

Plant Health & Biosecurity Policy

This policy has been written for the directors, senior management, staff and customers of Rochfords. It is for the benefit of our business and our customers businesses. It is endorsed by the directors and senior managers who will ensure that all company operations comply with the policy and its ethics. Staff will review and sign the policy as part of their induction training.

This policy acts as a framework around which we operate. The policy sits with other company policies, procedures and our certification to ensure, as far as is reasonably possible, we work to best practice with regards Plant Health and Biosecurity.

There are main 4 principles of Plant Health and Biosecurity at Rochfords. These form the basis of procurement, plant maintenance and production practices.

1. Proactive Crop Management

Rochfords apply the following to all crop situations; a start clean stay clean ethos, ICM growing techniques including the use of IPM, crop monitoring, hygiene rules and staff training.

Rochfords staff attend industry events, training days and seminars on plant health when they are available. We employ experienced external consultants for training, advice and crop walks throughout the season.

Rochfords have been a member of the BOPP certification scheme since 2004. Plant Health and Biosecurity form a core part of the BOPP Code of Practice. In 2020 BOPP was re-branded OHAS (Ornamental Horticulture Assurance Scheme)

2. Traceability

An accurate traceability system is central to our work. Our plants are traceable from ordering to despatch. All inputs are recorded. We are continually working towards improving the accuracy of traceability on the cash and carry. The launch of the Rochfords app has further enhanced systems and the accuracy of our traceability data. Enhancements to the app and systems are ongoing.

Where necessary plants may be quarantined following company procedures. We maintain an active relationship with APHA. Our plant health officer is Allison Terrell, and our appointed responsible person for Plant Passporting is Guy Massey.

3. Approved Suppliers

Rochfords use a wide range of plant suppliers to ensure continuity of supply. Plant suppliers are risk assessed to minimise the risk of plant pathogens arriving in the country. Evaluation is based on quality of product the nursery, and their ethos with regard to Plant Health. We visit nurseries / trade shows, establish and maintain long term relationships with our suppliers.

Rochfords will not knowingly source any plants which endanger Biosecurity; within the business, for its customers or the wider environment.

4. Industry Participation & Cooperation

Rochfords staff are actively involved in groups and associations that work to inform the industry and government with regards Plant Health and Biosecurity, such as HTA, AHDB, OHAS and APHA. We comply with government regulations and are constantly reviewing industry information, and the press, for updates on Plant Health status.

Rochfords have been involved in the development of an industry wide Plant Health Standard and are working towards compliance with the standard criteria.

How will Rochfords achieve its Plant Health Policy?

- Buy in from Senior Management. In collaboration with the Production Manager, all Senior Managers share responsibility for Plant Health & Biosecurity at Rochfords
- Buy in from staff – establishment of a Plant Health induction
- Knowledge. Keep up to date by involvement with industry bodies / press / meetings
- Staff training
- Plant Health and Biosecurity discussed weekly by Senior Management
- Participating in development of the Ornamental Horticulture Assurance Scheme (OHAS – Previously BOPP)
- Comply with all relevant legislation in relation to Plant Health and Biosecurity
- Annual review of this policy by Senior Management

What can you do, as staff, to implement the policy?

Complete your job to the best of your ability. Work to ensure, as far as possible, within the scope of your role you;

- Attend training courses when asked
- Report pest and disease and quality issues on; goods coming in, nurseries visited, & on our nursery sites
- Be vigilant when unloading lorries. Report what you find
- Keep the work areas, tools etc clean and tidy. Report to your manager if you are not happy about what you see
- Maintain accurate records of plant movements, plant sales, maintenance, waste
- Keep up to date with developments in pest and disease, apply your knowledge to the work environment

I have read and understand the above policy. I understand the role I have in helping Rochfords fulfil its Biosecurity responsibilities.

Signed:

Printed name:

Date: