

A Plant Biosecurity Strategy for Great Britain 2023-2028

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[Plant biosecurity strategy for Great Britain \(2023 to 2028\) - GOV.UK
\(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

The Triple Threat:

- Climate Change
- Food Security
- Biodiversity Crisis



Potential pest threats screened through the UK Plant Health Risk Register

There are **85 pests** that attack apples

Orchard crop

Forestry

90 pests can attack oak trees

160 pests threaten tomato production in the UK

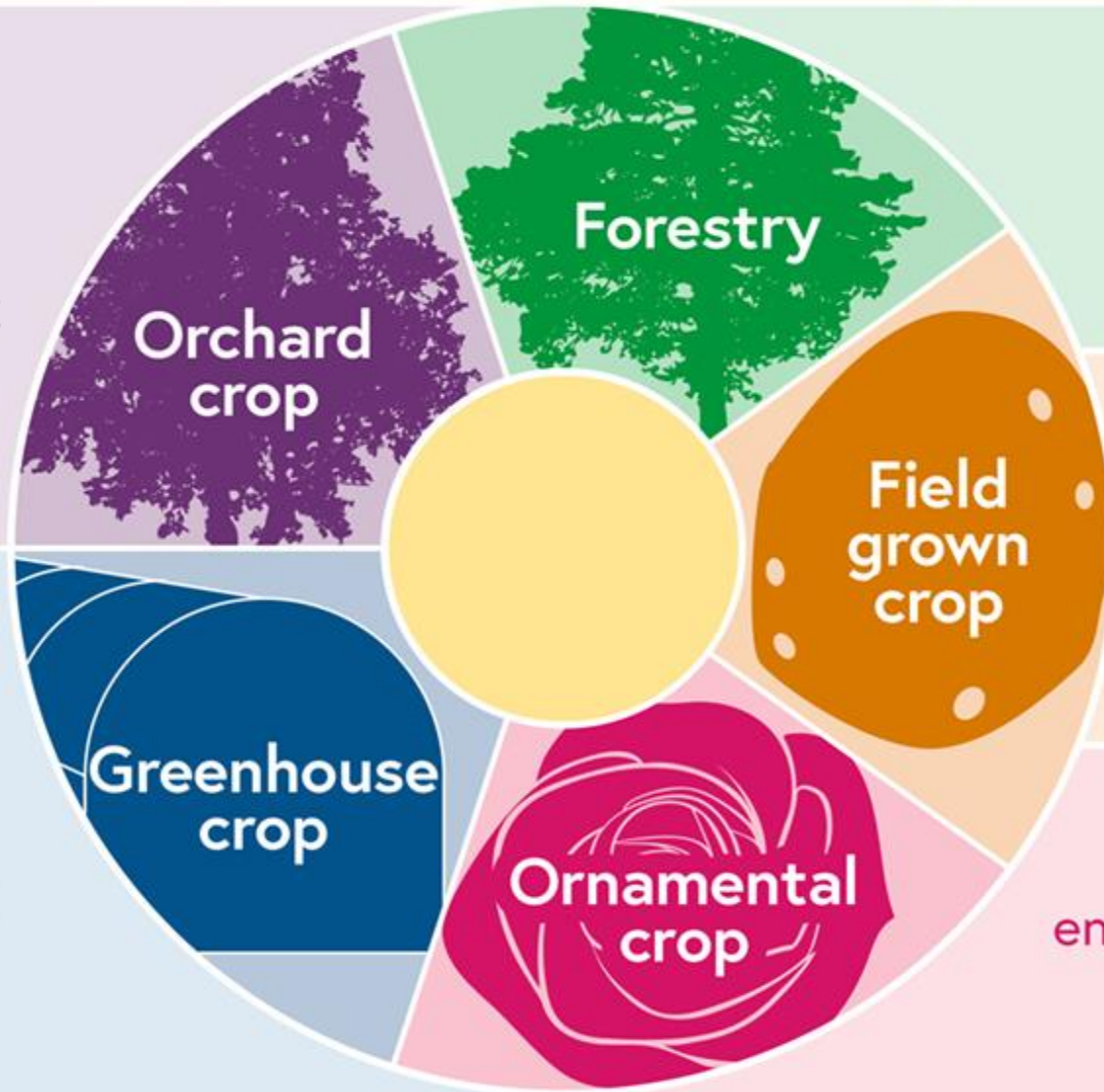
Greenhouse crop

Field grown crop

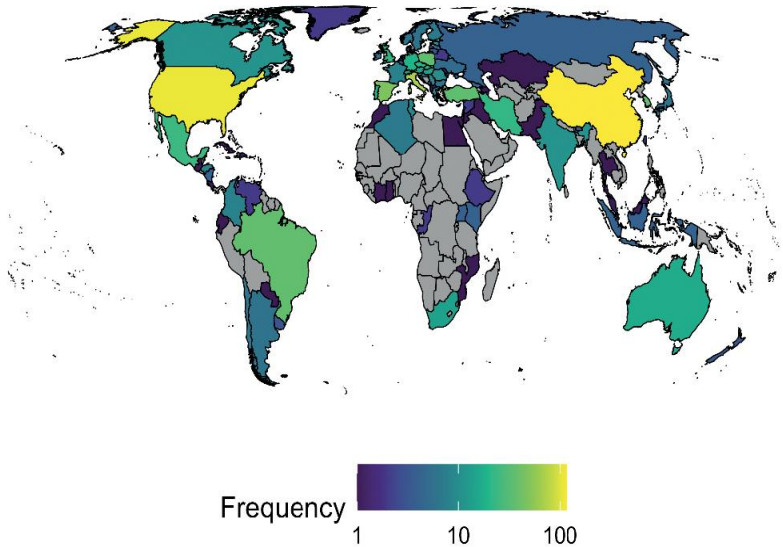
165 pests threaten potato cultivation in the UK

Ornamental crop

130 pests endanger the UK rose industry

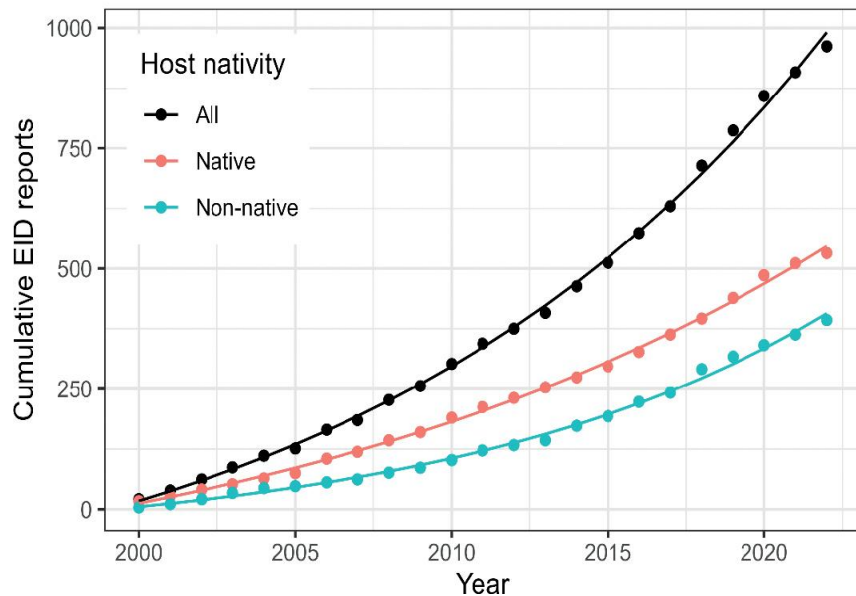


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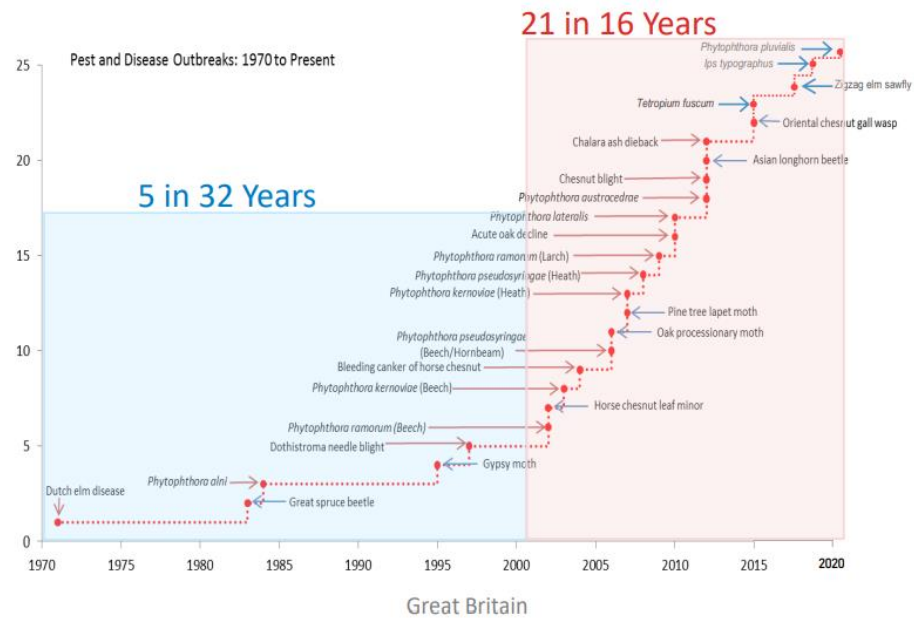


- Globally, the number of new reports of tree diseases is doubling every ~11 years
- The UK has experienced 21 outbreaks of tree pests in the last 16 years, compared to 5 in the previous 32 years.

