

Conservation and Environment Guidelines

CITES

Any gardener who may at any time wish to transport plants (or parts of plants, including seeds) across international boundaries should be aware of CITES. Many commonly grown plants are covered by this international Convention, and breach of its rules is in this country a criminal offence.

What is CITES?

CITES is an acronym for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Some 126 states throughout the world, including the UK, are signatories to the Convention, which was established in 1972 to monitor and control international trade in threatened species. The Convention is concerned only with movement of animals and plants across international boundaries: it has nothing to say about internal trade within countries.

Originally conceived with animals (elephants, tigers, birds and many others) primarily in view, it was from the start extended to cover threatened plant species as well. There is no doubt that exploitative trade in some species has in the past done great

harm to their wild populations and could in many cases drive species to extinction if uncontrolled. The Society fully supports the aim of the Convention, which is to seek to mitigate that harm by monitoring and controlling the trade.

The Convention operates through a system of export and import licences with regard to three lists of species, which comprise CITES Appendices I, II and III, respectively adopted by the European Union as Annexes A, B and C. Controls on Annex A species are very strict; those on the other Annexes rather less so, though the necessary paperwork can still be burdensome. There is an additional EU list, Annex D, of plants for which import notification into the EU is required.

Annex A

The main horticultural species covered are in the *Cactaceae* and the *Orchidaceae* (including the entire genera *Paphiopedilum* and *Phragmipedium*).

Annex B

Here the CITES net sweeps wider. Covered are all the rest of the



Photo: Sarah Ball

Ophrys insectifera

Cactaceae and *Orchidaceae*, all *Galanthus* (snowdrops), *Sternbergia*, *Cyclamen*, *Nepenthes*, *Sarracenia*; many *Tillandsia* species; succulent *Euphorbia*; all tree-ferns and cycads; and various other particular species in other plant families.

A full list of the species covered by the CITES Annexes is given in this leaflet.

Three points which are of great practical importance are:

(i) The CITES definition of trade is very wide. No money needs to pass. Any international movement of a plant covered by the Annexes falls within the CITES rules, even if the plant was collected by you personally or given to you from a friend's garden.

(ii) Although the name of the Convention refers to "endangered species", hybrids are also covered. The rationale for this is that customs officers cannot reasonably be expected to distinguish hybrids from species.

(iii) Many countries of export have their own domestic laws for the protection of their native flora, which may restrict both collection and export. CITES does not affect these, and it remains important for prospective importers in this country

to acquaint themselves with them where they exist and to comply with them.

The CITES machinery

There is a central secretariat based in Switzerland, but each member state has its own national Management Authority and a separate Scientific Authority responsible for providing authoritative and practical advice on trade in threatened species. In this country the Management Authority is the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Scientific Authority (for plants) the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AE. Anyone wishing to import or export plants - whether from the wild or from horticultural sources - which are included in the CITES Annexes must apply in advance (and in good time) to the DEFRA for a permit. The address is given on page 5. Permits will not be given for Annex I species, except for plants which have been artificially propagated and which are accompanied by certified proof of their nursery origin.

Every two or three years there is a "Conference of the Parties", at which the member states meet to consider and vote on amendments to the Annexes and on other resolutions concerned with the implementation of the Convention. These meetings are often highly charged politically - with emotional issues such as ivory, the bird trade, the use of tiger parts in traditional Asian medicine and the exploitation of tropical timbers well to the fore. Most of the action concerns animals, but important issues concerning horticultural plants also find a place on the agenda.

Non-governmental organizations with appropriate interests and expertise are welcomed at these Conferences of the Parties; their active participation is in fact a vital part of

the Conference proceedings.

Government delegates in practice rely heavily on their expertise.

Britain and Europe

Britain's ability to act independently with regard to CITES matters is now limited by its obligations to the EU. Because the unified market has meant the abolition of most internal frontier controls the EU is for most purposes treated as if it were a single Party to the Convention. At the Conferences of Parties the EU speaks with one voice on policy matters.

