



AUTUMN EDITION

INCLUDING:

HORTICULTURAL CROP
PROTECTION

TECHNICAL CONFERENCE
POINSETTIA GROUP

POINSETTIA CONFERENCE
FLORAL FANTASIA



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It's been puzzling me for some time as to why ornamentals are the 'insignificant and invisible' part of horticulture. We have the NFU and HTA to represent us, both very successful and competent organisations, but if you study their components we barely exist.



The NFU look after the broadacre farmers otherwise it would be called the National Horticulture Union, NHU. The NFU board of Horticulture and Potatoes has sixteen elected members. Martin Emmett is chairman and is a director of ornamental nurseries that form part of Farplants Ltd on the south coast. The only other board member vaguely in our area is Mark Eves of PS & JE Ward, a cut flower and bulb grower. So out of sixteen our voice is one possibly two. I, as your Chairman, get invited along to board meetings, but if push came to shove I can't vote.

The HTA represents garden centres very well and has an ornamental committee which is made up mainly of the larger hardy nursery stock (HNS) nurseries. Their voice is getting louder and more co-ordinated but it has a long way to go.

Why does it matter I hear you say? Without a voice we have no input into what is happening in Government. For example I, who filled out the earlier peat consultation, got invited to a Defra peat meeting in Birmingham. Seventeen growers/industry were present, most were HTA HNS members and seven Defra staff. The discussion was on the peat ban and any grower exemptions for plants that can't easily be grown in non-peat such as [ericaceous, carnivorous and propagation of plugs](#). The HNS industry seem to be ahead of the bedding industry when it comes to growing in non-peat so they were happy with Defra's current proposal to ban ALL peat by end 2024 with the exceptions of ericaceous, carnivorous and propagation of plugs. This was subject to the media manufactures having sufficient volumes of non-peat to keep the industry going. If you are currently growing in 60% or 70%

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT CONT'D...

peat are you happy to grow your crops in no peat for the 2025 season? Probably not.

During the worst Government in my life headed up by Boris Johnson, the NFU managed to get 38,000 seasonal workers for the edible industry, not ornamentals. Why not us? I don't know. I went down to the Palace of Westminster and with others put the case forward to include ornamentals and we got this changed but why did it happen in the first place?

I'm watching the Government award large R&D grants to big edible nurseries and farms for low carbon production, harvest robots and disease surveillance. Potatoes, asparagus, swedes, brassicas, courgettes but no mention of geranium, poinsettia, cyclamen and pansy. The Government gives out grants through their Farming Investment Fund, most go to arable and livestock units. They are trying to widen the grants to include horticultural businesses, but the edible nurseries are much better organised than us so we will get the crumbs if we are lucky.

Just prior to my election your management committee moved the administration of BPOA to the British Growers Association (BGA). It's put the costs up, as it appears that our previous Secretariat did lots of work free of charge, but it has given us inside knowledge of the functioning of all the single crop associations, Producer Organisations and Marketing Organisations. We have also access to the BGA initiative, Horticulture Crop Protection Ltd. This is to continue with the AHDB EAMU service which currently comes to an end in spring 2023. To have involvement, it requires £1,000 of BPOA money to get the company up and going, might be £500 if we can persuade Jack Ward, BGA CEO that ornamentals are one sector and the HTA put in the other £500. Jack is hopefully going to extract the surplus funds held by the Government from the demise of AHDB to fund the new company in 2023/24 but then it requires voluntary industry funding. Is it going to work on a voluntary basis, time will tell?

Two dates for your diaries. The BPOA Poinsettia conference is to be held at Neame Lea Nursery on Tuesday 24th November 2022. Sponsors, without whom this wouldn't happen, include Beekenkamp, GASA Group, Selecta & Dummen. Thank you sponsors. The BPOA dinner at the Woodland Grange Hotel, Leamington Spa on Tuesday 31st January 2023 and the Technical Conference at the NFU Conference Centre Stoneleigh, Warks on Wednesday 1st February 2023, 'Promoting UK production and how to make sustainability viable in the UK'. Book your tickets by 6th January and get a ticket for £50 only. You don't have to go to Stoneleigh if you are too busy as you can stop in your office, pay the same ticket price and watch on a Teams/Zoom link. Sponsors will be thanked next time.

