

Animal and Plant Health Agency

Certification scheme fruit plants

Explanatory guide to black currants, red currants, white currants and gooseberries (Ribes)

Approved Health (AH) grade

October 2025

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The Approved-Health (AH) grade applies to *Fragaria*, *Rubus* and *Ribes* in England and Wales only. The AH grade field standards have been derived from the pest and disease standards set out for the Fruit Propagation Certification Scheme (FPCS) 'Certified' grade and the former Plant Health Propagation Scheme (PHPS) standards.

Plant material entered at AH grade will be inspected for health and vigour only, and not for trueness to type.

Any registered variety, including varieties that have been derived from virus indexed material can be entered at AH grade. This includes varieties that are registered and awaiting Distinct, Uniform and Stability (DUS) testing. Such varieties must be entered with the prefix P-DUS on the application form and can only be marketed at CAC grade (Conformitas Agraria Communitatis)

1. Applications

Applications for entry of material to be submitted to Plant Varieties and Seeds (PVS) at FPCS.admin@apha.gov.uk

2. Labelling

The label must not be the colour of officially certified material under the Fruit Propagation Certification Scheme. Pink would be acceptable.

3. Soil sampling

Not required

4. Control of diseases

Fungicide treatments that could mask symptoms of fungal diseases are not encouraged.

5. Roguing

Limited roguing is permissible after inspection with prior approval of the APHA Plant Health Inspector. Records must be kept and made available of stocks rogued, the reason for roguing and the numbers of plants removed.

6. Bulking up

Stool bed extension (bulking up) is permissible providing the material used is eligible and bulking up takes place within the same field. Where stool bed numbers are increased using cuttings from the original planting then the whole stool bed must take the same age as the original planting. Growers must keep records of these procedures and make them available to inspector upon request.

7. 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.

8. Number of inspections

Approved–Health will receive one inspection during the growing season. This will be between the end of June-mid July.

9. Validity of certificates

Harvested canes or root from Approved- Health including those subsequently potted up, may be describes as ‘approved’ until 31 May in the year after certification.

10. Isolation distances for field and glasshouse grown material

Stocks entered must be isolated by at least the distance shown (metres)

The isolation distances for varieties of the same grade in glasshouses can be reduced at the discretion of APHA Plant Health Inspectors.

	Basic 1	Basic 2	Basic 3	Certified	Approved Health	CAC	Fruiting
Basic 1	2	2	2	10	50	1500	1500 #
Basic 2	2	2	2	10	50	1000	1000 #
Basic 3	2	2	2	2	50	1000	1000 #

Certified	10	10	2	2	2	1000	1000 #
Approved Health	50	50	50	2	2	50	400 #
CAC	1500	1000	1000	1000	50	1	400
Fruiting	1500 #	1000 #	1000 #	1000 #	400 #	400	0

Gooseberries and jostaberries 100 metres from all other Ribes

11. Spacing

Stool beds: Not less than 2 metres between rows.

Nursery rows: Not less than 1 metre between rows.

12. Proximity to aphid proof gauze house production

When planting Approved-Health material consideration must be given to the isolation distance from certified plant material grown inside aphid proof houses.

Plants inside gauze house (grade)	Isolation of AH outside gauze house (m)
Basic 1 and basic 2	100m
Basic 3 and Certified	50m

13. Inspection tolerances

Annex I & II	Certified	Approved Health
Rogues	0	0
Fungi and oomycetes <i>Diaporthe strumella</i> <i>Microsphaera grossulariae</i> European powdery mildew <i>Podosphaera mors-uvae</i> American powdery mildew	0%	0% Substantial freedom Substantial freedom
Insects and mites <i>Cecidophyopsis ribis</i> Blackcurrant gall mite <i>Dasineura tetensi</i> Blackcurrant leaf midge <i>Pseudaulacaspis pentagona</i> White peach scale <i>Quadraspidiotus perniciosus</i> San Jose Scale <i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Two spotted spider mite	0%	Substantial freedom
Nematodes <i>Ditylenchus dipsaci</i> Stem and bulb eelworm <i>Aphelenchoides ritzembosi</i> Stem and bud eelworm	0%	Substantial freedom
Viruses <i>Nepovirus ribis</i> Blackcurrant reversion virus <i>Nepovirus arabis</i> Arabis Mosaic virus <i>Cucomovirus CMV</i> Cucumber mosaic virus <i>Badnavirus venaribis</i> Gooseberry vein banding associated viruses <i>Stralarivirus</i> Strawberry latent ringspot virus <i>Nepovirus rubi</i> Raspberry ringspot virus	0%	Substantial freedom

Approved Health black currants, red currants, white currants and gooseberries
(*Ribes*) (09/25)



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For information on how we handle personal data visit www.gov.uk and search Animal and Plant Health Agency Personal Information Charter.

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APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.