

Growing for growth

The Horticulture E-bulletin from Farming Connect – Summer 2023 edition.

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

What's happening now?

Find out how to grow even healthier plants

Aberystwyth University have produced a [technical article](#) as part of their work on the Knowledge Exchange hub.

Colorado Potato Beetle Update- not just found on potatoes!

The larvae and adults feed on several cultivated and wild members of the Nightshade family (Solanaceae), such as potato, tomato, aubergine, and pepper, and pose a significant threat to potato crops. If you haven't heard about it yet, please read more [here](#) and report any suspected findings to the APHA call: 0300 1000 313 (option 3) planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk



Horticultural highlight from the Royal Welsh Show

There were many highlights from this summer's show, but a stand-out announcement was made regarding the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society's unveiling of a new-look Horticulture Section for 2024. The Minister for Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths MS supported the launch of the 'Horticultural Village' that is set to be the major talking point of next year's show. If you are interested in getting involved or have any comments, please email sarah.gould2@lantra.co.uk



Growers face record temperatures in Morocco

On August 11th, for the first time in history, the temperature in Morocco has exceeded 50.4 degrees Celsius, in the Souss Massa region where a large part of the country's tomato, early vegetable, red fruit, stone fruit, and seasonal fruit production is located. Growers anticipate a shortage of seeds and delays to the early season, potentially raising demand for this produce with our large-scale retailers. See the article on 'Hortidaily' [here](#)



Update your knowledge

Don't miss the Wales Horticulture Peat Workshop Monday 25th September

Are you transitioning to using Peat Free Mediums, or Peat Free already? What are your thoughts on the supply and consistency of peat free alternatives? What needs to happen? The Welsh Government want to hear how the 2026 Peat Ban will impact you, and the industry in Wales as a whole. Join us **online OR in-person** at the Welsh Government's Newtown Office on Monday, 25 September (10:30-12:30). To attend this event, please register here: [Wales Horticulture Peat Workshop](#)



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Our webinar on increasing biodiversity on horticultural sites

On the 07th August we hosted an excellent webinar of best-practice for biodiversity, led by expert ecologist Barry Stewart from www.celticwildflowers.co.uk. Topics included: supporting pollinators and pest-controlling insects; 'boosting' flowers and seeds in farmed areas; the importance of field boundaries, 'green corridors', wet features and managing 10% of a site as a range of wildlife habitats. Gethin Davies from the RSPB also introduced the [Farm Wildlife Partnership](#) who aim to work with growers and businesses.



What about beneficial insects?

You can find more information about beneficial insects, banker/companion plants, and alternative food for beneficials on this factsheet: [promoting-beneficials.pdf](#)



Our Technical Specialists

Our specialists have covered a lot of ground this summer, making visits to sites from the Gower to Anglesey. You too can have up to 12 hours of [horticultural business support](#) from experts through the farming connect scheme.

Top tips for your networks now

Focus on ... Horticultural tourism

Harvesting Lavender

Lavender is a great crop for wildlife and **horticultural tourism**. It can be harvested July – August. Flowers are best cut when the plants are dry, and strong sun will improve the oil content. For dried flowers, cut just before the flowers reach full bloom, lay in open trays and dry in the sun (covered at night) or in a ventilated, dry room. For more info see [here](#).



Get ready for ... Pumpkins

After the wet weather we have been having this August, you may be experiencing issues with mildew and fruit rot, if so, see the technical sheet [here](#) and ensure you are [signed up](#) to the Horticultural Tourism Network to receive the pumpkin training we will share soon.



Looking for a bit more publicity for the upcoming seasons?

Visit Wales want to know what tourism and hospitality businesses have planned for Halloween, Bonfire Night, Christmas and what's new for 2024. They will collate and share details with their PR and Media Contacts. Email them today: productnews@gov.wales



Focus on ... Edible and Ornamental production

Be aware and prepared for Thrips

Regular crop walks are vital in these coming months. Check out this past [webinar](#) for more info, or apply [here](#) to gain support from a IPM specialist.

Have you heard of our other Networks?

Networks are a great opportunity to get specific advice, keep up to date, meet other growers, and receive in-depth training. You can be a member of as many networks as you need. To join click [here](#). **Our Networks include:**

Market garden	Fruit	Organic and in conversion	Asparagus	Christmas trees	Scale-up edible (for those looking to expand their production)
Ornamental	Welsh watercress	Vineyard	Horticulture tourism	Welsh flowers	New entrants (new to, or 'finding their feet' in horticulture)

Do you think we should add any more? We welcome suggestions: horticulture@lantra.co.uk

What's on

Do you know that you are very welcome to join us on the great site visits that we have planned? Don't miss out and sign up [here](#) today.

- **Thursday 21 September** Innovation & Diversification - Llanfair-ym-muallt / Builth Wells
- **Monday 25th September** the Wales Horticulture Peat Workshop - Newtown
- **Wednesday 4 October 2023** Organic Horticulture Production in Practice with Iain Tolhurst, MBE. Tolhurst Organic - Whitchurch on Thames



Grant Support

Please take note of the forthcoming [dates](#) for when the government are accepting applications for rural schemes, and contact your local Development Officer, or our office 01982 552646 or horticulture@lantra.co.uk for advice. Dates for the **Horticultural Development Scheme** are expected to be released in October 2023.

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 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 – email/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.