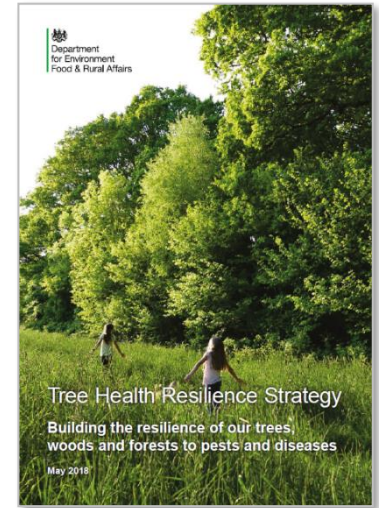
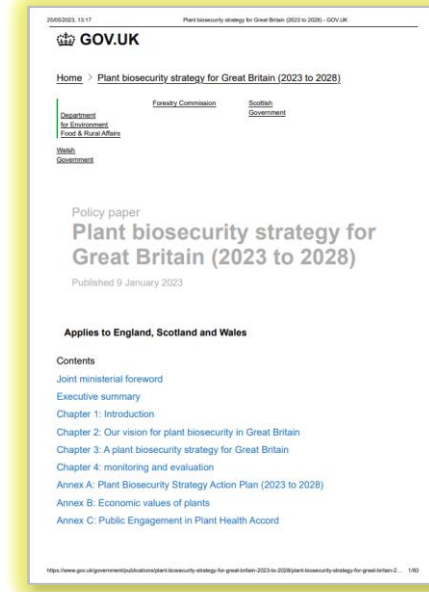
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Source: USDA published in [NeoBiota](#) 04 Sep 2023



Source: Forestry Commission 04 Sep 2023



GB Plant Biosecurity Strategy 2023-2028

To protect Great Britain's plants through a strong partnership of Government, industry and the public, working together to reduce and manage risks posed by plant pests and pathogens, and facilitate safe trade.