Derek Jarman is a Director of Hayloft Plants Ltd (multi-channel retailer & grower of garden plants) and chair of the BPOA (British Protected Ornamentals Association)

derek@hayloftplants.co.uk

@hayloftplants

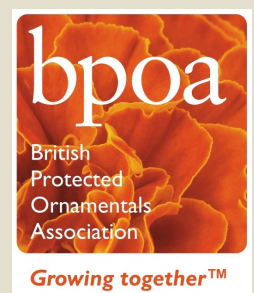
Have we got your correct contact details?

Submit your current details and preferred contacts for accounts, newsletters and more

[HERE](#).

BPOA Members have access to the organisation's WhatsApp group. To join the group, you'll need the WhatsApp app on your mobile and simply send your name and mobile number to info@britishornamentals.org

Turn your unwanted stock into cash! List your unwanted equipment or materials for sale on the BPOA website—email info@britishornamentals.org with the details.



OVERWHELMING INDUSTRY SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTARY SUCCESSOR BODY TO TAKE OVER EAMU AND EMERGENCY AUTHORISATIONS FROM AHDB HORTICULTURE

Following consultation with the Crop Associations and other representative organisations involved with the fresh produce industry, there is overwhelming support for the establishment of a successor organisation to take on the task of processing EAMU applications and Emergency Authorisations from AHDB with effect from March 2023 when AHDB will cease this function.

The new organisation, Horticultural Crop Protection Ltd (HCP), will be grower owned, grower led and funded through a system of voluntary subscriptions.

The horticulture industry has set up a working group to shape and guide the development of the new organisation and is now in the process of agreeing the governing documentation, drafting a three-year budget and exploring the most appropriate and equitable cost sharing model. The working group is also actively communicating with the grower base through a series of newsletters detailing progress to date.

The Group is in regular dialogue with Defra who are supportive of the principle of growers taking on the responsibility for this important piece of work.

Key to the future success of this initiative is funding. The network of Crop Associations and other representative organisations have, through their chairs, communicated to both AHDB and DEFRA, support for the transfer of any residual funding from AHDB Horticulture to the successor organisation through the auspices of British Growers.

Time is of the essence if the important work of processing EAMU applications is to continue after March 2023. The transfer of the residual funding from AHDB Horticulture for the benefit of the new organisation will ensure the entire industry benefits from the funds raised from growers, for this purpose, through the continuation of a pipeline of future crop protection products.

Issued on behalf of:

British Carrot Growers Association, Horticultural Trades Association, British Apples and Pears, Asparagus Growers Association, British Berry Growers, British Herbs, UK Mushroom Growers Association, Tomato Growers Association, Cucumber Growers Association, Leek Growers Association, Brassica Growers Association, British Onion Growers Association, Rhubarb Growers Association, Pea and Bean Growers Association British Protected Ornamentals Association British Leafy Salad Association

October 2022



Labour Update: The change in ministerial positions looks set to delay an announcement on the likely expansion of the Seasonal Workers Scheme in 2023, though the NFU is aware that Defra is submitting a proposal to the Home Office imminently. The NFU submitted a brief to the Home Office a few weeks ago, with evidence to back its call for a scheme of 60k, over a rolling 5 year programme. The NFU is also responding to a House of Lords call for evidence on the UK labour supply and the changing profile of workers and availability. The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) will be consulting on the Shortage Occupation list later this year, and the NFU is preparing its response to evidence the need for more farming roles to be included.

Peat Update: As joint members of the Growing Media Taskforce, the NFU joined a number of other organisations including the HTA, in a press statement following Defra confirming its commitment to banning the sale of peat and peat containing products by 2024. We have been clear of our disappointment of the decision to ban, particularly given Defra have been provided with hard data and evidence which demonstrates the industry have made significant progress to reduce peat usage. To read our position and our [press release please click here](#). The NFU have also attended a number of Defra run industry roundtables over recent weeks with the ornamental sector meeting last week to discuss specific reasons why certain exemptions are required, timescales and what support is needed by Defra such as grant funding for R&D. Defra are open to allowing exemptions for specific technical reasons and are open to having a dialogue with growers to help them build the case to Ministers.

AHDB Horticulture residual funds: The NFU Horticulture & Potatoes board has agreed that it wishes to see the residual funds from AHDB Horticulture to be transferred to the new body, Horticulture Crop Protection Ltd, for the purpose of continuing the EAMU programme. The NFU has communicated this view with Defra and has sought assurances that a unilateral decision by AHDB to return the funds to levy payers will not be progressed. AHDB has since written a statement saying that the residual funds will be paid back to levy payers unless a robust and detailed plan is received, and that Defra instructs AHDB to consider it.