The implementation of CITES within the EU is governed by EU Council Regulation 338/97, which came into force in June 1997. Although the Regulation reserves to member states some discretion on what documentation they require for plants which cross their borders, CITES documentation is for the most part not now required for moving plants from one country to another within the EU, while Member states have to follow uniform rules so far as import into the EU from non-EU states is concerned. The Regulation also adds certain native European plants (including, in particular most

Photo: Harry Smith Collection



Araucaria araucana

Photo: Harry Smith Collection



Ferocactus echidne



Cyclamen bederifolium

European orchids) to the CITES Annexes so far as trade with Europe is concerned.

The European Regulation has two consequences which make life more difficult for CITES applicants, especially the private individual.

(i) It requires that a Management Authority should have prior sight of an export permit from the country of export before issuing an import permit. This effectively rules out all applicants other than those seeking to import by placing orders with well established commercial sources, and it makes difficulties even for them. For an applicant will have to be able to specify in detail exactly what plants are to be imported and will need to obtain them from a supplier in the country of origin who is familiar with that country's Management Authority and its requirements. Moreover, the supplier will have to be willing to obtain an export permit in advance of receiving a firm order, since an importer cannot place a firm order in advance of getting an import permit. An individual travelling abroad and wanting to bring plants back would need to have all this arranged before he or she left this country.

(ii) The Regulation requires the

imposition of fees for licences. The rates of fee are currently being reviewed, but the scales envisaged could easily mean that for some consignments the cost would be considerably higher than the value of the plants.

The Society and CITES

Because of the importance of CITES for horticulture the Society has established good lines of communication with the DEFRA (our Management Authority) and with Kew. The Society was also an active participant in the 1992 and 1994 Conferences of Parties to CITES in Kyoto and Fort Lauderdale.

The Society's aim in the advice which it has given is, while supporting fully the principle of CITES, to seek to make its implementation both more practical and more friendly to horticultural interests. In particular the Society has sought to secure within CITES better recognition of the importance for the conservation of wild populations of encouraging nurseries to propagate listed species and the consequent need to make international trade in artificially propagated plants within CITES as easy as possible. At the 1992 Conference of Parties the Society supported the successful move to exempt flaked orchid seeds and tissue cultures from CITES altogether, and in 1994 it played a key role in establishing a system of registration for nurseries exclusively dealing in artificially propagated plants.

In the new situation it has become important to find ways of influencing the authorities in Brussels, both indirectly through the British authorities and directly. All these representations are an on-going business, and the Society has sought wherever possible to consult other specialist gardening organisations in framing its own views.

The purchase and supply of plants to RHS Enterprises plant centres is subject to compliance with CITES regulations. Exhibitors at RHS Shows also are made aware of their obligations under CITES, and there is a system in place to deal with infringements.



Dicksonia antarctica

Annexes

Annex A

International trade only allowed in artificially-propagated plants, and subject to licensing by the country of origin. All parts of plants controlled including seeds. In special circumstances trade in wild specimens for scientific purposes may be permitted. Flashed seedlings and tissue cultures of orchids are exempt from CITES trade restrictions.

