

Plant Passports

Factsheet

UK plant passport (PPs) are official labels that serve two main functions
Traceability – To make sure any disease/pest/quality concerns with any plant commodities can be traced back to the source

Assurance – Gives the purchaser assurance that the plant commodity was grown and treated to meet Great British (GB) specific health standards

PP Information must be stored for a minimum of 3 years (even if replaced) and UK PPs are not valid outside the UK whilst EU PPs aren't valid in the UK as of 2021.



Why passport?

As all plants for planting are now passported, a proactive approach can be taken to plant health and pest threats to industry and the environment can be tackled as they emerge. PPs ensure that plants and plant products are traced throughout the supply chain and declare compliance with plant health requirements such as freedom from pests, which is essential for maintaining biosecurity.

Are you a Professional Operator?

To be able to issue PPs you must first find out whether you are a Professional Operator (PO). If you do any of these activities, you are likely to be a professional operator for the purposes of the Plant Health regulations (PHR) and must register as a Professional Operator [here](#).

- Have a website where you trade plants;
- Have a price list;
- Paid for a service you provide;
- Regularly trade plants or plant products with a view to make profit;
- Have a social media account devoted to trading of plants or plant products;
- Supply professional operators, e.g. professional gardeners, landscapers or breeders;
- Are set up to regularly conclude distance contracts, e.g. you advertise how you take payments.

Do I need to issue Plant Passports?

If you sell plants to other businesses or operate online you **WILL** need to issue a Plant Passport with your products. If you sell direct to customers e.g. as a Garden Centre then you are **NOT** required to issue Plant Passports, though you will still need to register as a Professional Operator.

You will also need to issue your own new PPs with a new country of origin (GB) if you grow-on plants that already had PPs or PCs in any of the following ways:

- potted, re-potted, grafted or rooted
- in active growth under protection for at least 2 weeks
- in active growth outside for at least 4 weeks
- subject to infestation by a quarantine organism, e.g. in an area subject to statutory notice
- To register to issue Plant Passports please follow this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plant-passports-application>



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What does it cover?

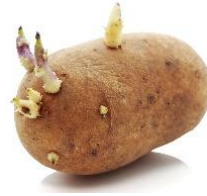
UK PPs cover the following, a full list can be found [here](#)



Plants for planting
(inc. cuttings, aquatic plants, turf and potted herbs)



Some seeds
(mainly food seed many seeds exempt)



Seed Potatoes



Wood and products from key species
(inc. brush, stumps, chips, sawdust)



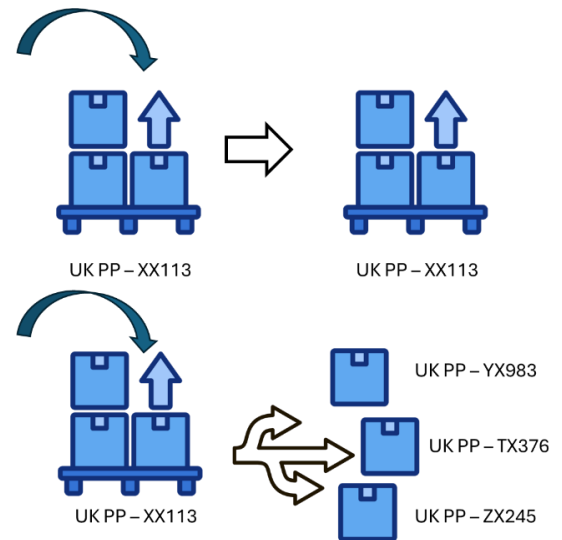
Isolated Bark
(alone or mixed from conifer, sweet chestnut, walnut and wingnut)

If you are working with **fruit, cut flowers, ware potatoes** and other **exempt seeds**, inside the UK, you won't need a PP, though you may still need to register as a Professional Operator and will require a 'Phytosanitary Certificate' (PC) for export outside GB. For further confirmation of when you do need to use UK PPs try the handy decision flow charts [here](#)

PPs are assigned to consignments of plant products rather than individual plants.

