

How to protect your garden from pest and disease invaders



1 Plants coming in: this is the way that most pests and disease-spreading pathogens enter a garden or nursery!

What can you do?

- Use reputable suppliers who are licensed and inspected by a department of agriculture
- Source locally if possible
- Avoid cheap pot-bound and poor quality plants; they are no bargain!

2 Plants on arrival need careful inspection.

Remember to:

- Notify WSDA within 48 hours when you receive woody plants from out of state (360-902-1874, 360-902-2094 (FAX))
- Look for symptoms of disease; only accept delivery if you are sure plants are healthy

3 Quarantine areas should be isolated from the main garden and the public.

What more can you do?

- Restrict access to the area
- Be scrupulous about hygiene
- Use dedicated tools
- Hold new arrivals for 2-6 weeks and monitor frequently

4 Day-to-day hygiene: many pests and pathogens are carried on boots!

It's important to:

- Wash all soil and plant material from footwear, and disinfect them
- Clean and disinfect tools and machinery

5 Basic path maintenance can help too.

How?

- Surfacing and levelling avoids puddles
- Cleaning and clearing removes leaves and plant debris that can harbor pests and pathogens

6 Good plant husbandry also matters.

What can you do?

- Use the right plant in the right place
- Mulch when planting perennial ornamentals to prevent soil splashing onto foliage
- Use space to help ventilation and reduce humidity
- Manage plants to encourage vigorous, healthy growth



7 Clear information helps keep visitors informed and aware.

Why put up a notice?

- To inform visitors of serious outbreaks
- To restrict access to ground under repair
- To suggest responsible behavior (e.g. clean shoes, not taking cuttings, keeping to paths, dogs on leashes, etc.)

8 Irrigation water should be clean and free from plant pathogens.

How can you ensure this?

- When using recycled water, (e.g. collected off roofs or from streams) try to clean it before use (sand filtration works well)
- Cover water tanks to prevent leaves blowing in
- Regularly test water to check for pathogens

9 Organic waste can harbor pests and pathogens.

What should be done with it?

- All dead plants, prunings, fallen leaves, etc. should be collected and disposed of safely
- Composting is the best way, as it kills most pests and pathogens
- Or you could collect waste in a covered bin for removal to an approved landfill site
- If allowed, small amounts can be burnt where they lie

10 Plant collections: Know what you've got.

What can you do?

- Make a record of the plants in the garden
- Develop a management plan to conserve important plants
- Propagate important plants

11 Regular monitoring of the health of your plants lets you spot problems early and take prompt remedial action.

What can you do?

- Train nursery staff on common and exotic pests and diseases of ornamentals (e.g. ecampus.oregonstate.edu/workforce/phytophthora/)
- Get problems identified; contact the WSU Plant Clinic (253-445-4582)
- Report suspect findings of quarantine pests and diseases to your WSDA inspector

For more information, visit www.puyallup.wsu.edu/ppo/sod.html or contact Marianne Elliott (melliott2@wsu.edu).

For more information on the National Trust visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk or contact Ian Wright (ian.wright@nationaltrust.org.uk).