



**TreeLink**  
STIRLING

## Plant Health & Biosecurity Policy: TreeLink Stirling

### 1. Purpose

Biosecurity is vital for successful tree production and woodland management because of increasing threats from pests, diseases, and invasive species

- To protect plant stock and maintain quality throughout all processes
- To maintain TreeLink's reputation
- To support broader environmental and ecosystem health

This policy applies to all TreeLink operations, from seed gathering and processing, to final planting out of seedling trees and woodland management.

### 2. Roles and Responsibilities

- Tree Nursery Co-ordinator: Oversee the implementation of biosecurity measures, ensure volunteers and dispersed growers are aware and trained, and maintain records.
- Volunteers: Follow biosecurity protocols, report any suspected pest/disease issues to event leader or trustee, and take part in training as requested.
- Dispersed growers: Follow good horticulture practices around cleaning of equipment, and check regularly for pests and diseases
- Event leaders: Check existing tree health; check for presence of invasive species such as Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam or Japanese Knotweed and ensure these are noted in the event Risk Assessment.

### 3. Regulatory Bodies, Registration and Reporting

- TreeLink Stirling is registered with SASA (Science & Advice for Scottish Agriculture) as a professional grower and can access advice on any suspected pest or disease if required: TreeLink does not currently need to register for Plant Passports
- TreeLink Stirling is registered as a supplier of Forestry Reproductive Materials (FRM) with the Forestry Commission
- Links for notifiable diseases:-
- <https://www.observatree.org.uk/>
- <https://treealert.forestryresearch.gov.uk/>

# Practical Guidelines for Tree Nursery Users & Tree Planting Teams

## Cleaning

- Wipe down all tools, equipment, and machinery (eg strimmer) after visiting different sites. Keep rags in container for this purpose
- Cleaning boots, pots and equipment with water is generally adequate for our low-risk nursery site. If pathogens such as Phytophthora known to be present elsewhere, disinfectant such as Cleankill Sanitising Spray should be used.

**Check COSHH data sheets before any chemicals are used and note that no chemicals may be used at Braehead Community Garden.**

- Be especially vigilant about cleaning equipment when invasive species (eg Japanese Knotweed) known to be present
- This may require an appointed person to take tools and equipment home to wash before returning to the storage container
- Wash or sanitise hands after handling plants or soil. Wear gloves.

## Plants entering tree nursery

- Only accept seeds, seedlings, and other plant material into the nursery from growers who are known to TreeLink (or quarantine for 6 months off-site)
- Ensure dispersed growers are aware of Biosecurity Policy & offer training
- Seed-gathering: from healthy trees only, and from as many trees as possible.
- Inspect all new plants for signs of pests, diseases, or abnormalities.
- Isolate new plants in a quarantine area for observation
- Remove and destroy infested or diseased plants immediately, do not compost. Burn diseased plants off-site; consult SASA if required.

## Water and soil management at the tree nursery

- Use water from central, sealed IBC tanks first, and the nursery's open bins only if necessary. Clean out bins at least annually
- Wash all pots, trays and containers thoroughly before re-using
- Be aware of Braehead Community Garden's guidelines 'Please do not bring the following into the garden: chemical fertiliser; soil conditioners (this will be made onsite for your use or can be ordered by the garden); chemical pest control / disease control products'

## Training & Record Keeping

- Maintain records of source, health & dispersal of seedlings and trees using the online Tree Inventory spreadsheet on Teams
- Informal training for volunteers through discussion and demonstration of best practice

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