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AIPH Welcomes UN Resolution Proclaiming 2020 the International Year of Plant Health

The International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH) welcomes the UN's proclamation that 2020 will be the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH). The proclamation was made by the UN General Assembly on 20th December 2018 in Rome.

The International Year of Plant Health will help raise awareness, among the public and policy makers, of the importance of plant health and how this supports plans to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The International Association of Horticultural Producers, which supports ornamentals growers worldwide, welcomes the UN's initiative. "Tackling the spread of plant pests and disease is critical to ensure a vibrant and dynamic plant trade into the future. It is very much in the interest of growers, as well as the environment, that the best possible plant health systems are in place and consistently applied. That such a prestigious organisation recognises the importance of this area is very positive." says Tim Briercliffe, AIPH Secretary General.

In the past five years the global ornamentals industry has faced an increasing threat from diseases such as *Xylella fastidiosa* with parts of Europe particularly affected. Ornamental plants and flowers are grown and traded around the world making plant health inescapably a global issue and the 2020 IYPH initiative will help raise international recognition and encourage a consolidated approach to protecting plants around the world.

The AIPH Ornamentals Production Committee is active in plant health regulations and information exchange on practices to improve biosecurity and considered a valued stakeholder in this area for the ornamentals industry. AIPH assists the industry by working to secure long term access to sustainable plant material around the world and protects trade by upholding high standards of biosecurity.

AIPH will be undertaking activities and holding events relating to plant health as part of the 2020 IYPH initiative which is spearheaded by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Throughout the International Year of Plant Health AIPH, as an important stakeholder, will provide support, knowledge and expertise on plant health to its members, partners and the wider horticulture industry. For more information on AIPH activities visit www.aiph.org.

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For further details contact:

Penelope Tomkins, AIPH Communications Manager
Email: penelope.tomkins@aiph.org Phone: +44 (0) 1235 776 160

Website: www.aiph.org
Follow AIPH on Twitter [@AIPHglobal](https://twitter.com/AIPHglobal)

Notes for Editors:

International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH)

Since 1948, AIPH has united horticultural producers in an international community that thrives to this day. Much has changed in that time. Technologies advanced, cities rose from the ground, and we have become more connected than ever. As a result, our essential bond with nature has been weakened. AIPH strives to reignite and uphold an appreciation of plants that we believe is a basic human instinct. We support the work of grower associations globally and together we champion a prosperous industry, growing plants that enhance lives, advance societies and sustain our planet, for this generation and the next.

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an international treaty that entered into force in 1952 and provides a framework to protect the world's plant resources from the harm caused by pests. It is currently composed of 183 contracting parties.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Factsheet Championing an International Year of Plant Health: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CA0324EN>

Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ed5XVTSuYAo&feature=youtu.be>