

# BOC Newsletter

## September/October 2022



*Gastrochilus japonicus* 'Julinda' grown by David Crook, N. of E. OS

Judging symposium, South Muskham, 2nd October 2022

Awarded an unanimous Certificate of Cultural Commendation,  
RHS orchid committee, 11th October 2022



# British Orchid Council

~ promoting orchid growing ~

It hardly seems possible, but the clocks will be going back this weekend as I'm writing this. I hope everyone has their heating sorted out for the coming winter - and let's hope it will be mild, to keep the heating costs down this year. Many people are turning their heating down or bringing the more tender orchids indoors. Where's there's a will there's a way !

The British Orchid Council held its 2022 AGM and an Ordinary meeting on Zoom on Wednesday 19th October at which:

- Iain Wright (hardy Orchid Society) was appointed as Hon. Treasurer,
- Alison Caldwell (Central Orchid Society) was appointed as Minutes Secretary.
- Lina Smalinske (Solihull and District Orchid Society) was appointed as the new Social Media Secretary.

Thanks to Tin Ong, our previous Hon. Treasurer, Sam Bridge our previous Minutes Secretary and Trish King our previous co-Hon. Secretary for all the work they have put in on behalf of the BOC.



Dendrobium Aussie's Hi-Lo Yellow Red  
E. Midland Show 23rd Oct. 2022



Miltonia Sunset - E. Midland OS Show 23rd Oct. 2022

In this edition of the newsletter there are several items all connected with CITES and Conservation.

1. Conservation, but maybe not how you thought of it. *This is a report of a recent talk I gave to Central Orchid Society, thanks to John Rigby for this.*
2. CITES and illegal importation of orchids. *Some aspects that Chris Barker is anxious that everyone is made aware of.*
3. Handout from the CITES Sustainable Users Group Teams meeting, from Clare Hermans. *There are several useful links for information included in the text.*

These are two of the most important links:

1. CITES. <https://cites.org/eng>
2. If you want to look up and study all the various regulations for yourself (my advice is don't, unless you want a headache) then these can all be found on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

**From Last time:**

Parsley is a Lineolated or Barred Parakeet.

Congratulations to the one or two who got the correct answer, most people didn't.

The most surprising thing to emerge is just how many orchid people either kept or bred parakeets - who knew?



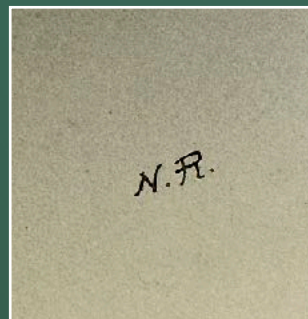
Parsley

**AND NEXT TIME:**

What on earth does 'NR' mean?

Does anyone know?

Find out in the next newsletter



**Photographic Competition 2022**

This year we will be running the Photographic Competition again. Entries will be open from 30th November 2022.

It is very easy to enter:

- Email your photos to [photo@@british-orchid-council.info](mailto:photo@@british-orchid-council.info)
- Two entries per person, images must be jpegs only
- Entries are open up to midnight 31st Dec. 2022

The subject is 'An Orchid Photograph'

This gives everyone as wide a scope as possible and you can interpret it anyway you wish. One orchid, or a group, in the wild, or in your greenhouse it's entirely up to you.



*Pleione Quizapu Peregrine*  
Winner in 2020  
Derek Armstrong, Darlington OS



*Cattleya Chantilly Lace*  
Brian Coulson, NE fo England OS

**Please don't try to enter just yet:**

There will be further details next time, but this is to give you plenty of notice so that you can be looking out a couple of your best images to enter.

In the meantime, if you need to know anything further, you can always contact me at:

[chairman@british-orchid-council.info](mailto:chairman@british-orchid-council.info)

David  
"but Bournemouth told me to airdrop your pictures!!"



And yes, that is the hard floor of my conservatory, and it is (or was) my iPhone.

And this is the reason you will have to wait until December for Chris Barker's full report and some exciting news about Malvern. Oh dear!!

