

NT PLANT QUARANTINE & BIOSECURITY GUIDANCE NOTE

GUIDANCE FOR VISITORS ON HOW TO HELP US TO PROTECT THE GARDEN FROM INTRODUCED PESTS AND DISEASES

National Trust Gardens are not just places of great beauty, they also contain plants and plant collections of significant international heritage value.

Like the plants in your own gardens, our plants are also vulnerable to attack by pests and diseases, many of which are readily transmitted by people sometimes on soil and plant debris stuck to our shoes, or by moving plants or cuttings from one garden to another.

By taking common sense precautions we can reduce the chances of spreading pests and diseases, so helping to preserve our plant collections and help reduce our use of chemicals in the constant battle to maintain healthy plants.

Here are some simple ways we can reduce the chance of spreading pests and diseases from one place to another:

- **Wear clean footwear** – try to ensure that footwear is free from soil and plant debris before visiting. If visiting another garden on the same day try to clean all debris from your shoes before leaving, or carry a spare pair of shoes.
- **Keep to paths** - where requested, please keep to marked paths. We make every effort to keep paths in good repair, dry, and free from leaves and soil. Keeping to these paths will reduce the chances picking up soil on our footwear.
- **Observe any site notices** – similarly, notices may restrict access to areas that are under repair or that are being re-planted. We ask that you observe these notices, again to reduce the chances of picking up soil on our footwear.
- **Keep dogs on short leads** – in gardens where dogs are permitted, keeping them on short leads will reduce the chances of our four-legged friends picking up soil on their paws too!
- **Resist the temptation to either bring or take cuttings** – whilst we aim to keep our plants healthy, we ask that you buy a carefully selected plant from our shop rather than removing any plant material from the garden.
- **Monitor the health of your own plants** – familiarise yourselves with the main pest and diseases that affect your own plants, and keep an eye out for anything unusual.

Useful books include:

- RHS Pests and Diseases - Authors: Pippa Greenwood & Andrew Halstead (Dorling Kindersley ISBN 9781405319690); Price: £14.99.
- Pests, Diseases and Disorders of Garden Plants - Authors: Stefan T. Buczacki, Keith M. Harris & Brian Hargreaves (Collins, ISBN 9780007196821); Price: £25.00.

Useful websites include:

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra): <http://www.defra.gov.uk/planth/ph.htm>
- Defra's Central Science Laboratory: <http://www.csl.gov.uk/servicesOverview/plantHealthcare/>
- Forest Research: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestresearch.nsf/byunique/hcou-5QJMBB>
- Royal Horticultural Society: <http://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/index.asp>

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