

BIOSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

During the month of July, we will be raising awareness on biosecurity; what it is, why it matters and how all of us can help protect St Helena from the introduction of pests and diseases.

What is Biosecurity?

Biosecurity minimises the risk of diseases or pests being imported into St Helena which could cause damage to our crops, endemics or could cause human or animal illness. The effects of introducing a pest or disease can be devastating and sometimes the effects are only seen many years later. Once this happens it is extremely hard or sometimes impossible to get rid of them. As a remote island, we have the benefit of being able to control what comes past our borders much more easily than many other countries. By preventing certain high risk goods from entering we can protect ourselves and our island.

White weed is an example of what can go wrong if biosecurity measures are not in place. It was imported over a century ago as an ornamental garden plant. No restrictions were in place then and no one checked what was likely to happen if it established itself here. More than a century later this has become invasive. It covers vast areas of land and can grow densely wiping out other plants, affecting our pastures and crops. Life would have been a lot easier if we had prevented it coming to the island in the first place!









White weed on St Helena

The Biosecurity, Customs and Veterinary teams work hard to protect our borders from these biological risks. Amongst other things we monitor what comes in by performing risk assessments and issuing licenses for high risk products, we do inspections and have working dogs to check for illegal or prohibited imports.

What goods are prohibited or need a license?

Here are some examples of goods that are prohibited or require a license to be brought to St Helena:

Examples of goods which are prohibited		Examples of goods which require an import licence		Other items can be imported without a license as long as certain import health standards are met. These include:
	Honey & some bee products		Fresh fruit and vegetables	
	Cut flowers		Plant material	
	Bananas		Animals – such as live fish	

If you are unsure if a product requires a license, have any questions about biosecurity or would like to report a biosecurity concern, you can contact ANRD Scotland telephone 24724 and speak to:

- *Catherine Man about animal related products (including bee equipment) email: catherine.man@enrd.gov.sh*
- *Julie Balchin for all other items (including sand, plants, fruit and vegetables) or reporting any unusual sightings email: julie.balchin@enrd.gov.sh*

Further information such as closing dates and application forms for licenses as well as detailed import health standards for various imports are available on our website: www.sainthelena.gov.sh/st-helena-biosecurity-service

Keep your eyes and ears open for radio programmes and newspaper articles on biosecurity issues in the next few weeks.

Public participation events include:

Biosecurity Open Day
On Friday the 21st of July 2017 at 1.30pm
At the Biosecurity building on the Wharf

See Harry the biosecurity dog in action, take a look at some of the pests we have caught and much more!
This event is open to all.



We will also be hosting a **drop-in session outside the Canister on Friday the 21st of July 2017 from 10.30am till 12.30pm** where you can come and ask us any questions you might have about imports or biosecurity. We will be happy to assist you in completing application forms for import licenses or discuss any queries you might have.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING PROTECT OUR BEAUTIFUL ISLAND

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION, SCOTLAND, ST HELENA, SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN, STHL 1ZZ

July 2017