

Policy Statement:

At **Hedging Plants Direct** we are committed to maintaining high standards of biosecurity to protect the health and well-being of our plants, customers, staff, and the environment. This biosecurity policy outlines the measures we will implement to prevent the introduction and spread of pests, diseases, and invasive species within our nursery and beyond. By adhering to this policy, we aim to minimize the risks associated with biosecurity and ensure a sustainable and resilient plant production system.

Risk Assessment:

We will conduct regular risk assessments to identify potential biosecurity risks associated with our nursery operations. This includes evaluating the likelihood and potential impacts of pests, diseases, and invasive species that could affect our plants, neighbouring environments, and wider horticultural industry.

Plant Sourcing and Quarantine:

We will source plants from reputable suppliers with a strong emphasis on biosecurity and ensure they meet our stringent standards. Incoming plants will be subject to quarantine measures to detect and prevent the introduction of pests and diseases. Quarantine areas will be designated and maintained in line with industry best practices, ensuring proper isolation, monitoring, and appropriate treatment or disposal of potentially infected or infested plants.

Nursery Hygiene:

We will implement strict hygiene practices to minimize the risk of contamination within our nursery. These practices include, but are not limited to:

- a. Regular cleaning and disinfection of tools, equipment, and surfaces.
- b. Personal hygiene protocols for staff, including handwashing, the use of gloves, and appropriate protective clothing.
- c. Controlled access to nursery areas, limiting entry to authorized personnel only.
- d. Proper waste management to prevent the spread of pests and diseases.

Plant Health Monitoring:

We will establish a robust plant health monitoring program to detect any signs of pests or diseases promptly. This includes routine inspections of plants, monitoring traps, and implementing surveillance systems. Any unusual or suspicious symptoms will be reported and responded to promptly following established protocols and guidance from relevant authorities.

Staff Training and Awareness:

All staff members will receive comprehensive training on biosecurity measures and their roles in maintaining biosecurity within the nursery. This training will cover topics such as pest and disease recognition, hygiene practices, and the importance of early detection and reporting. We will promote a culture of biosecurity awareness and encourage staff to report any concerns or observations related to plant health.

Pest and Disease Response:

In the event of a pest or disease outbreak, we will have appropriate response plans in place to minimize the impact and prevent further spread. These plans will outline procedures for containment, treatment, communication, and collaboration with relevant authorities and industry stakeholders.

Collaboration and Compliance:

We will actively engage with relevant regulatory agencies, industry associations, and fellow nurseries to stay updated on the latest biosecurity practices, regulations, and developments. We will comply with all relevant legislation and follow recommended best practices to enhance biosecurity in our nursery.

Review and Improvement:

This biosecurity policy will be regularly reviewed, updated, and communicated to all staff members. We will continually seek opportunities for improvement, incorporating new knowledge, technologies, and feedback from staff and stakeholders to ensure the effectiveness of our biosecurity measures.

By implementing this biosecurity policy, we aim to safeguard the health of our plants, customers, and the environment, contributing to a sustainable and resilient nursery industry in the UK.



William Bodsworth
Director
Hedging Plants Direct
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