relating to the eligibility of specific plant passported genera to move into and within specified EU protected zones e.g. Zpa2 indicates that Poinsettia propagation material has met the relevant requirement for movement into and within the UK Bemisia tabaci protected zone. If relevant seek advice from your local PHSI.

Country of origin:
All propagation genera imported from outside the EU and despatched without further growing-on must display its original country of origin. The phytosanitary certificate number must also be included, or be readily available from the approved importer's records.

The following details must be included on plant passports:

- the phrase 'EU Plant Passport'
- 'UK' to show that the plants were grown in the UK or imported into the UK
- 'EW' (this is the code for APHA applicable in England and Wales)
- your unique APHA registration number and an individual serial, week, batch or invoice number
- the botanical name of the plant or plants
- the quantity in the consignment
- the letters 'ZP' and a protected zone code if you're moving consignments in [EU protected zones](#) (PDF, 243KB, 5 pages)
- the letters 'RP' if it's a replacement plant passport
- the country of origin of the consignment, if it's originally come from a non-EU country

How does a Business become authorised to issue plant passports?

After you apply for authorisation, the relevant plant health authority will inspect your site. They'll do this between 2 and 4 times per year, depending on your business's risk to plant health. This is a chargeable service.

In certain situations, in England and Wales, you may be eligible to receive one chargeable visit from an inspector per year. This is referred to as 'single visit status'. You'll have to meet set criteria; which includes short term cropping, re-passporting only, or if you are a very small trader. The inspector will apply for this status on your behalf to the 'Technical Manager for Plant Passporting' and will advise you of the outcome.

Inspectors will:

- interview you or the person responsible for plant passports at your site
- audit your records
- inspect host plants and sample them to make sure they're free from pests or diseases that could make trading in the EU a plant health risk
- give you or the person responsible an update on the latest plant quarantine pest and disease risks

They'll then discuss test results and any issues they find at your site.

If they're satisfied your site doesn't pose a risk to plant health, they'll approve your authorisation.

Are there special rules for *Xylella fastidiosa* host plants?

All plants on the EU 'host list' must be officially inspected and then move with a plant passport.

To further strengthen the emergency measures the EU has enacted additional requirement to help to combat the threat from *Xylella fastidiosa*. These measures include a new requirement, in force from 1 March 2018, that, in order to be plant passported, high priority hosts of the disease (*Coffea*, *Lavandula dentata*, *Nerium oleander*, *Olea europaea*, *Polygala myrtifolia* and *Prunus dulcis*) must come from a site where the official inspection includes systematic testing using a prescribed sampling procedure.

Do I have to keep records of Plant Passports?

If you are trading commercially in plants and plant products you must keep records of the following for 1 year:

- all plant passports that you issue or receive
- a record of any plant propagating material you buy or sell
- a record of any mixing you did during packaging, storage, transport or delivery

Your records must allow the Plant Health Authority to investigate any pest or disease outbreaks.

If a supplier sends you a plant passport in the form of a label, you must keep the label. If this is impossible, eg because the label is glued to a tray, write the details into a manual or save them in a file on your computer.

In most cases you do not need to issue plant passports or keep records of sales to the final consumer. As an example, a Garden Centre (or other commercial business, eg a landscaper) receiving plants requiring plant passports will need to keep a record of the plant passports they receive. At present they do not have to issue a plant passport to their customer or keep a record of that customer.

As part of the EU emergency measures for *Xylella fastidiosa*, records of plant passports accompanying the high priority hosts of the disease (*Coffea*, *Lavandula dentata*, *Nerium oleander*, *Olea europaea*, *Polygala myrtifolia* and *Prunus dulcis*) must be kept for **3 years**.

(February 2018)