

Figure 9. (A) Vigorous 'Packham's Triumph' tree being girdled with the back of the chain of a chain saw and (B) the scoring pliers.



girdling two weeks after full bloom (w.a.f.b.) to reduce vigour (Fig. 9a). Girdling or scoring with special scoring pliers (Fig. 9b) is also used to increase fruit size (2 w.a.f.b.) and return bloom (5-6 w.a.f.b.). Fruit set is also improved by applying gibberellin during bloom.

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ISHS Meets the European Plant Science Organisation



Jozef Van Asche, Executive Director of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), and Karin

Metzlaff, Executive Director of the European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO), met at the EPSO office in Brussels on 19 October to get to know the two societies and discuss how to best collaborate.

Olaf van Kooten, member of the ISHS Executive Committee, participated in the EPSO Workshop on Plant Pigments and Human Health in May 2011 (<http://epsoweb.org/workshop-plant-pigments-and-human-health>) and recommended such collaboration. Similarly Uli Schurr from EPSO worked together with Jozef on several occasions.

Jozef and Karin agreed to propose to their Boards to collaborate in the future, starting with the Fascination of Plants Day (www.plantday12.eu) to which ISHS already gives full support. Additional support could be for meetings (workshops, conferences), publications and policy work, similar to the collaboration between EPSO and EUCARPIA.

Jozef, Olaf and Karin will meet again in the coming months to follow up on the decisions

of their Boards, this time at the ISHS office near Leuven (Belgium).

EPSO, the European Plant Science Organisation (www.epsoweb.org), is an independent academic organisation that represents more than 227 leading academic research institutes, universities and departments from 30 countries. Together they represent over 28000 plant researchers and staff. In addition, EPSO has over 3000 personal members.

The mission of EPSO is to promote plant science and plant scientists, to represent plant scientists in discussions about future plant science programme priorities across Europe, to provide an authoritative source of independent information on plant science, and to promote training of plant scientists to meet 21st Century challenges in breeding, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, plant ecology and sectors related to plant science.

To achieve its mission, EPSO advises policy and decision makers at national and European level on science policy – such as Horizon 2020 (the successor of the 7th European Framework Programme for research) and the European Bioeconomy strategy - as an independent body and as member of the Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE), the European Technology Platform

'Plants for the Future' and the Global Plant Council. EPSO supports plant scientists via the EPSO conferences including support grants for junior and eastern European scientists (www.epsoweb.org/events/conferences), workshops (www.epsoweb.org/events/workshops), working groups (www.epsoweb.org/epsoweb-working-groups-0) and as information broker via EPSO News and its website.

Since its creation in 2000, the organisation has become a strong advocate of plant research in Europe and an important voice articulating the contributions and needs of plant scientists at national and European levels and beyond.

EPSO's institutional membership is open to universities and research institutions conducting research in the field of plant science worldwide, while its personal membership is targeted at individuals interested in plant science, regardless of their nationality, profession, seniority or age. EPSO is looking forward to welcoming you as a member.

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