Outcome 1: A world class biosecurity regime



Outcome 2: A society that values healthy plants

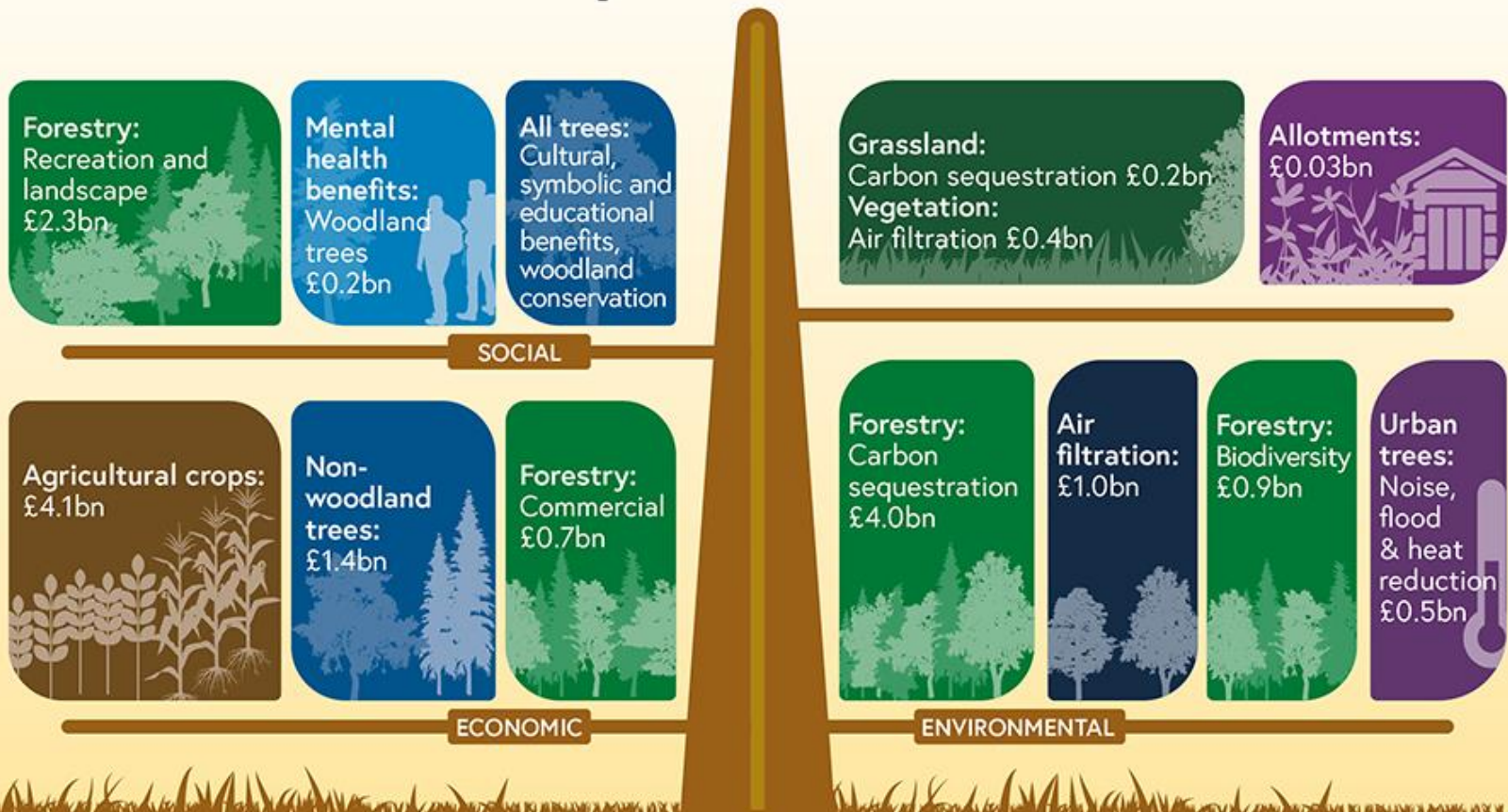


Outcome 3: A biosecure plant supply chain



Outcome 4: An enhanced technical capability

The Importance of Plants



Summary of the annual value that our plants provide to UK Society.
What makes up the £15.7bn annual value of plants?

Outcome 1: A world class biosecurity regime

Making the most of opportunities so we can tailor and strengthen our response to prevent the introduction and spread of pests and pathogens that pose a threat to GB plant health.

- **Risk & Horizon Scanning**
 - Further develop the UK Plant Health Risk Register to improve our understanding of complex and cumulative risks.
- **International**
- Develop a UK Plant Health International Action Plan from 2022 to 2025.
- **Outbreak Readiness**
 - Develop a new GB wide, Plant Health Data System to support the emergency response to outbreaks.



Outcome 2: A society that values healthy plants

How we are raising awareness of the importance of healthy plants and trees and encouraging the adoption of responsible behaviours across society.

- **Raising awareness**
 - Work with 30 signatories of the new (Public Engagement) Plant Health Accord to raise awareness of plant health across GB/National Plant Health Week
- **Education Sector/training**
 - Activities to embed plant biosecurity in the training/education sector inc National Curriculum, plant health STEM ambassadors.
- **Citizen Science**
 - Deliver increased opportunities for the public to engage in citizen science activities.



Outcome 3: A biosecure plant supply chain

Government and industry working in partnership to support a biosecure plant supply chain

- **Intelligence and Monitoring**
 - Work with industry to improve intelligence on horticultural and tree supply chains, their resilience and bottlenecks.
- **Supply chains**
 - Work with the UK Plant Health Alliance to develop a new 5-year roadmap for the Plant Healthy certification scheme.
- **Domestic production**
 - Invest in the quality, quantity and diversity of domestic seed and sapling supply



Outcome 4: An enhanced technical capability

Building plant health capability and making use of emerging, innovative science and technology to keep pace with changing threats and ensure preparedness for the future

- Implement the Plant Health Research and Development Strategy
Collaboration and Innovation
 - Work with research bodies to explore further opportunities for collaborative investment in fundamental and applied plant science, development of technologies, as well as understanding trade routes and consumer behaviour

International

- Continue to support GB's active participation in the Euphresco research network



Plant Biosecurity Strategy Publication



 Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
105,300 followers
1w

As Alan Titchmarsh explains, we need to protect our plants for future generations 🌸

By working together - government, industry and the public – we can protect and restore our natural environment.

Read more about the Plant Biosecurity Strategy for Great Britain:
<https://lnkd.in/e6FRVSBG>



What does the strategy mean for me, and what action can I take?

- Understand what government is doing at a national level – read the **Plant Biosecurity Strategy for Great Britain**
- Build your own awareness about different plant pests and diseases and the biosecurity actions you should take – visit the **Plant Health Action website** and look at the **FC Biosecurity Toolkit**
- **Take part and support National Plant Health Week 6-12 May**
- Buy plants from **Plant Healthy Certified nurseries**, and encourage others to do the same
- Look at **government grants** available to support tree planting and restore landscapes affected by pests and diseases

Thank you!

