

# Growing for growth

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

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

## What's happening now?

### Open call for Welsh horticulturalists for the Royal Welsh Show Horticultural Village 2024

The new-look Horticulture Section for 2024 is gathering pace. An updated design was shared to stakeholders in November, with a new location situated by the main site entrance and the bus waiting area. A short online survey has been released to gather expressions of interest from Welsh growers and the horticultural supply chain in getting involved, or having an interactive stand or display, see [here](#).

The following organisations are already involved:



### 'Sowing the seeds: A blooming English horticultural sector'

the House of Lords Horticulture Sector Committee published their [report](#) on 6 of November. While the inquiry focused on England, many of the results speak to the whole of the UK Horticulture industry, that contributes over £5 billion each year and employs over 50,000 people. The sector provides opportunities for improving biodiversity, natural carbon capture, reducing food miles and reliance on imports. However, the longstanding challenges that the UK have faced include an 'erratic and confusing trading environment' brought on by the EU Exit, COVID-19 pandemic and conflict in Ukraine, Inflation, the cost-of-living crisis, and a long-term skills and education gap. We are currently creating a report for Welsh Horticulture, that will be available on the Farming Connect website when it is published.



## Update your knowledge

### New advisor profile: Nathan Richards

Nathan is an established and respected organic grower, based in Wales. He has extensive experience in horticulture production, from over 17 years of working as an organic grower in the UK. Nathan and his wife, Alicia Miller, are the owners of Troed y Rhiw Organics, a family-run Soil Association certified organic farm in Llwyndafydd, Wales. The business is committed to farming sustainably, with a whole farm holistic approach to food production, encompassing everything from the soil, to the role of the farm in the local community. Their mixed farm produces a wide range of vegetables, herbs, soft fruit, and flowers, mostly picked and sold on the same day through a local box scheme, and local markets, restaurants, and health-food stores. You can have up to 12 hours of [horticultural business support](#) from experts like Nathan, through the Farming Connect Horticulture Programme.



### Growers Network Wales Facebook page

We have a new closed group on Facebook for the Farming Connect Horticulture Programme: 'Growers Network Wales' is a place for growers registered with Farming Connect to hear about events and study visits, as well as offer a space for 'Our growers' networks to share peer-to-peer learning and experiences. see [here](#).



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**Lywodraeth Cymru**  
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## The Wales Horticulture Peat Workshop Monday 25 September

The Welsh Government met with growers and the supply chain, as they seek to work collaboratively with the industry on the lead up to the 2026 Peat Ban. The group shared proactive ideas and discussed challenges and issues they had faced, and the group was asked to consider the [Responsible Sourcing Scheme](#). Any enquiries can be made here: [ClimateChangeAndAgriculture@gov.wales](mailto:ClimateChangeAndAgriculture@gov.wales)



## Ramial Woodchip

We have a new [factsheet](#) on ramial woodchips (RCW). It is produced from young, fresh-cut branches, which are considered the most nutritionally rich in comparison to other wood wastes. RCWs are an excellent source of decomposition for Basidiomycetes fungi. These fungi release nutrients that benefit other components of the soil microbiome, aiding the health, fertility, resilience, and productivity of the soil.



## Top tips for your networks now

### Focus on ... Farm diversification.

**A call to action** if you're considering diversification join our [horticultural tourism network!](#) You can get top tips for navigating the festive season here.



### 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. For example, many of our Networks have received dedicated **digital marketing group sessions** and **one to one business support**. You can join as many Networks as you need, click [here](#).



## What's on?

Our recent events 'Introduction to the basics of orchard management' on Tuesday 21 November and 'Considering growing field scale vegetables' on 16 November 2023 were all fully booked and very well received, but don't worry, we have lots more great site visits and events planned.

Don't miss out and sign up to more events [here](#) today.



## Grant Support

Dates for the **Horticultural Development Scheme** have been released: it opened on the 6 November 2023 and will close on 12 January 2024. The Agricultural Diversification Scheme also opens and closes on the same dates.

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



## 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.