Agavaceae	<i>Agave arizonica</i> , <i>A. parviflora</i> ; <i>Nolina interrata</i>
Aloeaceae (Liliaceae)	<i>Aloe albida</i> , <i>A. albiflora</i> , <i>A. alfredii</i> , <i>A. bakeri</i> , <i>A. bellatula</i> , <i>A. calcairophila</i> , <i>A. compressa</i> including vars. <i>rugosquamosa</i> and <i>schistophila</i> , <i>A. delphinensis</i> , <i>A. descoingsii</i> , <i>A. fragilis</i> , <i>A. haworthioides</i> including var. <i>aurantiaca</i> , <i>A. belenae</i> , <i>A. laeta</i> including var. <i>maniensis</i> , <i>A. parallelifolia</i> , <i>A. parvula</i> , <i>A. pillansii</i> , <i>A. polyphylla</i> , <i>A. raubii</i> , <i>A. suzannae</i> , <i>A. thornicroftii</i> , <i>A. versicolor</i> , <i>A. vossii</i>
Apocynaceae	<i>Pachypodium ambongense</i> , <i>P. baronii</i> , <i>P. decaryi</i>
Araucariaceae	<i>Araucaria araucana</i>
Asclepiadaceae	<i>Ceropegia chrysanta</i>
Asteraceae (Compositae)	<i>Saussurea costus</i>
Cactaceae	<i>Ariocarpus</i> spp.; <i>Astrophytum asterias</i> ; <i>Aztekium ritteri</i> ; <i>Coryphantha werdermannii</i> ; <i>Discocactus</i> spp.; <i>Echinocereus ferreirianus</i> var. <i>lindsayi</i> , <i>E. schmollii</i> ; <i>Escobaria minima</i> , <i>E. sneedii</i> ; <i>Mammillaria pectinifera</i> , <i>M. solisoides</i> ; <i>Melocactus conoideus</i> , <i>M. deinacanthus</i> , <i>M. glaucescens</i> , <i>M. paucispinus</i> ; <i>Obregonia denegrii</i> ; <i>Pachycereus militaris</i> ; <i>Pediocactus bradyi</i> , <i>P. knowltonii</i> , <i>P. paradinei</i> , <i>P. peeblesianus</i> , <i>P. sileri</i> , <i>Pelecyphora</i> spp.; <i>Sclerocactus brevibamatus</i> ssp. <i>tobuschii</i> , <i>S. erectocentrus</i> , <i>S. glaucus</i> , <i>S. mariposensis</i> , <i>S. mesae-verdae</i> , <i>S. papyracanthus</i> , <i>S. pubispinus</i> , <i>S. wrightiae</i> ; <i>Strombocactus</i> spp.; <i>Turbinicarpus</i> spp.; <i>Uebelmannia</i> spp.
Crassulaceae	<i>Dudleya stolonifera</i>
Cupressaceae	<i>Fitzroya cupressoides</i> ; <i>Pilgerodendron uviferum</i>
Cycadaceae	<i>Cycas beddomei</i>

Euphorbiaceae	<i>Euphorbia ambovombensis</i> , <i>E. capsaintemariensis</i> , <i>E. cremersii</i> , <i>E. cylindrifolia</i> , <i>E. decaryi</i> , <i>E. francoisii</i> , <i>E. bandiensis</i> , <i>E. lambii</i> , <i>E. moratii</i> , <i>E. parvicyathophora</i> , <i>E. quarziticola</i> , <i>E. stygiana</i> , <i>E. tulearensis</i>
Fouquieriaceae	<i>Fouquieria fasciculata</i> , <i>F. purpusii</i>
Leguminosae (Papilionaceae)	<i>Dalbergia nigra</i>
Nepenthaceae	<i>Nepenthes khasiana</i> , <i>N. rajah</i>
Orchidaceae (All flashed seedlings are excluded from control)	<i>Cattleya trianaei</i> ; <i>Cephalanthera cucullata</i> ; <i>Cypripedium calceolus</i> ; <i>Dendrobium cruentum</i> ; <i>Goodyera macrophylla</i> ; <i>Laelia jongheana</i> , <i>L. lobata</i> ; <i>Liparis loeselii</i> ; <i>Ophrys argolica</i> , <i>O. lunulata</i> ; <i>Orchis scopulorum</i> ; <i>Paphiopedilum</i> spp.; <i>Peristeria elata</i> ; <i>Phragmipedium</i> spp.; <i>Renanthera imschootiana</i> ; <i>Spiranthes aestivalis</i> ; <i>Vanda coerulea</i> . In addition the European Union includes all European orchids in Appendix I.
Pinaceae	<i>Abies guatemalensis</i>
Podocarpaceae	<i>Podocarpus parlatorei</i>
Rubiaceae	<i>Balmea stormiae</i>
Sarraceniaceae	<i>Sarracenia alabamensis</i> ssp. <i>alabamensis</i> , <i>S. jonesii</i> , <i>S. oreophila</i>
Stangeriaceae	<i>Stangeria eriopus</i>
Zamiaceae	<i>Ceratozamia</i> spp.; <i>Chigua</i> spp.; <i>Encephalartos</i> spp.; <i>Microcycas calacoma</i>
Zygophyllaceae	<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>

Annex B

International trade allowed in wild and artificially-propagated plants subject to licensing. For plants collected directly from the wild this means an export permit. For plants artificially propagated the Convention allows trade subject to licensing with a proviso that a phytosanitary certificate will suffice, subject to an endorsement "artificially propagated as defined by CITES". It should however be noted that this provision is not admitted by all member states, including the UK.

