

Growing for growth

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

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

What's happening in horticulture?

Special Report: The Royal Welsh Show Horticultural Village Monday 22 – 25 July 2024.

The largest event for Horticulture in Wales took place this summer. The displays and talks were a top-class representation of the Horticultural industry in Wales. The village was led by the Show's Assistant Honorary Director of Horticulture Adam Jones (Adam yn yr Ardd), working alongside Lantra Farming Connect Horticulture, the RWAS Horticulture Committee and the charity's staff. Special thanks go to all the sponsors, including Food Sense Wales, Bwyd Powys Food - Cultivate and Castell Howell Foods, and all the organisations who collaborated to raise the profile of our fantastic horticultural industry.

The village was visited by many dignitaries, including Huw Irranca-Davies MS, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs. The Village was officially opened by Sue Kent, a Presenter of Gardener's World. Radio Wales' Terry Walton Plotcast was broadcasted from the stage, and Radio 4's Farming Today programme also held a panel discussion. You can listen to some media coverage from the Royal Welsh Show Horticulture Village on [Country Focus - A Growing Industry!](#) - BBC Sounds and [Farming Today - 06/08/2024: BBC Sounds](#). The [Schools Gardening Calendar](#) was launched at the Show, along with the [Welsh Veg to Schools project](#). The winner of the [Junior Academy Challenge](#) was also announced on stage, our own Farming Connect registered grower Ellen Firth, who runs a Flower Farm and Florist in Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd.

The Village hosted many expert speakers including Dr. Amber Wheeler and Welsh food Historian Carwyn Graves. We saw cooking demonstrations by top Chef Nerys Howell, alongside talks by experts such as ADAS, the Sustainable Farming Consultancy, Food Cardiff, Adam Alexander aka the Seed Detective with Our Food 1200, and Bremenda Isaf Farm.

The village marquees included the **Eisteddfodau** and **Garddle** with floral and horticulture competitions. **Tawelwedd - A sensory garden** was created by the National Trust, complimented by Sculptures by www.firstofmarch.com.

The **Dysgubor – Education Pavillion** promoted careers and learning opportunities in horticulture, including the following organisations:

- [Lantra](#) Offering support in careers in Horticulture and beyond
- [Black Mountains College](#) Teaching skills for climate action and adaptation
- [Landworkers Alliance](#) A democratic member-led union
- [National Botanic Garden of Wales](#) Offering a horticulture traineeship
- [Social Farms and Gardens](#) supporting community gardens and social farms
- [Bridgend College](#) an award-winning College with four campuses.
- [IBERS Distance Learning](#) excelling in postgraduate courses
- [Menter Mon and Tech Tyfu](#) an agri-tech programme, hosting Growers; Fungi Foods and Micro Acres Wales.
- [NPTC Neath Port Talbot Group of Colleges](#) One of the largest in Wales.
- [Natural Resources Wales Peatland Action Programme](#)

Y Farchnad - Growers Market, organised by Farming Connect Horticulture to showcase commercial growers. Many of these growers also created fantastic



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displays in the ‘**Garddwelyau Sioe Micro - Micro Gardens**’ outside the marquees. Those participating here included:-

- [Pheasant Acre Plants](#) Multi RHS Gold Medal Award Winners.
- [Welsh Vineyards Association](#) Establishing Wales as a great quality wine region.
- [Bwyd Powys Food - Cultivate](#) Supporting a resilient local food economy.
- [Flowers From The Farm](#) with a fantastic living floral arch display.
- [West Wales Willows](#) with a National Plant Collection of Salix/Willow.
- [Food Sense Wales](#) Co-creating a food system for Wales.
- [Farmyard Nurseries & The House Plant Place](#) Over 2000 hardy plants.
- [CIH Chartered Institute of Horticulture](#) A professional voice for horticulture.
- [Alfie Dans Market Garden](#) Award winning veg boxes with organic principles.
- [Bannau Acres](#) a network of local independent farms.
- [Langtons Farm](#) and [Bonvilston Edge](#) also contributed to the displays.



Update your knowledge

On the Sofa with Darragh McCullogh - one of Ireland’s premier growers

We held a webinar with an interview and Q and A session with Darragh in August. If you missed it, don’t worry, we’ll be looking to do more with him in the future.

Thinking about how to improve your horticultural business?

Are you looking for more information on best horticultural practice, and training that you can do in your own time? Please see our E learning modules. These are great resources for anyone who works on your farm!

- [Due Diligence for Small Growers](#)
- [On Site Composting for your horticultural enterprise](#)
- [How to recognise some of the most common pests, diseases and weeds in horticultural crops](#)
- And find more technical advice on specific crops [here](#).

Looking for more support?

You can have up to 12 hours of [horticultural business support](#) through the Farming Connect Horticulture Programme. Contact horticulture@lantra.co.uk. Are you looking for new opportunities via social media? Book a Digital marketing session with us today. You can also join as many Networks as you need, for sector specific advice. Click [here](#)

Grant Support: Please take note of the [dates](#) for rural schemes. Contact your local Development Officer, or horticulture@lantra.co.uk for advice.

Growers Network Wales Facebook page: Join our closed group on Facebook ‘Growers Network Wales’ to hear about events and study visits, and to share peer-to-peer learning and experiences. see [here](#).



What’s on?

We delivered 166 course places and 56 Horticultural business support sessions between April and June 2024. And, in that time 31 businesses had their first support session with us. We have loads more great site visits and events planned too. Don’t miss out and sign up to more events [here](#) today.

- Tuesday 24 September 10:30 -4:00, **Hardy Cottage Garden Plant Nursery**, Priory Lane Nursery,Hamps.
- Wednesday 2 October 9:30am -2pm - **Growing field scale organic root vegetables**, Ceredigion.
- Thursday 3 October, 2:00 pm - **Horticulture Diversification: Trialling legume-cereal co-production as food source for people** - Llanarthne
- Friday 11 October, 10:30 am - **Horticulture Diversification: Launching a pick-your-own pumpkin venture on your farm** - Llanvair Discoed, Chepstow
- Monday 14 October, 2:00 pm - **Horticulture IPM: Controlling flea beetle in brassica crops at market garden scale** – Llanfairpwllgwyngyll
- Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 November - **The Royal Welsh Agricultural Show’s Winter Fair**

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 – 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.