

Growing for growth

The Horticulture E-bulletin from Farming Connect – Winter 2024 edition.



Welcome to our dedicated E-bulletin for Growers and Horticulture Businesses.

What's happening in horticulture?

Special report: Wales Climate Week

A national 5-day virtual conference took place Monday 11 to Friday 15 November 2024. Professionals from across sectors gathered to explore the theme of 'adapting to our changing climate'.

The Horticultural industry in Wales was represented on day one, in a discussion led by our Horticulture Manager, Sarah Gould: ['Session 3 Developing a climate resilience plan for Welsh horticulture businesses'](#) Sarah was joined by Iain Cox of [Eco Studio](#) and Growers Ric Kenwood of [Clare Austin Hardy Plants](#), and Lyndall Merry of [Bryn Celyn Veg](#). This session explored the steps that horticulture businesses can take to build climate resilience.



Our expert trainer David Skydmore represented the Plant Health sector in a panel of speakers for animal, plant and human health in [Day 4 Session 4 - A one health approach to climate change](#). They discussed their adaptive solutions for the challenges we face from climate change.

And finally, Adam Jones of ['adam yn yr ardd'](#) was the keynote speaker for a spirited talk on [Welsh gardeners taking climate action](#).

Did you miss the conference? No problem! Catch up [here](#) and find their resources [here](#).

New Study for Climate resilience

The recent research study commissioned by Farming Connect Horticulture, and developed by our advisors Iain Cox and Dr. David Skidmore, was discussed: [A climate resilience plan for Welsh horticulture businesses](#). The plan is informing the Wales Climate Adaptation Strategy for agriculture simultaneously being developed by Welsh Government.

Launch of a new supportive cluster for climate resilience

Iain Cox, of [Eco Studio](#), has years of experience in helping organisations to put sustainability into practice. A new cluster is in development, because of the new climate resilience plan, to give growers more support with adapting to climate change. The first workshop will be held in late February, more information to follow.

If you would like to express interest in joining the cluster, please email horticulture@lantra.co.uk

Grower highlight

Christmas Tree grown on Farming Connect registered farm destined for No.10

Evergreen Christmas Trees, run by the Reynolds family in Knighton, will supply the tree that will take pride of place outside the Prime Minister's residence this year. It comes after the grower was named Champion Christmas Tree Grower of the Year 2024 in an annual competition run by the British Christmas Tree Growers Association (BCTGA).

Evergreen Christmas Trees is a member of the Farming Connect Christmas Trees Network, let us know if you would like to join! Email horticulture@lantra.co.uk



Small Growers Standard helps Pembrokeshire market garden win new business

Learn more about Underwood Farm in Pembrokeshire, Run by Kate Roberts and her partner Calum Stark, who grow organic vegetables on a commercial scale. They started as a lockdown project in 2020, to supply pubs and restaurants with high value salad leaves. They now sell 40 local vegetable boxes a week and have expanded their range of produce supplied to the hospitality trade. Farming Connect Horticulture helped them develop even further and secure a supply contract with The Welsh Veg in Schools project. see [here](#).



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Update your knowledge

Thinking about climate change, adaptation and sustainability

Looking for resources to learn more about your soil and habitats, diversifying crops, and how to manage the risk of climate change and become more sustainable?

Learn how to tackle climate change with our fabulous **online E learning**, some key training sessions include:

- [Horticulture: On Site Composting For Your Horticultural Enterprise](#)
- [Horticulture - An introduction to the principles of IPM in horticulture](#)
- **Note:** it helps to log on to your [BOSS](#) account first before following these links!



Also, speak to our **key expert specialists** available for individual Horticulture Business support sessions either online or in person at your premises. Some of our key experts are featured below!

Horticultural specialist focus

Neville Stein

Independent business consultant, Neville Stein, 64, has been working in the UK horticultural industry since 1977. Since leaving employment with Notcutts Nurseries in 1994 he has been operating his own [business consultancy practice](#). Neville's unique approach has proved invaluable, helping many growers to confidently grow their businesses and create sustainable profitability. His consultancy can help you capitalise on market opportunities, understand costs and how to reduce them, identify inefficiencies and how to solve them, and find diversification opportunities.



Some feedback from growers who have taken up Horticulture business support with Neville:

- “He was enthusiastic and challenged us in really helpful ways that have increased our clarity in terms of vision and plans. He helped to focus our mind on what we are trying to do and why.”
- “Thank you for offering this free support, it's slowly clearing the fog around this area in my head. Although I'm learning that the ins and outs of business and finance are complicated and convoluted. This support is definitely going to expedite my progress towards my future goals and give me the confidence that I'm treading the right path and talking the right talk around finances.”
- “We found Neville to be very knowledgeable and he delivered his help with great tact and understanding of our situation.”
- “Insightful, motivating and positive whilst being honest and willing to challenge me on certain aspects of the business such as the name of our product.”

Adam Payne

Adam Payne of [Awen organics](#) is our newly registered training provider. Watch this space in the new year for a new training programme that he will be developing for us! The training will cover Regenerative Horticulture – Vegetable production.



To benefit from our **confidential and free horticultural business support** service and book an appointment with Neville or Adam please contact horticulture@lantra.co.uk.

Grants and Schemes – submission deadline January 2025!

Don't miss the deadline for the Horticultural Grants and Schemes from the Welsh Government: See our [New Advice Sheet](#) first as a starting point to find all the links to apply! Remember you can also book in a **fully funded 1-2-1 Business support session** to help you, email Horticulture@lantra.co.uk. A free business plan template is available [here](#)

What's on?

New year, New events! Between July and September 2024 we delivered at least 73 course places (including study visits, training events, and webinars) and 34 Horticultural business support sessions to new businesses.

Keep an eye on our events list [here](#) this new year, as we prepare for an exciting new programme of activities.

Disclaimer

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information and recommendations given in these notes. All applications of crop protection chemicals should be made in accordance with label recommendations, which should be consulted before spraying. The use of the pesticide or beneficials is at the risk of the user and Farming Connect does not accept liability for any loss or damage caused by such use. The references to on-label approvals and EAMUs for use of pesticides are subject to change and approval may be withdrawn at any point. It is the grower's responsibility to check approvals before use of pesticides or beneficials. If in doubt a grower should seek advice from a qualified specialist. Please contact us to arrange an appointment – e-mail/telephone advice is also available. We do not warrant, endorse, guarantee, or assume responsibility for the accuracy or reliability of any information offered by third-party websites linked through the document or any website or feature linked in any banner or other advertising.