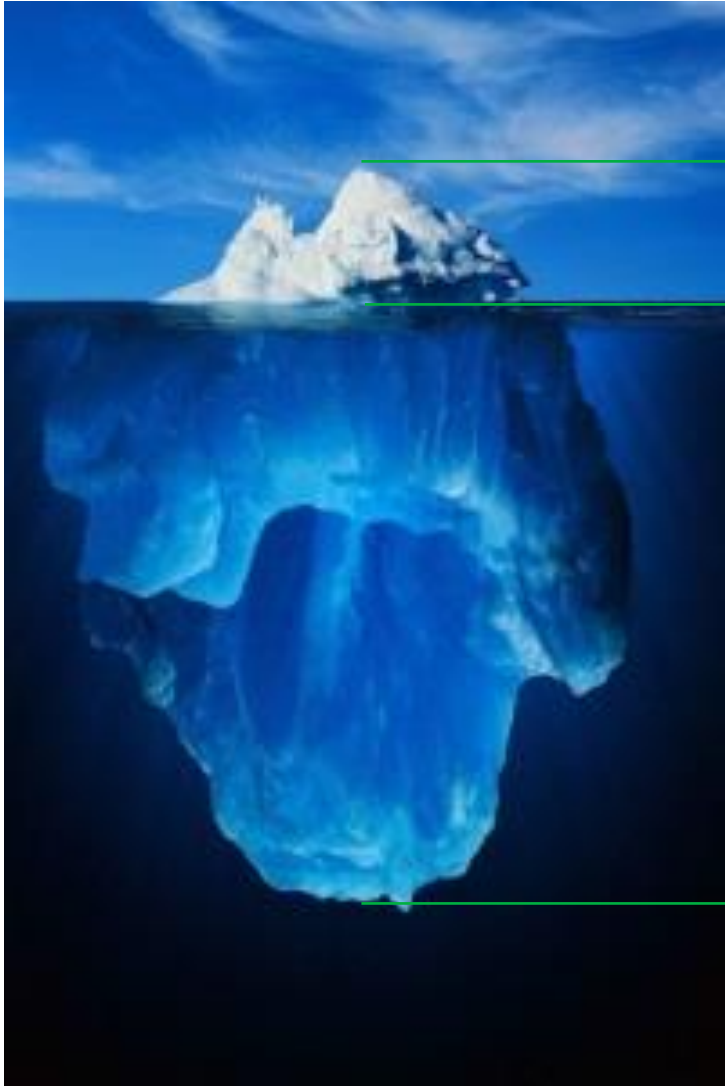
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Engaging the public in plant health – what are the opportunities and challenges?

Jake Morris - Head of Plant Health Social Research

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Govt. Plant Health Services

Everyone else

Actions impacting the health of the nation's plants

Stakes and stakeholders of interest

- Consumers
- Travellers
- Gardeners
- Specifiers
- Growers
- Sellers
- Scientists and citizen scientists
- Land managers



PBS 2023-2028 - Outcome 2: a society that values healthy plants

Raising awareness of the importance of healthy plants and trees and encouraging the adoption of responsible behaviours across society.

We want to create a society that values healthy plants and trees, understands that these values are threatened, makes positive choices, and takes action to safeguard those values. To do this we will ensure that everyone:

- **recognises the value** that healthy plants have in their everyday lives
- understands that these **values are under threat**
- is clear about the **links between their actions and choices and the risks to the environment**, and is **empowered to adopt positive behaviour change**
- **understands their responsibility to act**
- feels part of a **national biosecurity culture** where individuals **know their role** and where risky behaviours are considered **socially unacceptable**

New Zealand's Biosecurity Strategy 2025

No. 1 Strategic Direction

A biosecurity team
of 4.7 million – A
collective effort
across the country
– every New
Zealander
becomes a
biosecurity risk
manager and
every business
manages their
own biosecurity
risk.



Public Engagement in Plant Health Accord

Thirty organisations from across the country have come together in common purpose to protect the health of our nation's plants and trees. We believe that everybody can play a part in protecting our plants and trees from the threat of pests and diseases.



Confor
Promoting forestry and wood



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Forest Research



**National
Trust**



Plant Health



Alliance



Scotland's Centre of Expertise



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



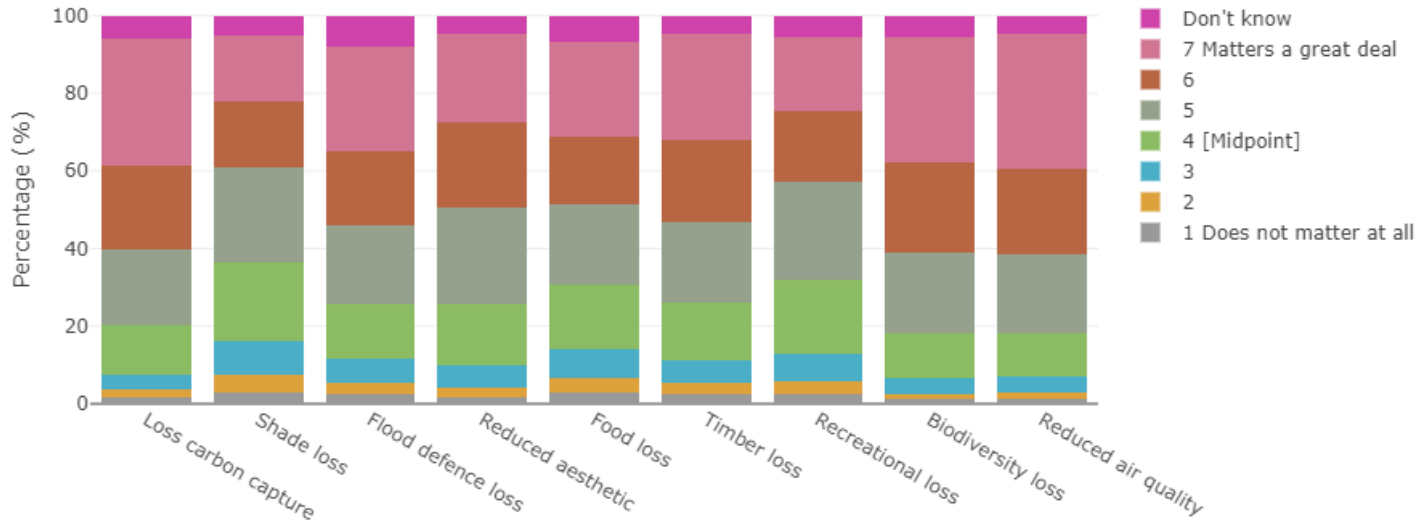
**Bacterial
Plant Diseases
Programme** 19

What do we know about public's values, actions, responsibility / agency?

Survey of 7,000 adults in England

Everyone recognises the value that healthy plants have in their everyday lives

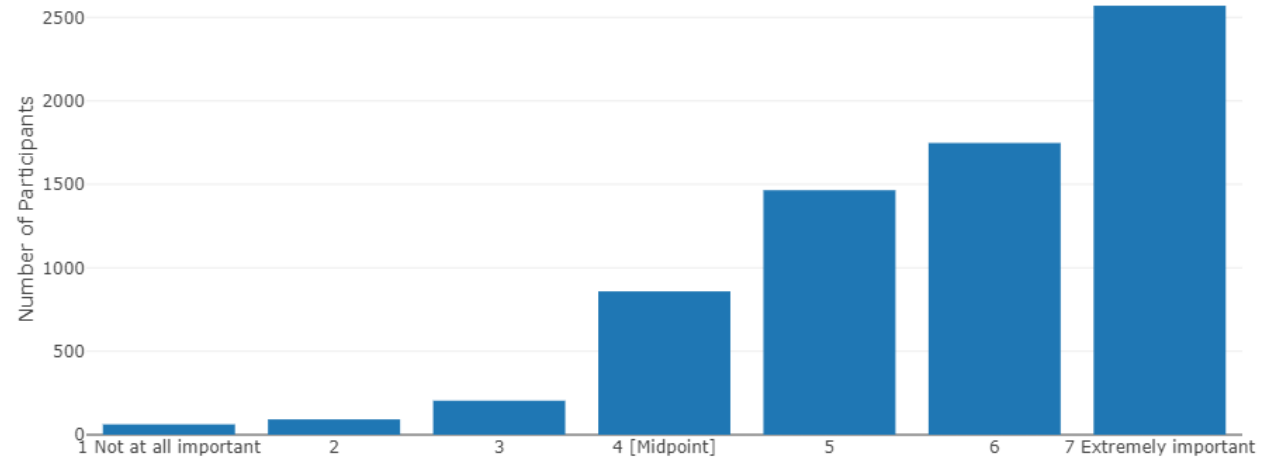
How would you feel if plants / trees were lost due to pests and diseases?



What do we know about public's values, actions, responsibility / agency?

Survey of 7,000 adults in England

Rate the importance of protecting plants and trees in the UK from plants and diseases

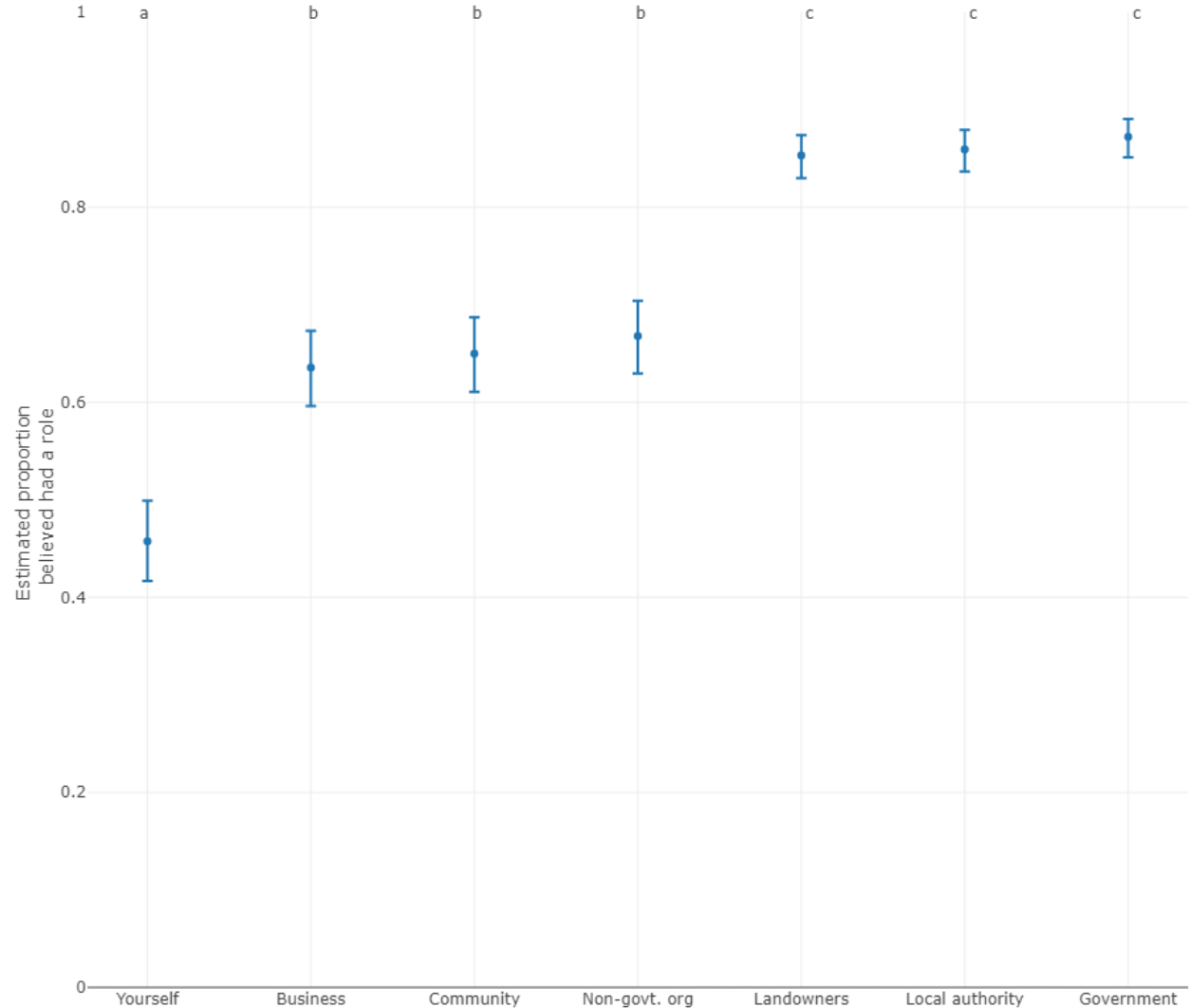


Everyone understands that these values are under threat

What do we know about public's values, actions, responsibility / agency?

Everyone understands their responsibility to act

Who has responsibility to protect plant health?



The challenge - baseline research points to a significant value-action gap:

People recognise the value of healthy plants

They recognise the importance of plant health internationally, nationally, locally and personally

They recognise the importance of acting to protect plant health



BUT...

Less than 50% feel they have responsibility to act

Many engage in 'risky' behaviours

Policy Q: How can we close the value-action gap?

How can we further raise awareness of the values of healthy plants, and that those values are threatened?

How can we build an understanding of responsibility / agency?

How can we encourage and enable positive behaviour change?

How can we build capacity and capability to act?

How can we design and deliver effective policies that bring about the necessary changes in behaviour?



National conversation research project: Understanding and changing key target behaviours



Don't bring plant material into the UK when travelling abroad:

Survey of 7,000 adults in England in 2022

“I have purchased / acquired plants/trees or seeds while abroad and brought them back to the UK” (approx. 23% - rarely, sometimes, often)

Research Questions:

- **What are the opportunities for Defra to intervene directly or through delivery partners** to encourage better biosecurity decisions when bringing plant material back to GB from other countries?
- **What are the range of interventions that could be developed** to support customers to make better biosecurity decisions when bringing plant material back to GB from other countries?

