

Plant Health Strategy for England



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Published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
Printed in the UK, August 2005, on recycled material containing
80% post-consumer waste and 20% totally chlorine free virgin pulp.

PB 11158

1. Introduction

This strategy has three key objectives:

- To establish a set of high level objectives and priorities for protecting plant health in England.
- To establish the relative roles of government and other stakeholders in delivery of these objectives.
- To organise the activities relevant to plant health (including research) of Defra and in its executive agencies and other bodies so that the work is co-ordinated to deliver plant health objectives efficiently.

It is not the intention of this strategy to change existing basic policy for plant health. In particular there is a well established framework of domestic and international legislation¹ and wider international agreements² which Defra will continue to work within. It should also be noted that this strategy covers only England, although the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are considering the development of parallel strategies for plant health. This strategy also does not cover forestry which is the responsibility of the Forestry Commission.

2. Why protect plant health?

Plant pests are insects, other invertebrates, bacteria, fungi, viruses and other pathogens which affect the health of cultivated or wild plants by feeding on them or causing disease. Plant pests generally pose no direct risk to humans or animals.

Defra's strategic priorities published in our 5 year strategy, Delivering the Essentials of Life, on 8 December 2004³ include:

Protecting the countryside and natural resource protection

Creating a robust policy framework and evidence base in order to promote the sustainable use and enhancement of the country's natural heritage and ecosystems

- Protect and enhance the natural environment, now and for future generations, and establish a robust framework for future development decisions that respect environmental constraints.
- More and better access to the natural environment for recreation, especially for those who find it difficult to enjoy the health and well being benefits which access to nature can bring.
- Good water quality and a good water environment, with a sustainable balance between water supply and demand.

¹ Council Directive 2000/29/EC of 8 May 2000 (OJ No L169, 10.7.2000, p.1-112) as amended and the Plant Health (Great Britain) Order 1993 (as amended)

² The International Plant Protection Convention

³ Cm 6411 can be obtained from The Stationery Office (ISBN 0101641125)

Sustainable Farming and Food, including Animal Health and Welfare

Helping to create a sustainable food and farming supply chain serving the market and the environment; putting in place systems to reduce risks of animal diseases, and being ready to control them when they occur

- More customer focused, competitive and sustainable farming.
- More competitive and sustainable food industry.
- Further CAP reform.
- Animal health and the welfare of kept animals improved, and society, the economy and the environment protected from the impact of animal diseases, through sharing the management of risk with industry.

Plant health is relevant to these priorities in a number of ways:

Protecting the countryside and natural resource protection:

- Some plant pests have the capacity to damage the natural environment directly.
- Measures to eradicate or manage plant pests have a potential environmental impact.

Sustainable Farming and Food:

- Plant pests can reduce yield and/ or marketability of produce and have costs, both financial and environmental, associated with their eradication or management.
- Facilitating the export of products by conforming to agreed EC and wider international trade plant health requirements.
- Ensuring that EC and wider international plant health measures are based on sound science, are proportionate and do not interfere unnecessarily with trade.

3. The existing framework

Most plant pests are not regulated by government and can be called '**non-quarantine pests**'. There are two categories of plant pests which are directly subject to regulation: '**quarantine pests**' and '**regulated non-quarantine pests**'.

For **non-quarantine pests** farmers, growers and gardeners can choose how they manage them using a variety of methods.

This may include the use of pesticides. Pesticides themselves are subject to a range of legislation and guidance covering their sale, supply, storage, advertisement and use. In addition the Government has, for many years, operated a policy of pesticides 'minimisation', a set of non-statutory measures to help and encourage users to reduce to a minimum the impact of pesticides on the environment consistent with the requirements of crop protection. More recently a draft National Strategy for the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products⁴ has been developed with the aim of integrating all existing schemes and policies and the production of action plans to deal with specific areas.

