

GAP

By Coen Dekkers, published in the Dutch Arboriculture Journal Vakblad voor de Boomkwekerij on 14 May 2019.

Here it is at last! The message you've all been waiting for. Finally. I thought I was the fool who was going to have to spend all winter shut up at the office. But you'll never believe it, all that hard work at the office has paid off! Ladies and Gentleman, it's a wrap! We are now MPS-GAP.

That is the Dutch abbreviation for Environment Programme Floriculture - Good Agricultural Practice. At least, I think that's what it means. It was hard work, but it was worth it. So I'll nip out to the shop this afternoon to buy a flashy frame to put it in and then I can hang it up in the cafeteria for you all to admire. So everyone can remember why I was sometimes so grumpy and turned up with square eyes during the lunchbreak.

I'm exaggerating, of course. It wasn't that bad. After all, it's sometimes a good idea to think about what you're writing on the sign and why before you start crop spraying. And a warning sign on the greenhouse door that tells you what's been sprayed and when you can go back inside, well, at least it's clear. Remembering to hang up the sign on the greenhouse door not on the front door? That makes all the difference.

And let's face it, most of the holiday workers could do with a bit of training in hygiene. Especially in the module I added myself, sweeping the cultivation beds. I definitely saw an improvement. Now everyone

can see that if you break rule 2a, subsection 1, never sweep in the direction of the existing crop, there is a penalty of bringing in two rounds of cake.

And I think that many mothers will thank me for strictly enforcing rule 17c, keeping the working environment clean and tidy yourself. Another advantage is that everyone now knows where we keep the fertilisers, because absolutely nobody can miss the new sticker. And writing down what is actually in the plant protection product cupboard? Honestly, it was a revelation! Sorry, consultants with your new, improved recommendations. For the next three years I really won't believe you any more, because we have to find a way to use all this up first.

Seriously, I really wasn't looking forward to this. I'd already been calling it MPS-GAWP when I saw the jaw-dropping map. But now I'm glad it's here. Now, let me see, after I've bought that flashy frame, I must remember to go to the cake shop. MPS-CAKE!