Here are a couple of items that I hope you will find interesting and will take the time to either have a look at, or listen to!



On the 30th September Malcolm Moody and Lina Smalinsk from Solihull Orchid Society were guests on Jane Perrone's Podcast "On the Ledge". Jane is a journalist specialising in garden and house plants and has been producing this podcast for the last 5 years.

The interviews took place in Malcolm's greenhouse with the aim was to be listened to by many young enthusiasts in the UK & beyond, interested in Orchids, but not yet members of an Orchid Society.

The first part of the Podcast was about Malcolm's orchid interest and his passion for *Paphiopedilums* and *Phragmipediums*. The second part was an interview with both on the reasons for joining a local Orchid Society with the added benefits of being able to share knowledge with experienced growers.

Listen to the podcast by using the link:

[www.janeperrone.com/onthe-ledge](http://www.janeperrone.com/onthe-ledge). Podcast episode 240

Or by going onto "Apple Podcasts" or "Spotify" on your phone

And look for episode 240

*Paphiopedilum* Fumi's Delight

This plant of Malcolm's was recently awarded a Certificate of Cultural Commendation by the RHS Orchid Committee earlier this year.



*Dendrobium limpidum x alatacaulinum*  
Best in Show.

East Midlands Show, Bottesford,  
23rd October 2022.

A beautiful plant belonging to Jean Barker, it was nearly smothered by all the rosettes it won!

You all might also like to have a look at the following website:

<https://www.pumpkinbeth.com>

This site is run by Pumpkin Beth, aka Beth Otway who is a member of the OSGB and a lot of other horticultural things as well! In 2018 she was awarded National Collection status for two of her orchid collections: miniature *Phalaenopsis* species and miniature *Aerangis* and *Angraecum* species.

She also maintains a calendar of Orchid Plant Sales, Orchid Shows, Orchid Talks & Orchid Events

There is an enormous amount of information not only on orchids but also on a variety of horticultural topics.

A fascinating site and well worth checking it out and having a look.

## Judging symposium:

### 2nd October at South Muskham

There was an excellent turnout for this event with people travelling long distances in order to participate. I know a few people only needed one or two tables in order qualify, so I hope they all

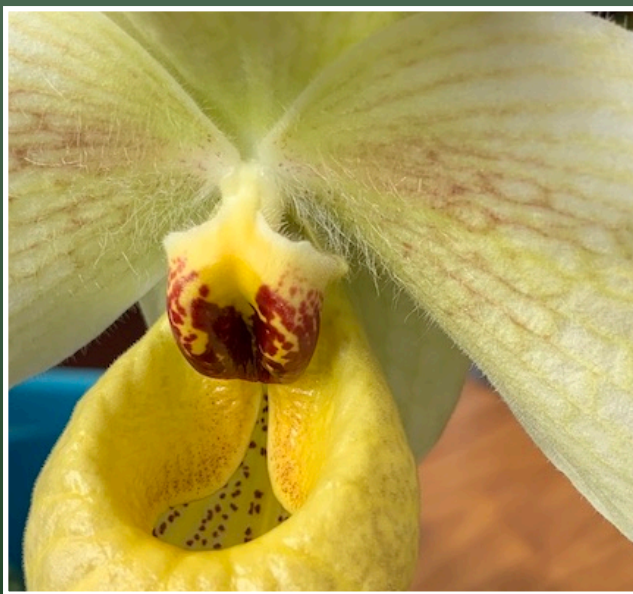
Perhaps the most interesting part of the day were the amazing variety and quality of the plants brought for inclusion on the judging tables. There were some very unusual species and specimen plants on display. Congratulations in particular to David Crook on his beautiful *Gastrochilus* specimen.



*Dendrobium* species



*Prosthechea* species



*Paphiopedilum* detail, plant from Elite orchids

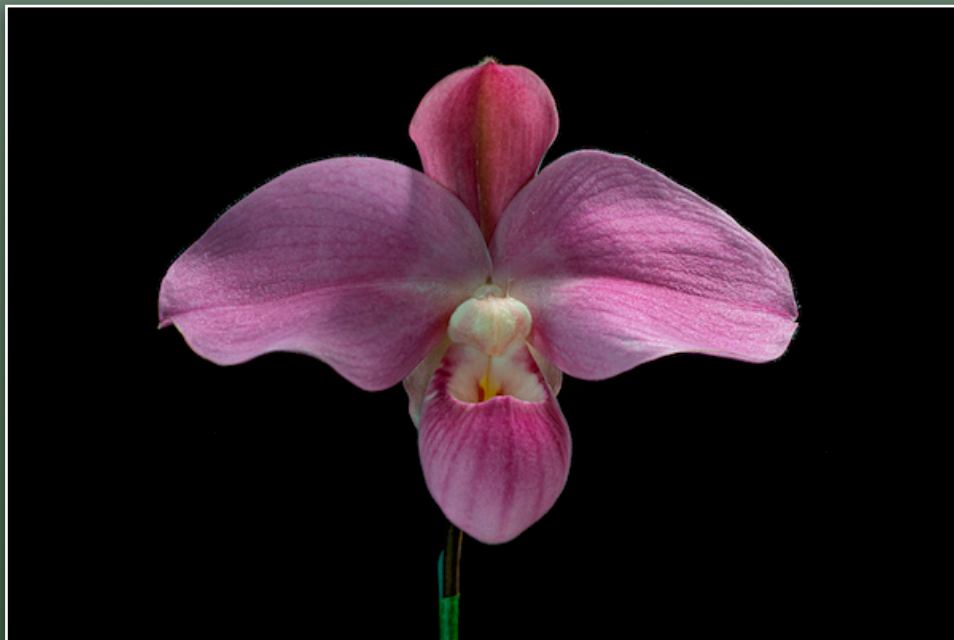


*Dendrobium* hybrid

**Next judging Symposium:** March, 2023, RHS Orchid Show, Hilltop, RHS Wisley. Full details will be available from Jean and Chris Barker



*Phragmipedium kovachii* Judging symposium



*Phragmipedium kovachii* new hybrid: Recently awarded by RHS Orchid Committee

**Perhaps you will find this comparison interesting:**

The top picture shows a typical *Phrag. kovachii* flower, the petals beginning to reflex which happens a day or two after the flower opens. This was a large flower and had a really strong colour which really stood out across the room, a good example of the species.

The second picture is a recent hybrid produced by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation. The improvements in flower shape, form and changes in colour can be seen. There was also an improvement in texture. A really beautiful flower, just one of their recent hybrids using this species.

Whether you prefer hybrid or species is up to you - but they make a useful illustration of what careful hybridisation can achieve and the improvements in flower type that can be made.



Congratulations to Bournemouth Orchid Society who won the award for the best display.

They all look very pleased with them selves - very well done guys, it was a great display.



What a poppet! He really was an assistance dog and helped his owner with mental health and dementia.

### Memories of Malvern

There are already one or two full reviews from Malvern, and Chris is going to include his full review in the newsletter next time. I thought you might like to see these few pictures and have a smile at what was left on the North of England stand!

As already hinted at there is some very exciting news about upcoming Malvern shows and Chris will explain what is in the pipeline for future events in the Christmas newsletter. There will be some changes next year, which we are hoping will please everyone.



You never know what you find left on your stand!!

## The Mathers Foundation

### Guided Tours

We are delighted to be able to offer a number of behind the scenes Guided Tours of our glasshouses in West Sussex which house over 4,000 cool growing orchids from around the world.

The collection includes Oncidium, Miltoniopsis, Cymbidium and Pleione species and hybrids and the tours offer a wonderful opportunity to see the variety being grown and learn about how they are cultivated. Due to the size of the nursery tickets are limited to 20 max. and all tour proceeds are reinvested to support the collection.



The dates of the tours are:

11 February 2023 2- 4pm

4 March 2023 10.30 -12.30am

29 April 2023 10.30 -12.30am

13 May 2023 10.30 – 12.30am

The tickets are all bookable through our website [www.orchid.foundation](http://www.orchid.foundation) or via email to Gill at [gill@orchid.foundation](mailto:gill@orchid.foundation).

### Pleione Catalogue

If anyone is interested in buying Pleione bulbs from our 'Butterfield' collection, a catalogue of ones for sale is on our website – [www.orchid.foundation](http://www.orchid.foundation). All orders are due by 1 December so that bulbs can be allocated and sent out in January.





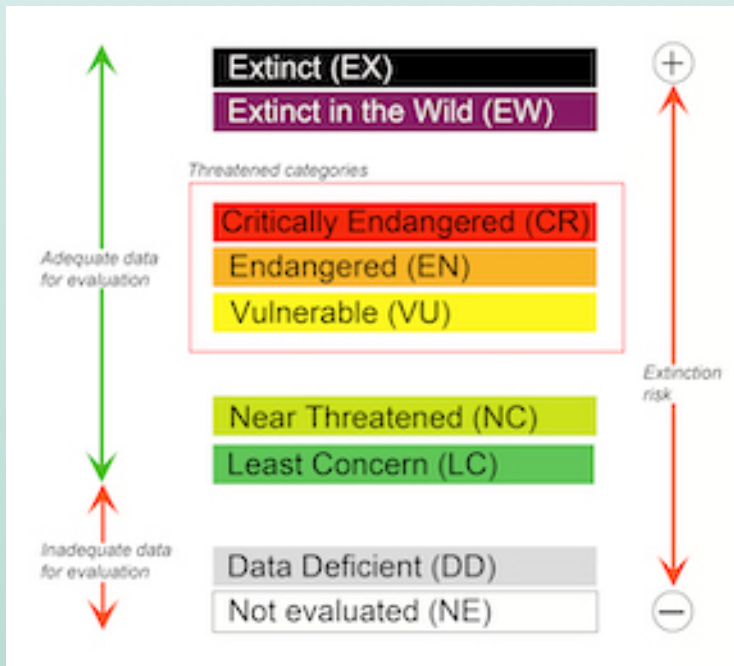
## Conservation: but perhaps not how you thought of it

When we think about conservation, usually we think about preserving animals and plants in their natural habitats. This, however, is only one sort of conservation and it may be approached in a rather different way to that in which it is usually considered.

Conservation may be defined as *'the careful preservation and protection of something'* and is broadly of two types:

**In-situ:** looking after organisms in their natural environment

**Ex-situ:** looking after organisms away from their natural environment



We need to consider the 'traditional' concept of in-situ conservation first and also to explain some of the common terms used.

Perhaps the most common concept is that of '**endangered**' or should it be '**Endangered**'? The latter, Endangered (capital 'E'), refers to the IUCN categories of threat facing an organism. These threats are **Critically Endangered** (CR: 80-90% lost), **Endangered** (EN: 60-70% lost) and **Vulnerable** (VU: 40-50% lost).

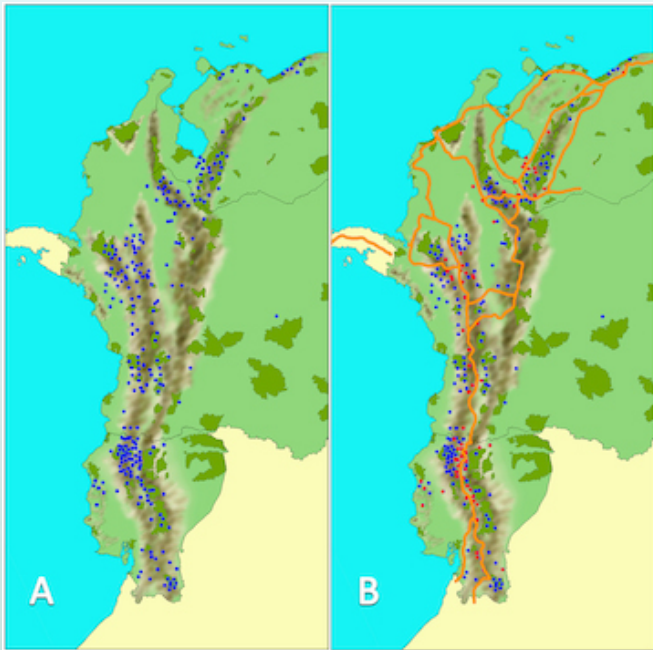
IUCN is the *International Union for Conservation of Nature* (<https://www.iucn.org/>) with headquarters in Gland, Switzerland.

So a tree that is likely to be cut down or a tree that is part of a wood scheduled for redevelopment is **endangered** whereas a tree that belongs to a species rare in the Midlands is **Endangered locally**, a tree that belongs to a species rare in UK is **Endangered nationally** and a tree that is the last individual of a rare species is **Endangered globally**.

There is also a difference between **Extinct** (EX), **Extinct in the wild** (EW: individuals or small populations may still exist in ex-situ collections) and **Functionally extinct** (FX: a species that can no longer reproduce no pollinators, too few individuals left, cannot set seed by self-pollination).

*Restrepia* species are found in the temperate, montane forests of Central and South America mainly in Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador. Their distribution maps follow the north/south line of the Andes where these forests are found. When these map was overlaid with areas identified as 'hot spots' of deforestation (identified officially as such in 1990) the two areas coincided. All epiphytes growing in these areas are therefore threatened by habitat destruction, since they occur in these threatened habitats. A Red List analysis indicated every species to be under threat in some part of their range. One species was extinct in the wild, 17% were Critically Endangered, 17% were Endangered, 59% were Vulnerable with 6% lacking data.

When a map of the course of the Pan-American Highway is overlaid, the areas where forest no longer persists and where orchids are being lost can be identified. Again, the areas coincide. To rub this home the only part where there is very little orchid loss is also the area where there is a gap of some 66 miles in the Highway – the Darién Gap on the border of Panama and Columbia, one of the



last remaining areas of pristine rainforest. In the affected areas changes in land use has lead to a deluge in the discovery of new orchid species that are then being lost again as the habitat is destroyed.

A. show the locations where Restrepia species have been discovered

B. The Pan American highway is shown in orange, red dots alongside it indicate where forest covers no longer persists and where Restrepia species have been lost

What of South East Asia? Here, also, much of the forests has disappeared, and there has been an enormous on-going extent of habitat loss & fragmentation and the long term survival of orchids is very much threatened.

So what can we do?

- *In-situ conservation?* - Realistically, not very much
- *Ex-situ conservation?* - Quite a lot more, as we can all play a more active role.

**Ex-situ** collections include, for example, public collections (botanical gardens, institutions & universities), orchid nurseries, and private collections (greenhouses, houses and plant heritage collections).

Dangers of **in-situ** threats to wild plants include habitat loss, deforestation & fragmentation, alien invaders (weeds), climate change, pollution, predation and loss of biodiversity. Dangers of **ex-situ** threats to cultivated plants include fewer greenhouses & fewer growers, collections split up & lost, millions of plants mericloned for the mass market, poor use of chemicals, snails, slugs & mealy bugs, added to which species are getting harder to obtain and becoming more expensive.

**Ex-situ** collections cannot be used for re-introduction of species into the wild for a variety of reasons which are not always apparent: they may be of unknown provenance, they may have undergone minor genetic changes if they have been line-bred, they may have undergone artificial selection, (ie: flower stem length) or/and they may no longer represent the true 'wild' species. It is important to remember that re-introduction programmes have to use genetically 'pure' stock, preferably originating from the same locality.

But **ex-situ** collections can: help to maintain interest and knowledge of orchid growing, provide beautiful species for pleasure, relieve the pressure of over-collecting on wild plants, raise public awareness of orchids & the environmental pressures they are under and provide plants for study. So all is not yet lost.

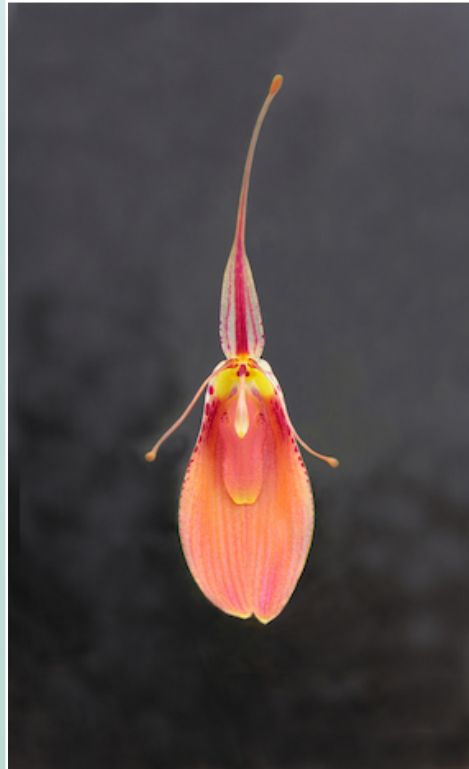
This is where we, as an orchid community can best play our part at the moment. Orchid growing in the UK is facing difficult times and we must all work together to help conserve it and look after the

wonderful species orchids that we have in cultivation in this country. The photographs that are shown every month are intended to help share our pleasure and enjoyment of these amazing plants and to celebrate the growing achievements of society members around the country. I am tempted to add "Conservation begins at home!"

This article was meant to bring into sharp focus not only the desperate issues affecting orchids across the world but also some of the things that we can do at home to help ourselves and the plants that make up our hobby. You may or may not agree with this point of view, and that's fine, but at least I hope it has been thought provoking!



*Restrepia seketii*, Colombia  
Critically Endangered (CR)



*Restrepia cuprea*, Colombia  
Critically Endangered (CR)

Both of these species come from Colombia where they are rare in the wild and should be considered as Critically Endangered.

However both of these species may be found in orchid collections in the UK where they are popular because of their bright colours.

It is so important that the cultivated populations of these and other species are not lost. While, unfortunately, we cannot influence what is happening to them in their countries of origin we can help to conserve these species in cultivation for us and future orchid growers to enjoy.

At the recent BOC ordinary meeting, Chris Barker was anxious to stress the following message, that all ordinary orchid growers need to pay attention to.

If anyone is importing plants themselves rather than buying from one of our UK traders two essential points are that:

- The documentation provided by overseas nurseries is all well and good but these are not import permits and should be used to apply for a UK CITES permit from DEFRA and a phytosanitary inspection from APHA.
- The proposed change in legislation could see the authorities coming against us, the hobbyists, and may in extreme cases see the confiscation of all of our orchids, not just those that have been imported.

## **CITES and illegal importation of orchids**

Some of you will have seen Chris's email complaining about a European trader bringing pre-orders for customers to the Malvern Show. This was not one of our exhibiting traders who pay table fees to be part of the Show. Our UK traders go to a lot of trouble and expense to follow the importation rules required by DEFRA. In addition many people are probably breaking the law by importing orchids from all over the world via the internet. This is totally unfair on our UK trade, and it will eventually put them out of business.

Officers from DEFRA and APHA (Animal and Plant Health Authority) visited Malvern this year to discuss import problems, and Chris Barker has had a number of DEFRA meetings in recent years. It is clear that they want to address the problem of illegal importing ("non-compliance") but it is impossible to prosecute exporters from around the World who are probably not breaking the law in their own country. It is becoming clear that although DEFRA feel it is the exporting traders that they want to stop, they will need to deal with the people receiving the orchids instead.

*It has been suggested to me that Chris should identify people that could be investigated. This is something he is not willing to do. His wish is to try to warn hobbyists about the dangers that might be coming their way. He also sees no point in naming foreign traders who are probably following the regulations in their own country. They have agreed that education is the best way to start.*

He is hoping to get a document from DEFRA that explains the regulations and sets out the legal implications of "non-compliance" which he will pass on to societies. Some hobbyists think that when they are provided with valid CITES export permits and Phytosanitary certificates from the exporting country that this is all they need. These are not import permits and should be used to apply for a UK CITES import permit from DEFRA and a phytosanitary inspection from APHA. The foreign exporter can simply say they provided all the necessary export documents, and it is not their fault if the importer did not bother to get import permits.

It is interesting to note that, following BREXIT, the UK authorities are rewriting the regulations for importing to be included into British law. I received a consultation paper from DEFRA in September about plans to amend CITES Legislation. The intention is to –

*"Introduce a possession offence into COTES (Control of Trade in Endangered Species) to enhance the ability of enforcement to take action on non-compliance away from the border or where suspected non-compliance is identified through investigations or searches."*

**It is not difficult to work out what this means.**

PS "non-compliance" seems to be their polite way of saying breaking the law which can result in fines, confiscation of orchids and at worst a prison sentence.

**Chris Barker**

# CITES Sustainable Users Group Teams meeting

## ***Plant Audience:***

CITES ([CITES](#)), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, regulates more than 35,000 endangered animal and plant species. This agreement, which is in force in most countries globally regulates the movement and trade of endangered animals and plants, including their parts and derivatives, to ensure that trade does not threaten their survival. Aloes, Orchids, Rosewoods and carnivorous plants are just a few examples of plant species which are already controlled under CITES regulation.

The movement and trade of Endangered species is controlled through a global system of import/export permits which can be obtained from the respective importing and exporting Management Authorities. Permits are issued following checks on the legality and sustainability of the trade of the species in question.

You can check whether a species is listed under CITES by searching the species or Latin name on [www.speciesplus.net](http://www.speciesplus.net). Commercial trade in Appendix I species is not generally allowed, whilst trade in Appendix II and III species is regulated to ensure it remains sustainable. CITES controls apply to both companies and individual private traders.

## ***Thinking of sourcing plants for your garden?***

**All CITES Specimens that were previously freely moved between Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the EU now require CITES permits or an import notification.** Meaning CITES listed species being moved into or out of Great Britain, including the movement of specimens between Great Britain and Northern Ireland must travel with import/(re)export permits, following the same processes in place for movement of specimens between the UK and non-EU countries. These movements must occur through one of the 36 CITES designated land, sea and airports, and permits must be endorsed by UK Border Force on entry or exit. It is generally not possible to endorse the permits away from the border or retrospectively. **You cannot legally trade CITES specimens which entered the UK without endorsed permits.**

Incorrectly imported or exported goods may be liable to seizure and/or prosecution and so care should be taken to follow the correct procedure and ensure everyone involved in the trade, including agents or couriers, are aware of their responsibilities to follow the rules. There are criminal offences associated with moving or trading CITES-controlled specimens if you do not have a valid permit or certificate. The maximum penalty is a 7-year prison sentence and an unlimited fine.

The up-to-date list of the ports is available on the following GOV.UK page: [www.gov.uk/guidance/trading-cites-listed-specimens-through-uk-ports-and-airports](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/trading-cites-listed-specimens-through-uk-ports-and-airports).

## ***Upcoming changes***

Species are added to, removed, or moved between Appendices every 3 years at a Conference of Parties (CoP). This allows CITES rules to react to the changing risk for species of over-exploitation as a result of international trade.

CoP19 is taking place from 14<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in Panama, where Parties are being asked to consider stricter trade regulations for nearly 600 species of animals and plants believed to be under threat of extinction from international trade. These include Roseodendron species, Paubrasilia echinate (Brazil Wood) and Dalbergia sissoo (North Indian Rosewood). These proposals are available to view online at <https://cites.org/eng/meetings/cop/amendment-proposals>.

Defra officials will be attending the CoP on behalf of the UK government and are currently assessing all the listing proposals and other documents with the aim to form a UK view. This will consider the independent advice from our scientific advisors and input from other government departments, non-governmental organisations, traders and others.

We would very much welcome comments on any of these proposals and documents, and for any information about any UK trade in these species. You can send them to [CITES.UKMA@defra.gov.uk](mailto:CITES.UKMA@defra.gov.uk).

You can find information about CITES and the species currently listed under CITES here: <https://cites.org/eng>