Quarantine pests, according to an internationally agreed definition, are pests of potential economic or environmental importance to an area, which are not present there or which, if present, are not widespread, and are being officially controlled⁵. Action to exclude, contain or eradicate them is co-ordinated across the European Community through Council Directive 2000/29/EC (as amended) which sets out the restrictions and protective measures through official controls and restrictions on the import, movement and keeping of plants, plant pests and other material. The Plant Health (Great Britain) Order 1993 (as amended) implements these controls.

The decision on whether a pest is a potential quarantine pest is taken on the basis of a 'Pest Risk Analysis' or PRA. PRAs may range from a simple expert judgment to a detailed scientific review which puts figures on the risks, and the costs and benefits of different ways of managing those risks. Under international trade rules any measures which regulate imports must be justified by a PRA written according to international standards. To add an organism to the listed quarantine pests, or remove one, requires the agreement of the EC's Plant Health Committee, on which all Member States are represented. Member States are free to take emergency measures while possible EC measures are being discussed.

Some pests which are widely established, and which therefore do not qualify as quarantine pests, are nevertheless prohibited or only permitted within a certain tolerance on planting material such as certified seed potatoes, seeds and certain ornamental, vegetable and fruit plants. These may be referred to as **regulated non-quarantine pests**. For seeds it is specified that all harmful organisms must be at the lowest possible level.

It is also possible under the requirements of The Seeds (National Lists of Varieties) Regulations 2001 that the marketing of a plant variety can be prohibited on the grounds that cultivation could be harmful in relation to plant health, to the cultivation of other varieties or species and there is an imminent danger of the spread of harmful organisms.

Even if organisms are not quarantine or regulated non-quarantine pests it is still an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to release or allow to escape into the wild any animal which is of a kind which is not ordinarily resident in and is not a regular visitor to Great Britain in a wild state.

⁴ available on the PSD website www.pesticides.gov.uk

⁵ The International Plant Protection Convention

4. Strategic outcomes

Within this existing framework a number of strategic outcomes can be established.

- 4.1 That action taken against plant pests is proportionate to the risk they are considered to pose, recognising that on occasions, in the absence of sufficient scientific information about the risk, a precautionary approach might be necessary. In particular:
 - decisions on whether a particular plant pest should be a quarantine, regulated non-quarantine or non-quarantine pest should be based on appropriate evidence and taken in a transparent way.
 - the status of plant pests should be kept under review and where transitions between quarantine, regulated non-quarantine or non-quarantine status are necessary these are managed and communicated effectively.
- 4.2 That the impact on the environment is minimised from both the effects of plant pests and any control measures that are used. In particular plant health quarantine work should (continue to) play a full role in reducing the need for the use of chemical control methods.
- 4.3 That trade is facilitated by ensuring exports comply with agreed international standards and that any requirements imposed on imports are the minimum deemed necessary to achieve plant health objectives.

5. Working together

The first line of responsibility for plant health must rest with those who directly manage plants and plant products including growers, exporters, importers, wholesalers and retail traders. In many cases there is a clear commercial interest in maintaining healthy plants in terms of yield and marketability, costs of control or in the recreational value of the plants concerned. Anybody undertaking an activity that can present a risk to plant health, in particular movement of plant material and possibly with it plant pests should carefully consider the plant health implications and take appropriate action to manage that risk. This might include deciding not to undertake that activity at all.

However, there is also a role for government in provision of information and education so that informed decisions can be taken by those managing plants in order to fulfil these responsibilities, particularly when the information is only available through official channels.

Official involvement is also required where official controls are specified in legislation or international agreements, for activities such as eradication and containment which cannot be carried out effectively without official powers and for environmental objectives where responsibilities are more difficult to place and economic issues more difficult to quantify. Even in these cases co-operation is key to success.

While the owners of plants bear the direct cost of action required of them to control and eradicate plant pests and diseases, the Government is keen to encourage the development of risk sharing within the industry in order to reduce the financial risks of individual businesses. Discussions are taking place with representative organisations to help them to prepare proposals.