(Not subject to licensing control under Annex B are seeds; flashed seedlings, and tissue cultures; cut flowers of artificially propagated orchids; fruits of artificially propagated *Vanilla* spp.; fruits of naturalized or propagated orchids; pads of *Opuntia* subgenus *Opuntia*.)

Agavaceae	<i>Agave victoriae-reginae</i>
Aloeaceae (Liliaceae)	<i>Aloe</i> spp. except <i>A. vera</i> and <i>A. barbadensis</i>

Annexes (cont.)

Amaryllidaceae	<i>Galanthus</i> spp.; <i>Sternbergia</i> spp.
Apocynaceae	<i>Pachypodium</i> spp.; <i>Rauvolfia serpentina</i>
Araliaceae	<i>Panax quinquefolius</i> , <i>P. ginseng</i>
Arecaceae (Palmae)	<i>Chrysalidocarpus decipiens</i> ; <i>Neodypsis decaryi</i>
Berberidaceae	<i>Podophyllum hexandrum</i>
Bromeliaceae	<i>Tillandsia barristii</i> , <i>T. kammii</i> , <i>T. kautskyi</i> , <i>T. mauryana</i> , <i>T. sprengeliana</i> , <i>T. sucrei</i> , <i>T. xerographica</i>
Cactaceae	Cactaceae spp. other than those in Annex A
Caryocaraceae	<i>Caryocar costaricense</i>
Crassulaceae	<i>Dudleya braskiae</i>
Cyatheaceae	Cyatheaceae spp.
Cycadaceae	Cycadaceae spp.
Diapensiaceae	<i>Shortia galacifolia</i>
Dicksoniaceae	<i>Dicksonia</i> spp. (originating in the Americas only); <i>Cibotium barometz</i>
Didiereaceae	Didiereaceae spp.
Dioscoreaceae	<i>Dioscorea deltoidea</i>
Droseraceae	<i>Dionaea muscipula</i>
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Euphorbia</i> spp. (succulent species only)
Fouquieriaceae	<i>Fouquieria columnaris</i>
Juglandaceae	<i>Oreomunnea pterocarpa</i>
Leguminosae (Papilionaceae)	<i>Pericopsis elata</i> ; <i>Platymiscium pleiostachyum</i> ; <i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i> (only logs, woodchips and unprocessed broken material)
Meliaceae	<i>Swietenia humilis</i> , <i>S. mahagoni</i>
Nepenthaceae	<i>Nepenthes</i> spp.
Orchidaceae	Orchidaceae spp.
Orobanchaceae	<i>Cistanche deserticola</i>
Portulacaceae	<i>Anacampseros</i> spp.; <i>Avonia</i> spp.; <i>Lewisia maguirei</i> , <i>L. serrata</i>
Primulaceae	<i>Cyclamen</i> spp.
Proteaceae	<i>Orothamnus zeyheri</i> ; <i>Protea odorata</i>
Ranunculaceae	<i>Adonis vernalis</i> (all parts and derivatives); <i>Hydrastis scanadensis</i>
Rosaceae	<i>Prunus africana</i> (except seeds, pollen, tissue cultures and flasks seedling cultures)
Sarraceniaceae	<i>Sarracenia</i> spp.
Scrophulariaceae	<i>Picrorhiza kurroa</i>
Stangeriaceae	<i>Bowenia</i> spp.
Taxaceae	<i>Taxus wallichiana</i> (except finished pharmaceutical products, seeds, pollen, tissue cultures and flasks seedling cultures)
Thymeleaceae	<i>Aquilaria malaccensis</i> (except seeds, pollen, tissue cultures and flasks seedling cultures)
Valerianaceae	<i>Nardostachys grandiflora</i>

Welwitschiaceae	<i>Welwitschia mirabilis</i>
Zamiaceae	Zamiaceae spp.
Zingiberaceae	<i>Hedychium philippinense</i>
Zygophyllaceae	<i>Guaiacum officinale</i>

Annex C

International trade in the following species requires an export permit from the country that listed the species or a certificate of origin.

