

Animal and Plant Health Agency

Certification scheme fruit plants

Explanatory guide to top fruit

Cydonia, Malus, Prunus, Pyrus

Complete trees Basic 1, Basic 2 and Certified categories

October 2023

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1. Introduction

This document is a guide to Top Fruit certification taken from The Plant Health (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 and The Plant Health (Phytosanitary Conditions) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020

2. Applications

The scheme is open to any grower in England and Wales who can meet the general conditions for entry and comply with the specific conditions of entry. Applications for entry of material to be submitted through the approved administrator, presently APHA. Please request an application form from FPCS.admin@apha.gov.uk

Growers will need to apply to APHA and be registered to issue Plant Passports.

3. Labelling / sealing / supplier and variety registration

Refer to separate documents covering labelling, sealing, supplier and variety registration.

4. Grades and stock eligibility

GRADE	PARENT STOCK
Pre-basic	Candidate pre-basic mother plants
Basic 1	Pre-basic
Basic 2	Pre-basic, Basic 1
Certified	Pre-basic, Basic 1, Basic 2

Maiden or 2 year old trees

Basic 1:

Rootstocks must be either Basic 1 or Pre-basic. Scion wood can be Basic 1 or Pre-basic

Basic 2:

Rootstocks shall be Basic 1 or Basic 2. Scion wood can be Basic 1 or Basic 2.

Certified:

Rootstocks may be Basic 1, Basic 2, Basic 3 or Certified. Scion wood can be Basic 1, Basic 2 or Certified.

5. Soil sampling requirements

Application for soil sampling should be made through the approved administrator.

Growers can select sites but are advised to consult their local APHA Plant Health & Seeds Inspector if in doubt regarding the eligibility of a proposed field.

Cydonia, Malus, Pyrus

Basic 1, Basic 2 and Certified

Soil sampling not required.

Prunus avium, P. cerasus

Basic 1, Basic 2

Soil sampling of the proposed field in advance of planting required for freedom from nematodes:

Longidorus attenuatus

Longidorus elongatus

Longidorus macrosoma

Xiphinema diversicaudatum

Prunus domestica, P. persica and P. salicina

Basic 1, Basic 2

Soil sampling of the proposed field in advance of planting required for freedom from nematodes:

Longidorus attenuatus

Longidorus elongatus

Xiphinema diversicaudatum

Fields found to be infested cannot be used for certified stocks.

NB. The soil sampling requirements listed shall not apply where host plant species of the nematodes listed above have not been grown on any proposed production field for at least 5 full years or longer.

The relevant hosts for Basic or Certified mother trees of *Prunus spp.* are: grapevine, *Fragaria spp.*, *Ribes spp.*, *Rubus spp.*, cherry, plum, apricot, peach, almond and Japanese plum and their rootstocks, poplar trees, hops, or elder/elderberry.

Prunus avium, P.cerasus, P.domestica, P.persica and P.salicina

Certified Soil sampling not required.

6. Isolation distances for field grown material

Minimum isolation distances apply:

Plum Pox Hosts:

50 metres from any other plum pox hosts (incl. ornamentals) not entered for certification.

Other *Prunus*:

10 metres from any other *Prunus spp.* not entered for certification.

***Cydonia, Malus and Pyrus*:**

2 metres from any *Pomoideae* not entered for certification.

Growers should ensure they can meet isolation requirements before planting stocks in new sites.

7. Spacing

Lined out complete trees must be in rows at least 0.75 metres apart.

8. Identifying stocks

Each batch of trees of a variety must be permanently and clearly labelled as to type. Stocks must be kept in identifiable lots. Rootstocks of different types or rootstocks produced at different times (even if the same type) may not be mixed.

9. Control of diseases / standards to be met

The control of pests and diseases must be of the highest standard and failure to achieve this will need rectification and may result in a further chargeable inspection prior to certification.

Where a significant mixture is identified and roguing is impractical certification may be withheld.

10. Roguing

Limited roguing or removal of affected parts or pesticide treatments in order to meet the requirements is permissible after inspection by APHA Plant Health & Seeds Inspectors, provided records are kept.

11. Gapping up

Gapping up is permissible providing that the material used is eligible and prior approval from APHA Plant Health has been obtained. Growers must keep records and make them available if requested to do so.

12. Number of inspections

Basic 1, Basic 2, Basic 3 and Certified

One inspection for all categories. Usually during late July or early August.

13. Quarantine pest & diseases

Growers who become aware of or suspect the presence of any quarantine pest or disease on their premises must immediately notify their local APHA Plant Health & Seeds Inspector.

Requirements for regular 3-yearly official re-testing of some *Prunus* spp. rootstocks for the quarantine pest Plum pox virus will need to be carried out and APHA inspectors will provide information on this requirement.

If 'prunings' of complete *Prunus* trees are used for further production, these complete trees must undergo testing for the quarantine pest Plum pox virus. APHA inspectors will provide information on this requirement. [For info – PPV 2000/29 sampling requirement]

14. Record keeping (critical points plan)

During the production of propagating material and fruit plants the supplier must maintain relevant information to monitor the key points in the production process.

These include:

- Location and number of plants
- Timing of their cultivations

- Propagation operations
- Packaging, storage and transportation operations.

The information should remain available for at least three years and made available to PHSI upon request.

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