STOP PESTS & DISEASES

Don't help them spread – stop and think

THINK BOOTS & CLOTHES

DID YOU KNOW?

One study found that 30% of boots were contaminated with microorganisms that can cause root rot.

- Before you enter a nursery, make sure your boots and outer wear, such as waterproofs, are clean. Scrub them with a brush and water to remove mud and organic matter then disinfect them.

THINK EQUIPMENT

DID YOU KNOW?

Plane wilt, a serious fungal disease of plane trees, can be easily spread via its sawdust.

- Clean all tools before bringing them into your nursery – and between tasks. Wash and disinfect spades, containers such as pots, and secateurs.

THINK WOOD MATERIALS

DID YOU KNOW?

Dutch elm disease was introduced to the UK via infected logs imported from the US.

- Inspect pallets, firewood and all wooden objects for signs of pests and diseases before bringing them into your nursery.
- Pallets – inspect regularly. Look for fungi, beetle holes or waste, or anything unusual.
- Woodchip – only use woodchip from disease-free trees and trusted sources. Ask the tree surgeon for details.

THINK LIVING PLANTS

- Think twice before accepting gifts of trees or bringing living plants into the nursery, they could be carrying pests and diseases from other regions or abroad.
- Thoroughly inspect roots, bark, leaves and containers for signs of ill health, and if in doubt, do not bring them onsite.
- Always quarantine new plants – keep them separate from your main growing area and check them regularly for symptoms.

DID YOU KNOW?

Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh prevented golden root mealybug infestations by inspecting roots and rejecting infected ornamental plants.

Photos by Neil Aldridge; woodchip by Growing Connections

Research Centre Agroecology, Water and Resilience | Coventry University | Growing Connections | the tree council