6. Delivery

To achieve the strategic outcomes set out in Section 4 within the existing framework the activities of Defra can be organised into three main areas, those aimed at preventing the entry of certain plant pests, those aimed at containing, eradicating or the management of plant pests that are present and those aimed at facilitating trade.

6.1 Preventing the introduction of certain plant pests into areas where they are not already present

6.1.1 The first line of responsibility must rest with those who are carrying out activities that could lead to the introduction of plant pests, mainly imports of plant material. This responsibility needs to be understood and appropriate information and advice made available so that decisions can be made on a well-informed basis. To achieve this Defra will:

- Develop a communications strategy for plant health issues to cover both co-ordination of official communications and the role of external stakeholders.
- Re-inforce the need for and benefits of plant health controls wherever possible.
- Continue to provide information on plant health requirements and current issues on the Defra website, in leaflets, posters and other forms, recognising the time constraints on the intended recipients.
- Make the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectors Handbook available to all on the Defra website.
- Continue to keep all publicity material under regular review, seeking feedback on whether it can be improved and better targeted.
- Work together with stakeholder groups and trade bodies in specific sectors to disseminate plant health information including the development of a network of interested associations and groups prepared to cascade plant health information.
- Advertise where sources of plant health information are available.
- Pursue the development of industry codes of practice on plant health issues.
- Consider with relevant organisations whether the plant health elements of crop assurance protocols can be strengthened, if possible in conjunction with a current Defra-funded project on utilising the Assured Produce Scheme for technology transfer activities.
- Continue to work closely with those subject to inspections to improve their understanding of plant health issues, for example giving short, informal pre-season (prior to the start of any particular production cycle) talks to relevant staff and during inspections engaging with those whose plants or premises are being inspected.
- Continue to provide advice on plant health risks, particularly to importers, and how these might be avoided or reduced.

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- Continue and develop a programme of seminars and meetings dealing with specific sectors.
- Examine the possibility of working with organisations offering plant based educational courses to include a specific plant health element including the development of teaching materials.
- Consider the combination of inspectorate and industry training.
- Examine whether those participating in plant health training should be eligible for, for example, BASIS points.

Strategic objective 1 – Develop a communications strategy for plant health issues to cover both co-ordination of official communications and the role of external stakeholders by end 2005.

Strategic objective 2 – Review the plant health elements of crop assurance protocols with the relevant organisations by end March 2007.

6.1.2 Defra will continue to work to ensure that EC rules are based on sound scientific evidence, that international standards on the preparation of Pest Risk Analyses are followed and that the status of plant pests under EC rules are regularly reviewed, recognising that on occasions rules which may not be directly applicable to the UK need to be implemented in order to protect our EC partners and vice versa. To be fully effective in international negotiations Defra will continue to field delegations with both policy and scientific expertise in order that both the technical case can be made, defended or challenged and the wider political implications can be accounted for in setting and achieving negotiating objectives. Defra will also argue that, for plant health, risk analysis and the identification of management options remain closely integrated as the most effective approach for delivering results particularly given the relatively small size of official bodies in this area.

Defra will normally consult with stakeholders on proposed decisions and make available the supporting evidence to inform the consultation, usually in the form of a Pest Risk Analysis published on our website.

- 6.1.3 Where there are agreed EC rules Defra will continue to implement these rules as required. This will include import inspections, covering both controlled and a proportion of non-controlled produce, and a programme of quarantine surveillance inspections.
- 6.1.4 To ensure that plant health inspections do not place an unwarranted burden on those subject to inspection Defra will, where appropriate and meeting the relevant legislative requirements, minimise the number of inspections required where a low risk is identified and sufficient evidence is available to support this, including statistical advice about sampling. Defra will continue to set out and publish service standards for inspections so that it is clear what standards can be expected and will work together with importers to ensure that timely information is available about when inspections

will be needed and that suitable access arrangements are made. Account will also be taken of broader initiatives for better regulation, inspection and enforcement where these apply to plant health activities. These initiatives will include those outlined in Defra's 5 Year Strategy, and those resulting from the Better Regulation Task Force report – Less is More and The Hampton Review – Reducing administrative burdens: effective inspection and enforcement.

Strategic objective 3 – Review and publish service standards for inspection by end March 2006.

- 6.1.5 Defra will continue to apply a charging regime on the basis that the costs should be recovered from those who receive a service. Charges will be made according to Defra policy.
- 6.1.6 Defra will continue to support work on the development of rapid and accurate diagnostic methods. Defra will aim to develop and use 'on the spot' techniques where possible and otherwise deal with samples within the stated service standard times (see Section 7 on Science).
- 6.1.7 Where appropriate, in particular if there are persistent interceptions in material from certain sources, Defra will work with exporting bodies to ensure material is free of pests and diseases before being transported. This will include the provision of advice and support to missions by the European Commission to third countries, including training. Defra will also work together with the Department for International Development where plant health issues relate to developing countries, in particular Africa.
- 6.1.8 In order to be prepared for new threats Defra will continue to examine emerging and developing pest occurrences elsewhere in the world and consider how these might impact in the UK. As part of this horizon scanning Defra will consider the impact of changes such as the increasing globalisation of trade, climate change, changes in pesticide use and availability, the potential impact of pesticide minimisation programmes in other countries and possible bioterrorism, as well as what gaps exist in our knowledge (including diagnostic and control methods) and how these might be filled. Inspection of non-controlled produce and quarantine surveillance inspections will further inform this process.
- 6.1.9 Defra will continue to work closely with devolved administrations where issues are relevant outside England both as formally set out in the relevant concordats and informal contacts as appropriate.
- 6.1.10 Where issues involve both trees and other plants Defra will continue to work closely with the Forestry Commission to ensure that any action taken is effective.
- 6.1.11 On occasions organisms are identified during the course of a plant health inspection that do not have plant health implications but may, for example, have implications for human health or be potentially illegal under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Defra will continue to work to clarify responsibilities in these circumstances including through proposed changes to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and development of a mechanism further to co-ordinate action on non-native species following a review of non-native species policy published in March 2003.

6.2 Containing, eradicating or managing plant pests that are present

6.2.1 Where quarantine pests are found away from points of entry the first action will be containment to prevent further spread pending decisions on eradication. In order to ensure that these actions are taken promptly and in a coherent way Defra will systematically publish contingency plans for certain specific pests together with a more general plan. Defra will review these plans in collaboration with all partners including emergency planning teams, Government Offices, devolved administrations and external stakeholders. As well as specific instructions to staff in the field these plans will include escalation procedures, potential impact on other work, a common approach agreed with other bodies, what agreed actions should be taken by different industry sectors and communication plans. As part of the contingency planning process the need to maintain appropriate expertise and a scientific base to respond to new threats will also be considered (see also Section 7 on Science) as well as potential gaps in pest control methods.

Strategic objective 4 – Review and publish a general contingency plan for managing quarantine pest outbreaks by end of 2005.

- 6.2.2 Where a new organism not listed as a quarantine pest is identified Defra will continue to prepare a Pest Risk Analysis to agreed international standards. Where action is envisaged Defra will normally consult with stakeholders on the action envisaged and make available the supporting evidence, usually in the form of a draft Pest Risk Analysis published on the website. Defra will consider how to further develop and apply expertise to deal with cost benefit issues, including preparation of regulatory impact analysis. Where repeated or sustained statutory action is taken or envisaged Defra will propose the pest be included in the EC Plant Health Directive 2000/29.
- 6.2.3 Identification of outbreaks cannot rely on official inspectors alone and there is a shared responsibility with those managing plants and plant products (see Section 5). For wider environmental threats Defra will also examine the possibility of training volunteers to look for pest outbreaks; particularly people who are already seeing large numbers of plants as part of their work or other voluntary activities. The availability of more diagnostic tools for use in the field may help with this development. Where a potential outbreak is notified Defra will feed back the outcome to those making the notification.
- 6.2.4 The Plant Health Service will continue to work closely with the pesticides approvals authorities to discuss control needs for quarantine work, including the identification of potential future gaps and scope within the pesticides legislation. Options will include specific off label approvals for application only under official plant health notice, emergency approvals and contingency approvals that can be rapidly activated.

