

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 operations comply with the policy and its ethos. 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 we work to best practice.

Underpinning everything we do from procurement, to plant maintenance and production practices are the four main principles of Plant Health and Biosecurity.

1. Proactive Crop Management

Rochfords apply the following to all crop situations; a start clean stay clean ethos, ICM (Integrated Crop Management) growing techniques including the use of IPM (Integrated Pest Management), 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 Ornamental Horticulture Assurance Scheme (OHAS formally BOPP) certification scheme since 2004. Plant Health and Biosecurity form a core part of the OHAS Code of Practice.

2. Traceability

An accurate traceability system is central to our work. Our plants are traceable from Goods In through nursery systems to purchase or despatch. All inputs are recorded. We are actively developing digital systems to further enhance speed and accuracy of our traceability data. Where necessary plants may be quarantined following company procedures. We maintain an active relationship with APHA. Responsible Persons;

- Plant Health officer is Allison Terrell APHA (Deputised by Sophie Curson)
- Appointed responsible person for Plant Passporting - Guy Massey – Production Manager, assisted by;
 - o Ben Fosket – Nursery Manager
 - o Dan Munford, - Assistant Manager
 - o Kerry Austen, Vygintas Samualis, Nathan Syrett – Team Leaders
 - o Asoka Dissanayake – Stock Records

3. Approved Suppliers

Rochfords use a wide range of plant suppliers to ensure continuity of supply and quality. 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 to Plant Health. We visit nurseries and trade shows to 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 on Plant Health and Biosecurity, such as HTA, OHAS and APHA. We comply with government regulations, 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, working towards continual compliance with the standards criteria.

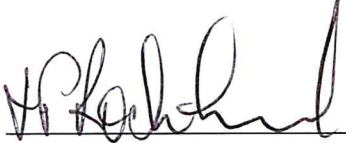
How will Rochfords achieve its Plant Health Policy?

- 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)
- Comply with all relevant legislation in relation to Plant Health and Biosecurity
- Annual review of this policy by Senior Management

Your role as staff to implement the plant health and biosecurity policy?

Complete your job to the best of your ability. Within the scope of your role you should;

- Attend training courses when asked
- Report pest and disease and quality issues on goods coming in, nurseries visited, and on our nursery sites
- Be vigilant on plant health and quality 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 and timely records of plant movements, plant sales, maintenance, waste, and plant health inputs
- Keep up to date with developments in pest and disease knowledge and apply this to the work environment

Signed:  Date: 23/10/2023
Printed name: Paul Rochford Position: Managing Director

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

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Printed name: _____ Position: _____