Import controls: After securing a significant reduction in import inspection fees for UK growers, the NFU is now working with Defra to secure amendments to import controls that will allow most businesses to continue to bring plants direct to farm/nursery, without having to go through a Border Control Point (BCP). The compulsory use of BCPs was expected to come into effect in mid 2022, but has been pushed back to early 2023. The NFU wants to secure a new scheme before BCPs become compulsory.

Government Food Strategy: Following the launch of the Government food Strategy, the NFU has been working to influence the creation of a Defra horticulture strategy which is intended to provide support for increased UK horticulture production. The NFU has been clear that ornamentals must be part of this strategy and so are writing its own strategy which it will submit to Defra later this autumn.

Cost Price Inflation (1): In addition to wider NFU asks on energy caps and business grants, the NFU Horticulture team continues to roll out a series of Cost Price inflation workshops which are aimed at upskilling members to pass on costs to their customers. The workshops have proved incredibly popular amongst members that have already attended, many of which have reported impressive results when securing price increases from their customers. Two more sessions are due to take place this year. [More details are available online](#).

Cost Price Inflation (2): Following the publication of an inflation report in early 2022, the NFU has again commissioned Promar to assess the current cost pressures on farm and produce a report by the end of October, setting out the impacts on growers. The report will be available for members to use, and act as an evidence base which growers can use in their discussions with customers. The report looks at an example list of crops which will help demonstrate cost impacts, and so we are keen to speak to growers particularly if you grow pansies. If you wish to be involved in this study, please reach out to christine.mcdowell@nfu.org.uk

BPOA TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

BPOA Technical Conference topics to be covered:

⇒ **Promoting UK production**

How to make the most of the opportunity. What are our customers thinking.

⇒ **Funding future research**

UK Horticulture Research Ltd securing EAMU funding
How to secure future government funding, the latest news from DEFRA

⇒ **Building a future workforce**

labour shortages are becoming the norm, the latest from the job market.

Getting horticulture into education

Growing a new workforce, how T levels may be the answer.

Looking after you workforce, how Perennial the UK's only charity dedicated to helping everyone who works in horticulture, and their families, can help.

⇒ **Technical updates**

RDI project update - Mark Else, AHDB

Peat Free trials, ADAS the latest results and future proposals.

Future projects

Update on primrose monitoring scheme, what we have learnt about primrose nutrition

Spring crop conference what you can expect.

Floral fantasia, working with RHS Hyde hall to promote the benefits of plants

⇒ **Carbon accounting**

Sustainability what does it mean and is it viable.

The carbon accounting project.

What it means in practice, a nursery experience.

⇒ **How data could help your plants grow**

Crop and Grow, a new app to help you record your crop data.

Priva how training could help.

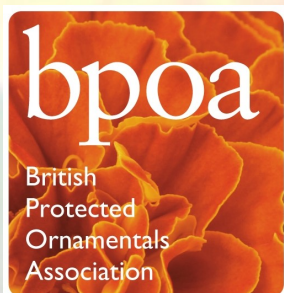
BRITISH PROTECTED ORNAMENTALS ASSOCIATION

TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

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info@britishornamentals.org.uk

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS ON THE [BPOA WEBSITE](#)

BPOA NORTH WEST GROUP UPDATES

There is still time to join the Primrose monitoring scheme

Previous monitoring of specific crops has helped considerably in understanding how and when to feed your plants. The poinsettia scheme has been very successful in monitoring nutrient levels and building up a database of results. While it was useful to find normal nutrient levels perhaps what was most interesting was comparing your results against others. We had two speakers at the BPOA 2021 Conference who both emphasised how important it was to monitor primrose nutrition through the winter, to ensure the crop had sufficient nutrient levels to support spring growth and flowering at a time when they are not actively growing.

With this in mind, the BPOA in partnership with Omex has launched a [Primula monitoring scheme](#).

North West Group dates:

October 18 2022

7-9pm—NFU Skelmersdale (hybrid)

A hybrid meeting taking place at NFU Skelmersdale for those wishing to attend in person. Open to all members.

The meeting aims to discuss the new Horticulture Crop Protection Ltd EAMU structure.