- 6.2.5 The Plant Health Service will also continue to work closely with waste management colleagues to ensure that appropriate methods are available for disposal of material that has to be destroyed as part of containment and eradication activities. Alternative methods to burning or burying, such as effective composting, will continue to be examined.
- 6.2.6 Defra will periodically review all containment and eradication activities to establish that they continue to be proportionate to the risk involved, do not continue for longer than is necessary and that their impact is not greater than the potential damage caused by the pest.
- 6.2.7 Defra will set out the principles for exit strategies which will be followed if a pest is not being effectively contained or eradicated to ensure that there is a smooth and transparent withdrawal from quarantine status and hand over to industry. Based on these principles Defra will prepare specific exit strategies for pests where action is being taken. Exit strategies will address issues including:
- Points at which the action in place will be reviewed, such as the number of outbreaks, availability of effective control measures and international developments.
 - Possible transition measures such as certification arrangements as a regulated non-quarantine pest.
 - Mechanisms for transfer of information gained by the Plant Health Service, including that on epidemiology and control techniques, to the industry.
 - Communication and interaction with stakeholders so that any withdrawal from quarantine status is clear.
 - Mechanisms to avoid continued official action inhibiting research and the introduction of control measures.

Strategic objective 5 – Defra will set out the principles to be followed if a pest is not being effectively contained or eradicated to ensure that there is a smooth and transparent withdrawal from quarantine status and hand over to industry by end March 2006.

- 6.2.8 Defra will conduct a lessons learned exercise on the management of all major quarantine pest outbreaks, which will include a cost benefit analysis.
- 6.2.9 Management of non-quarantine pests will remain the responsibility of farmers, growers and gardeners using appropriate methods, which may include the use of pesticides. A National Strategy for the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products is being developed. Action Plans are intended to be prepared as part of the strategy and are proposed to include, amongst others, availability of effective pest management methods including alternatives to chemical pest control and targeted use reduction. Defra funds strategic research and development on management methods and supports mechanisms to bring this research to a point where it has practical application. See also Section 7 on Science.

6.2.10 In addition to specific measures to maintain expertise and a wider understanding of quarantine plant pests (see Section 6.1.1 and Section 7) a more general skills shortage in relation to plant health, in particular for pest diagnosis and advice has been identified which is relevant to both quarantine and non-quarantine pests, particularly with pressure to move to sustainable production for which a high level of skills and knowledge is required. Defra will continue to participate in discussions and initiatives on this issue including international initiatives at EC and EPPO (the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation, an intergovernmental organisation responsible for European cooperation in plant health) level and consider what measures might be necessary to address this.

6.3 Facilitating trade

In order that certain products can be marketed it is necessary for official inspection to be carried out and certification to accompany consignments. For some products certification will require an official inspection and in some cases laboratory testing may be needed. Without this procedure trade would not be permitted under international rules. In order to facilitate trade Defra will:

- 6.3.1 Continue to inspect, test and certify material for export to third countries as required by international agreements (the International Plant Protection Convention and World Trade Organisation Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement) in order to meet importing countries plant health requirements.
- 6.3.2 Continue to operate the EC plant passporting scheme as required by EC rules.
- 6.3.3 Continue to publish information and provide advice on import and export requirements.
- 6.3.4 Continue to apply a charging regime to ensure that the cost of providing this service is recovered and that the work carried out is done in the most efficient way.
- 6.3.5 Continue to operate the statutory Seed Potato Classification Scheme and seed certification schemes as required by EC rules.
- 6.3.6 Review, with appropriate consultation, the voluntary Plant Health Propagation Scheme to establish the cost and benefits of this scheme. The review will establish the extent to which this scheme promotes the availability of healthy planting material, how it relates to quarantine requirements, how far this scheme contributes to the minimisation of the use of pesticides by guaranteeing healthy planting material, whether in this context there is scope for increasing the range of the scheme and the extent to which official involvement is required.

