



Appendix M: Plant Health (Phytosanitary) Certification

Streetscape Design Guide 2025

Worcestershire County Council

Appendix M: Plant Health (Phytosanitary) Certification

1. Introduction

As a result of climate change and globalisation, the threat of pests and disease is significant and increasing. A [phytosanitary \(plant health\) certificate](#) is a UK Government requirement to prove that any imported plants have been:

- Inspected.
- They are free from dangerous pests and diseases.
- Are suitable to enter the UK.

When sourcing tree stock from suppliers, these are best accredited under the [Plant Healthy Certification](#) Scheme or have passed a [Ready to Plant](#) assessment.

Worcestershire County Council's preference is for plants and trees to be provided from suppliers that can demonstrate compliance with the industry benchmark Plant Health Management Standard.

2. Evidence of Plant, Tree Stock

Developers may be asked to provide evidence that plant and tree stock has been sourced from a supplier who can:

- Confirm the nursery has been Plant Healthy certified, or anticipates achieving certification within the year,
or
- Has passed a 'Ready to Plant' assessment, or anticipates achieving successful assessment within the year, or can:
- Provide sufficient evidence that a plant biosecurity policy is in place which demonstrates that:
 - Planting stock is sourced from pest and disease-free areas.
 - The nursery keeps accurate, up-to-date records of all purchases and supplies to assist with tracing exercises in the event of a pest or disease outbreak.
 - Regularly monitors plant and tree stock for signs of ill-health and reports any suspect symptoms.

3. Additional Requirements

In addition, developers may be required to:

- Specify British-grown plants when sourcing planting stock whenever possible, to reduce the risk of an accidental introduction of invasive non-native pests or diseases.
- Be aware of any restrictions in place, or phytosanitary (plant health) measures and treatments required on importing materials or their packaging.
- Source landscaping materials from pest-and-disease-free areas only.
- Check plant passports of any imported stocks.

- Ensure their planting teams are equipped with a Biosecurity Kit (disinfectant, buckets, hand sanitiser, brush, boot pick etc.) as a simple measure to help limit the spread of tree pests and diseases.

4. Further Information

Further information about [biosecurity](#) is available on the Government website.

The following is a list of useful sources of information:

- Find out more about [identifying and reporting suspected tree pest and disease issues](#).
- Use [TreeAlert](#) to report a suspected tree pest or disease to Forest Research, Forestry Commission
- Contact the [Plant Health Forestry team](#) for queries about tree health surveillance, biosecurity, forestry reproductive materials and the import, export and movement of timber and wood products
- [Key tree pests and diseases - Woodland Trust](#)
- [TREE-8pp-chart.pdf \(imperial.ac.uk\)](#)