Also, are you ready for the new EPR rules and reporting due next year. [Registration required](#).

November 22 2022

2pm—Westland Factory Ellesmere port

An afternoon visit to Westland compost factory Ellesmere port with technical updates. This visit is only available to growers, places are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis. [Registration required](#).

BPOA/AHDB

Plant Study Tour

Holland/Germany

Harry Kitchener led a small group of growers across to the Netherlands and Germany touring a number of growing, research and breeding facilities. We all welcomed the opportunity to travel again and appreciate the importance of seeing and meeting other growers to discuss the current challenges and opportunities faced with energy, labour and economic factors.

The group will share a brief report in due course whilst our thanks are given to Stacie and Rachel for doing a sterling job in organising and booking all the accommodation/transport, whilst the AHDB continued to support such activities under its funding of the poinsettia variety trial. As the photo hopefully shows a good time was had by all!



BRITISH POINSETTIA GROWERS GROUP

Poinsettia Growers Group Membership

The BPOA are pleased to announce that a sub group focused on Poinsettias has been created to focus on specific poinsettia work.

This group has been set up to ensure that research into the commercial production of poinsettias continues following the breakup of the AHDB. It has also been set up to ensure the industry has a strong, united voice with policy makers.

Although this year's variety trials have been funded by the AHDB we are still asking for a £300* membership fee to enable us to host the trials and conference, as well as continue research, for 2023. I'm sure you will agree that this is a small price to pay for the security of the future of our industry and keep this vibrant group alive.

*£300 membership fee for BPOA members, £400 for non BPOA members

Each member will get a total of 400 trial plants kindly donated by the breeders. This will be delivered to you in week 29 so it is crucial that we hear from you as soon as possible.

If you do wish to be a part of the Poinsettia Group, please contact us poinsettia@britishornamentals.org

POINSETTIA GROUP

Poinsettia Conference

We look forward to the first UK Poinsettia growers meeting which is taking place on 2 November 2022 at Bridge Farm. We hope that the day will give growers the opportunity to see new poinsettia varieties on trial, listen to interesting speakers from the breeding companies and discuss anything and everything Poinsettia, in particular where the group should be focusing to ensure the industry has a prosperous future. Thank you to all the growers that have signed up to the group and event. If you are interested in attending please [register](#).

Interested in joining—find out more here: poinsettia@britishornamentals.org

Tracking your poinsettia heights.

The BPOA [poinsettia tracker](#) is constantly being improved why not give it a try.



BPOA Poinsettia Conference

BRITISH
POINSETTIA
GROWERS GROUP

Meet the first of our confirmed speakers:



Neil Bragg, Bulrush Horticulture Ltd



Andrew Fuller, Bridge Farm Group

24 November 2022



At Bridge Farm Group, Spalding

FLORAL FANTASIA UPDATE

The BPOA Management Committee visited Floral Fantasia on September 12th and found the area to be in outstanding condition, still showing an excellent display of colour despite the summer drought. Molli Christman has been able to devote much of the last three months to the maintenance of the flower beds and containers as she was not called upon to attend flower shows, as in the spring.

The Floral Fantasia Management Group led by BPOA member Michael Smith of W. D. Smith continues to raise funds for the display and the RHS have remained extremely supportive of the late Peter Seabrook's initiative. A Floral Fantasia logo has been designed and approved by the RHS for use by supporters of Floral Fantasia and to assist the BPOA in better promoting this area of Hyde Hall Gardens devoted to seasonal colour.

A suitable training course is being sought for Molli and we hope to provide more information on this in the next quarterly update. A demonstration of ornamental kale has now been planted and a trial of Polyanthus will be added to the display in the next few weeks.

It has been agreed that Floral Fantasia will host a large Salvia trial, organised by Fleuroselect, in the summer of 2023. It is hoped that this trial will fill the four large trial beds in the display area and provide visitors with an opportunity to see a range of Salvia species in all their glory. The trial is expected to include the usual *S. splendens* varieties but also new seed and vegetative varieties of *S. microphylla*, *S. coccinea*, interspecific hybrids and many more. It is also hoped that the trial will be assessed for the RHS Award of Garden Merit.

If you haven't visited Floral Fantasia yet then please try to arrange a visit to Hyde Hall in the coming year and spend an hour or so taking in the magnificent seasonal displays.