Plant Passport requirements within the UK

- Where you are an operator, buying from another operator who has already issued a UK PP, as long as you aren't splitting the consignment, these do not require a new PPs as they remain traceable. If you split, you will need to authorise new UK PPs for consignments and keep records of the old PPs.
- Selling at a distance, online/mail order etc, you are required to provide or issue PPs as part of the sale. This needs to be attached to the smallest traceable unit. Many retailers also issue the PP number on their invoices, though this is optional. Smaller online businesses can use the original UK PP of the source if the phytosanitary status hasn't changed. Otherwise, they must register to issue a new one.
- If you a business with 2 or more premises more than 10 miles apart and are moving plants between these premises (e.g between a nursery and garden centre), you will require plants/consignments to be issued a PP for traceability.
- There are special PFA PPs for plants that host PFA pests. For GB this relates to Oak Processionary Moth and areas of Scotland in relation to certain pests of Abies, Larix, Picea, Pinus and Pseudotsuga
- Auction sold plants require PPs unless marked 'retail sale only' whilst plants at shows require PPs for all aspects other than exhibitor movement to the event
- Further guidance can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/issuing-plant-passports-to-trade-plants-in-great-britain>



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Plant Passport requirements when importing plants

All imported plants come in with a 'Phytosanitary Certificate' (PC) issued by the country of dispatch. You will need to then issue a PP if you want to:

- Move >10 miles
- Sell to final users online or at distance
- sell to another operator
- the plants have been grown-on

If you plan to export out of the UK contact APHA at planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk for further guidance.

Example of acceptable Plant Passport:

UK Plant Passport	- This text is required and differs in PFA PPS
A [Botanical Name]	- Full genus and species unless species not known
B [Registration Number]	- Individual operator ID number – Edemero No.
C [Traceability Code]	- Serial/week/batch/invoice number to trace back to the unit it was issued at
D [Country of Origin]	- 2-Letter code of the country (E.g. GB for Great Britain)
E [GB(NI)]	- <i>If replacing EU PPs from Northern Ireland for certain QNIGs (Qualifying Northern Ireland Goods)</i>

Note :

- Section E only required if plants are imported from NI.
- Some key host-risk plants must be grown-on for a minimum of a year, before the operator can replace the origin in a UK PP to be GB specific, in part D of the PP.

Costs to operators and growers (All prices correct at time of writing and are subject to change)

1. **Authorization:**
[Registering through the eDomero](#) system is free, while submitting the APHA [AppAuth form](#) costs **£20.66**
2. **Importing:**
 - [Fees non-UK imports](#) - flat inspection fee of **£32.15 + £1.57** identity check
 - If importing directly isn't feasible, or is considered too complicated, growers can use **trusted wholesalers, plant brokers, trade associations, or verified online plant marketplaces**. APHA databases and reputable nurseries can help identify reliable sources.
3. **Exporting and Re-exporting:**



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- [Applications for plant export services](#) require inspection fees: **£127.60** for the first 30 minutes and **£63.80** for each additional 15 minutes. Inspections cover on-site activities, with some plants needing annual or seasonal inspections.
4. **Phytosanitary Certificates:**
- A phytosanitary certificate costs **£25.52** per consignment, with amendments at **£15.76**. Lab testing costs **£33.56** per sample. Online forms are free; paper forms incur a **£15.76** processing fee.
 - Reduced rates of 50% are available for exporters meeting specific criteria (e.g., VAT-exempt goods, exports under £5,000 in the last financial year. If exporting then the Concessionary Rate Form must be submitted before the export application).
5. **Seasonal Trading:** Growers trading seasonally can pause export service involvement to avoid audits during off-seasons.

Key Points

- UK Plant Passports track movement inside the UK and assure quality
- Any individual making profit surrounding plant products will need to be registered as a Professional Operator.
- As a Professional Operator if you are selling to other businesses or online then you will be required to register and issue Plant Passports
- Full lists of involved and exempt plant products can be found online
- Passports help keep industries and environments safe from costly pests and diseases
- Products that already have plant passports will need new ones if they are grown-on or separated from their original consignment batches
- There are various costs associated with inspection and auditing where plants are imported and exported

Resources

Many key resources are linked throughout this document for further information email planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk also see the online [e-learning](#).

Plant Health Portal <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/>

Plant Passport FAQ <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/trade/plant-passports/plant-passport-faq/>

Gov.uk webpage on plant passporting <https://www.gov.uk/environment/producing-distributing-food-crops-horticulture>

Guidance on being a Professional Operator <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/plant-passports/am-i-a-professional-operator/>



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