

Plant Passports

UK plant passport (PPs) are official labels that serve two main functions

1. Traceability – To make sure any disease/pest/quality concerns with any plant commodities can be traced back to the source
2. 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 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?

The current plant passporting approach in the UK is focused on high-risk plant species, these are the known hosts for serious pests and diseases, rather than targeting the pests and diseases themselves. This strategy aims to control potential outbreaks within pest free areas (PFA) more effectively by keeping close tabs on plant types most likely to carry these threats.

Individuals can be a [registered operator of PPs](#) and have PP record keeping responsibilities (Like in a retail nursery), whilst gaining authorisation to issue plant passports is a second level of operator control. Details are updated annually, the authoriser should know [key pest biology](#) and have [pest prevention planning](#) and procedures in place. These aspects will be regularly audited.

What does it cover?

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



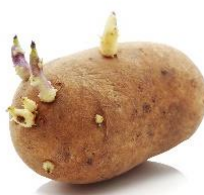
Plants for planting

(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. brash, 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 will need a '[Phytosanitary Certificate](#)' (PC) for export outside GB/NI. For further confirmation of when you do need to use UK PPs try the handy decision flow charts [here](#)

Do I need to use Plant Passports?

A key question is do you regularly sell, and advertise for sale, plants or plant products to make a profit? Or are you paid for any services relating to plants or plant products?

If the answer is **YES**, you likely need to have plant passporting authorisation. To do this follow [this link](#)

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 outside
– for at least 4 weeks



subject to infestation by a quarantine organism, eg. in an area **subject to statutory notice**



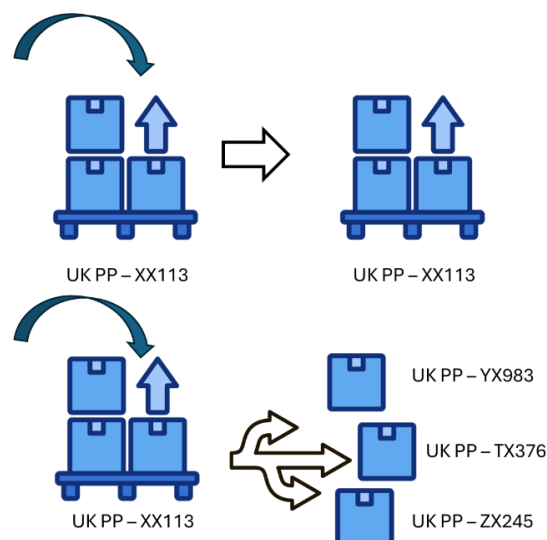
in active growth under protection
– for at least 2 weeks



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

What about inside 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 may take the form of the PP number being supplied on the invoice. 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.



Item Image	Product details	Unit Cost
	Real Devil's Ivy Pothos Indoor Plant on Moss Pole Sold by – Makebelieve plant store Batch code – Su2387 UK plant passport code –xxxxxxxxxx	£34.99

- If you move plants between premises >10 miles apart, even within the same business, you will require plants/consignments to be issued a PP for traceability.
- There are special PFA PPs for plants that host PFA pests. Currently this is only relevant for oak processionary moth in the UK (subject to outbreak updates)
- 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

Outside the UK?

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;

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

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)]	- If replacing EU PPs from Northern Ireland for certain QNIGs (Qualifying Northern Ireland Goods)

Note –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.

- An [application will need to be submitted](#) by Defra to the European Commission for every export of high-risk plant.

Costs to operators and growers

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:**
 - [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 are available for exporters meeting specific criteria (e.g., VAT-exempt goods, exports under £5,000 in the last financial year).
 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 authorised to provide 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