Strategic objective 6 – Review, with appropriate consultation, the voluntary Plant Health Propagation Scheme to establish the cost and benefits of this scheme by end March 2006.

7. Science

- 7.1 A strong scientific base is critical to successful plant health outcomes. Decisions need to be taken and promoted on the basis of good evidence and the most effective management methods employed with as low an impact on the environment as possible. To support trade our plant health controls need to have credibility both in terms of facilitating exports and, if necessary, to challenge barriers to potential exports.
- 7.2 Scientific activity in the plant health quarantine area can be organised into research and development and direct support to the development of policy, in particular to ensure that actions taken are proportionate to the risks.

Direct support activity includes:

- pest diagnosis.
- preparation of Pest Risk Analyses.
- advice on control methods.
- horizon scanning.
- contingency planning.
- data analysis of interceptions.
- scientific inputs into international discussions and development of international standards and protocols.
- input into interdepartmental activities including those on bio-terrorism and foresight.

supported by applied research including:

- the development of diagnostic methodology.
- support to Pest Risk Analysis, including development of cost benefit analysis.

Defra recognises the importance of having those providing the scientific advice also engaged directly in the research and the need to maintain a critical mass of expertise in each of the pest disciplines. It is also important that these experts are able to react rapidly to new pest problems that arise, if necessary by diverting resources from one activity to another. In these areas the Plant Health Service will continue to stress the importance of the underpinning research through the Defra research priorities mechanisms, in particular through the development of Defra's Evidence and Innovation Strategy 2005 to 2008. The Plant Health Service will also feed into the review process of Defra's Scientific Agencies and be more explicit about the maintenance of a critical mass of strategic skills as part of the rationale for research spending in the plant health quarantine area.

- 7.3 Defra will also work to strengthen further international links through co-operation on both research and laboratory services and will further develop and/or promote quality assurance schemes for plant health quarantine laboratory work.

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Strategic objective 7 – Develop and/or promote quality assurance schemes for plant health laboratory work by end 2006.

7.4 Defra funds significant strategic research on crop protection issues including pest forecasting, control methods and targeting and alternatives to chemical pesticides which are all related. Defra will consider the value in organising an overview of this work as a whole, in particular in the context of minimising the use of pesticides. The balance of research priorities will also be an issue addressed in the development of the Evidence and Innovation Strategy 2005 to 2008.

Strategic objective 8 – Consider the value in organising an overview of research projects by end March 2006.

7.5 The immediate demands of decision making mean that applied research to support policy development will remain the highest priority. However Defra will make efforts to ensure that where possible strategic research such as disease epidemiology modelling, waste disposal and on socio-economic issues is carried out to support the medium term development of Pest Risk Analysis.

8. Inspection

In the same way that science is an essential component of an effective plant health service so is having properly trained, managed and motivated inspectors. Defra will:

- continue to review and develop the training programme for inspectors so that they are using the latest technical developments and are up to date with legal requirements.
- continue to develop appropriate computer systems to facilitate effective and efficient inspections.
- review the statement of service standards for the inspectorate.
- continue to set and publish inspection targets following the principles described at Section 6.1.4 and monitor performance against these.
- follow best practice guidelines for inspections.
- develop and introduce a quality assurance scheme for inspections.

Strategic priority 9 – Develop and introduce a quality assurance scheme for inspections by end March 2008.

9. Organisation issues

The current well established tri-partite structure of policy, inspectorate and scientific support is highly regarded internationally. At a time of organisational change Defra will maintain and strengthen this approach by creating a Plant Health Strategy Group to give greater strategic direction to Defra's plant health work. Membership will be drawn at a high level from the functional groups within Defra relevant to the management of plant health through the spectrum of quarantine, regulated non-quarantine and non-quarantine pests to cover quarantine policy, inspectorate, scientific support, pesticides regulation and crop divisions. Current responsibilities within Defra in these areas are set out in Annex 1.