Gnetaceae	<i>Gnetum montanum</i>
Magnoliaceae	<i>Magnolia liliifera</i> var. <i>obovata</i>
Meliaceae	<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>
Papaveraceae	<i>Meconopsis regia</i>
Popocarpaceae	<i>Podocarpus nerifolius</i>
Tetracentraceae	<i>Tetracentron sinense</i>

European Union Annex D

Import notification only is required upon import to the EU; controls apply to live plants except those marked *, which also include all parts and derivatives.

Agavaceae	<i>Calibanus bookerii</i> ; <i>Dasyllirion longissimum</i>
Araceae	<i>Arisaema dracontium</i> , <i>A. erubescens</i> , <i>A. galeatum</i> , <i>A. jacquemontii</i> , <i>A. nepentoides</i> , <i>A. sikokianum</i> , <i>A. speciosum</i> , <i>A. thunbergii</i> var. <i>urashima</i> , <i>A. tortuosum</i> , <i>A. triphyllum</i> ; <i>Biarum davisii</i> ssp. <i>davisii</i> and ssp. <i>armarisense</i> , <i>B. ditschianum</i>
Asteraceae (Compositae)	<i>Arnica montana</i> *; <i>Orthonna armiana</i> , <i>O. caclioides</i> , <i>O. clavifolia</i> , <i>O. euphorbioides</i> , <i>O. ballii</i> , <i>O. berrei</i> , <i>O. lepidocaulis</i> , <i>O. lobata</i> , <i>O. retrorsa</i>
Ericaceae	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> *
Gentianaceae	<i>Gentiana lutea</i> *
Lycopodiaceae	<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i> *
Menyanthaceae	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> *
Parmeliaceae	<i>Cetraria islandica</i> *
Passifloraceae	<i>Adenia fruticosa</i> , <i>A. glauca</i> , <i>A. pechuelii</i> , <i>A. spinosa</i>
Portulacaceae	<i>Ceraria</i> spp.
Trilliaceae	<i>Trillium catesbaei</i> , <i>T. cernuum</i> , <i>T. flexipes</i> , <i>T. grandiflorum</i> , <i>T. luteum</i> , <i>T. pusillum</i> , <i>T. recurvatum</i> , <i>T. rugelii</i> , <i>T. sessile</i> , <i>T. undulatum</i>

For further information

If you want to import (or export) plants which are covered by CITES, you should apply to the UK Management Authority for a permit. The address is the DEFRA, Global Wildlife Division, 1/16 Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6EB (www.ukcites.gov.uk)

All enquiries should also be addressed to them.

A summary of RHS policy

1 The Royal Horticultural Society supports the aims of CITES in seeking to monitor and, where necessary, control international trade in endangered species, while at the same time being aware that the Convention has important practical implications for horticulturists.

2 The Society will continue to be actively involved in consultation processes dealing with the evolution of CITES and its implementation by national and international authorities.

3 In particular the Society will continue to emphasize the important part that artificial propagation can play in reducing the pressure on wild populations of endangered species and will support all measures to make the trade in artificially propagated plants as easy as possible within CITES.

4 The Society deplores the collection of any plant in biologically unsustainable quantities directly from the wild. Techniques of plant propagation enable the majority

of species to be increased in cultivation from an initial stock, obviating the need for large-scale collection.

5 The Society provides relevant information to its membership explaining the purpose of CITES, the plant species covered in the Annexes and the requirements for trade in those species.

6 The Society requires all plants exhibited or offered for sale at its shows, entered in its competitions or submitted for awards or trials to have been obtained in accordance with CITES regulations. Similarly it takes all steps to ensure that plants grown in its gardens or offered through its Plant Centres have been obtained in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

7 The Society is involved in the promotion of a long-term programme for the cultivation, propagation and distribution of horticulturally desirable plants that are endangered in the wild, so relieving the pressure on the wild populations of those species.

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