In-depth interviews with people who travel abroad and bring plants back to the UK

Revealed three broad travel “personas”, with different relationships to plants:



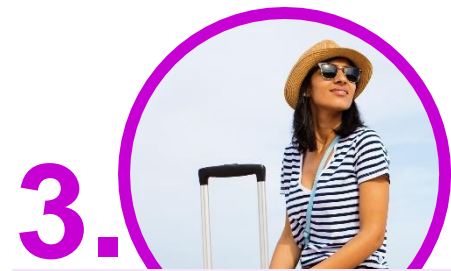
THE CAREFREE TOURIST

Appreciate plants for their beauty and meaningful associations, and may have a passing interest in growing them



THE AVID GARDENER

Plants are their passion: gardening, growing or collecting plants may be their main hobby, and they enjoy the stimulation of growing new things

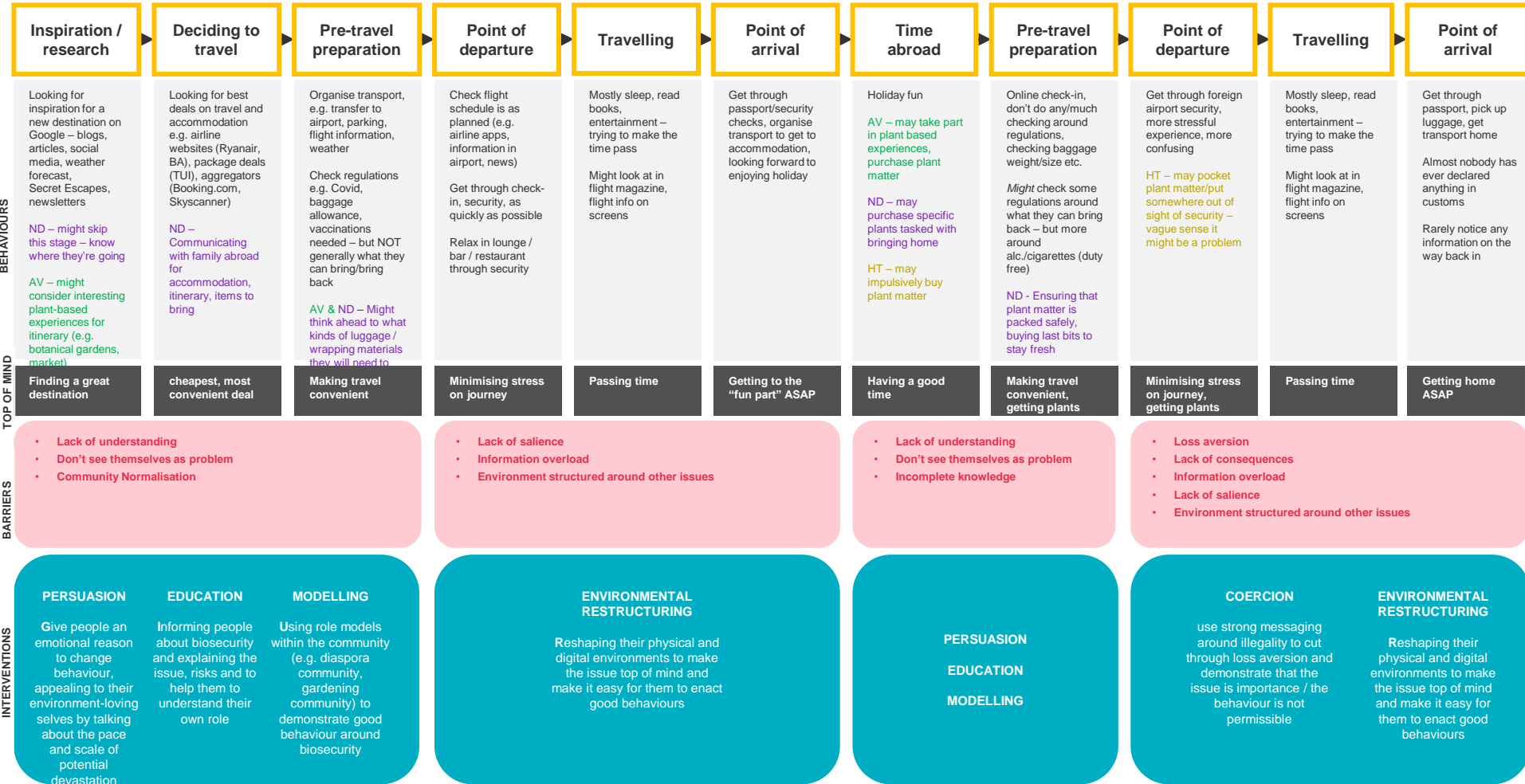


THE NOSTALGIC DIASPORAN

Usually members of a diaspora in the UK for whom plants have a strong cultural resonance and symbolise a connection to their homeland and / or families abroad

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL: USER JOURNEY

Target behaviour: not bringing plants/fruit/veg from abroad back to the UK



What does public engagement in plant health mean for me, and what action could I take?

- Promote the value of healthy plants and what action you're taking to protect plant health
- Communicate a sense of agency and responsibility – the choices and actions of people can make a real difference!
- Encourage positive behaviour change – reporting P&D, responsible buying, good biosecurity when travelling
- Join the Public Engagement in Plant Health Accord – share the research, work with other signatories

Thank you!

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