This new group will:

- maintain a strategic overview of the full range of plant health issues.
- keep under review pest status and transitions between quarantine, regulated non-quarantine and non-quarantine status.
- review ongoing and planned activities against this strategy.
- maintain a strategic link between the relevant parts of Defra engaged in plant health issues.
- act as part of the co-ordination mechanism for plant health research.
- ensure that stakeholders are engaged.

It would be expected that the Plant Health Strategy Group would meet about once every six months.

As part of the process of stakeholder engagement the Plant Health Strategy Group will consider whether a stakeholder forum for plant health is appropriate and feasible. Such a forum could allow discussion with a broad range of external stakeholders on strategic issues and inform the discussions of the Strategy Group. However it will need to be established that external stakeholders have the resources to participate in such a group. It would not be expected to replace the more specific stakeholder engagement activities, both formal and informal, that take place currently.

Strategic objective 10 – Set up the Plant Health Strategy Group by end March 2006 and consider the creation of a stakeholder forum.

10. Review of this strategy

It is planned to review this strategy in line with Defra's 5 year strategy.

Current Defra units and responsibilities relevant to Plant Health

Plant Health Division

Policy division with responsibility for plant quarantine and plant certification in England except in relation to pests of forest trees and wood. PHD leads for the UK in international fora and is the 'Single Central Authority' for plant health under EC legislation. It issues scientific licences for work on prohibited pests and plants, and phytosanitary certificates for some plant products.

Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate

Executes plant health policy in England and Wales. PHSI carry out import, export, monitoring and survey inspections, issue phytosanitary certificates, and oversee import controls, plant passporting arrangements and eradication campaigns. PHSI inspect and certify crops in relation to statutory and voluntary schemes.

Central Science Laboratory

Executive Agency of Defra. Provides scientific support on matters relating to plant health including advice on import licenses, eradication and containment, certification and marketing schemes, sample testing, pest risk analyses, training, publicity and technical information, horizon scanning and future proofing programme activities. CSL provides UK representation at EPPO and technical panels and supports PHD at other international negotiations.

Together Plant Health Division, the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate and Central Science Laboratory make up the Plant Health Service.

Pesticides Safety Directorate

Executive Agency of Defra. Provides controls on pesticides used in agriculture, horticulture and in the garden, monitors the use of pesticides and takes enforcement action against illegal use, provides policy advice to Ministers, takes the lead on pesticide issues for Defra, participates in the UK and EC reviews of the safety of pesticides on the market and is working to standardise pesticide regulation within Europe. PSD co-ordinates a programme of research and development to complement the approvals system and support pesticides policy objectives.

Plant Variety Rights Office and Seeds Division

Policy division with responsibility for national listing and seed certification.

Horticulture, Potatoes and HMI Division

Policy division with responsibility for ensuring that the horticulture and potatoes R & D programme is aligned to wider Defra policy objectives, and that it reflects the needs of the industry. Sponsor Division within Defra for the Horticultural Development Council and the British Potato Council.

Arable Crops Division

Policy division with responsibility for ensuring that the arable R & D programme is aligned to wider Defra policy objectives, and that it reflects the needs of the industry. Sponsor Division within Defra for the Home Grown Cereals Authority.

Organic Farming and Industrial Crops Division

Policy division dealing with organic farming, energy crops, biofuels, other non-food uses of crops.

European Wildlife Division

Responsibility for policy towards the conservation and enhancement of wildlife in England and a coordinating role within the UK with respect to relevant European Directives and international conventions.

Sustainable Food and Farming Science Division

Defra division responsible for advice on agriculture, environment and food technology related research policy and strategy. This includes scientific liaison with R&D budget holders, and on their behalf with contractors, and research appraisal, commissioning and assessment. Horticultural Crop Sciences Unit is one of four units within the division.

Notes

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