AHDB Horticulture wind down update

To keep the outcomes of past Horticulture levy investments accessible for you, AHDB has launched a new archive website hosting the technical content which has been migrated across from the main AHDB website. We will continue to add content to this site during the current wind down period while work on contracted projects completes, and the work of the EAMU team continues. After this we expect the site to become a static repository.

You can navigate to pages specific to [Pot and Bedding plants](#) and [Cut flowers](#) for project reports, factsheets, best practice guides and crop walker guides.

Protected ornamentals



Pot and Bedding plants



Cut flowers

The new website also hosts latest updates and information relevant to the [EAMU programme](#). The EAMU service has funding to continue within AHDB until March 2023. Through discussions across horticulture grower associations, an industry group, chaired by John Chinn have proposed to deliver the EAMU services through a new company funded through voluntary subscriptions from industry.

We have recently added a video to the website outlining the function of the EAMU team:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Beb79Lm2iFk>

New EAMUs for Protected Ornamental Plant Production:

- Taegro (*Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*) for protection against a range of foliar fungal diseases
- Botector (*Aureobasidium pullulans*) for protection against botrytis and fireblight
- Eradicoat Max (maltodextrin) a new formulation for use against spider mite, whitefly, and aphids
- Botanigard (*Beauveria bassiana*) for use against mites, thrips, whitefly and aphids
- Spruzit (pyrethrins) for use against biting and sucking insects
- Nissorun (hexythiazox) for use in container grown crops against spider mite

SceptrePlus update

The [SceptrePlus programme](#) has now ended. Reports from trials completed between 2017 and 2021 are nearly all finalised and available through the AHDB website. The EAMU team will continue to work to bring efficacious products through to an EAMU authorisation.

Recent reports include:

- SP23 REVIEW of control of sciarid, shore flies and potworms in protected ornamentals
- SP30 Weed control in cut flowers
- SP47b Control of powdery mildew on protected ornamentals
- SP56 Aphid control on containerised hardy nursery stock

You can download copies of these reports from the [SCEPTREplus project page](#).

Dr Jo McTigue, AHDB Crop Protection Scientist. Joanna.mctigue@ahdb.org.uk

AHDB Research Reference site

Find [information](#) on all of [AHDB Horticulture's](#) levy-funded work, which includes research projects, guides, factsheets and tools across all crop sectors.

Also access the most recent material on cross-sector work programmes including EAMUs and crop protection, GreatSoils, Strategic Centres, GrowSave and more.

Horticulture

Scroll down to find information on all of AHDB Horticulture's levy-funded work, which includes research projects, guides, factsheets and tools across all crop sectors. Also access the most recent material on cross-sector work programmes including EAMUs and crop protection, GreatSoils, Strategic Centres, GrowSave and more.

Horticulture programmes



EAMUs

Plant protection products for minor uses in horticulture



GrowSave

Energy management in protected cropping



GREATsoils

Managing soil productivity



AHDB & ADAS Spray Application Workshop

2 November 2022 at Silsoe Spray Application Unit, Silsoe, Bedford

With diverse production systems, optimising the application performance of pesticides in bedding and pot plant production with manual equipment is challenging. This Bedding and Pot Plant Centre workshop will explore how to achieve the most effective application when using a hand held spray pistol with a focus on calibration, uniformity, water volumes and work rate.

This face-to-face event will feature tips from experts at the Silsoe Spray Application Unit.

Registration is required—visit [Eventbrite](#) for further details and to register.

BRITISH GROWERS

British Growers seeks to ensure that the voice of the fresh produce industry is heard in the right places. Our CEO Jack Ward leads our team in voicing Horticulture and Industry issues.

Have you missed some of our industry updates?

Read the latest updates [here](#).



MEETINGS & EVENTS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

18th of October 2022

North West Group [NFU Skelmersdale hybrid meeting](#)

15th of November 2022

Management Committee (via Zoom)

22nd of November 2022

North West Group
[Westland Factory Ellesmere Port](#) tour
(available to growers only)

UPCOMING EVENTS

24th of November 2022

Poinsettia Conference

1st of February 2023

BPOA Technical Conference



LSA Charitable Trust Fellowship Scheme

"The Fellowship has been a superb opportunity to meet similar like minded individuals from across all sectors of the industry. Each fellow brings a different set of skills and knowledge to the group, and together we have been able to share experiences and learn from each other, as well as attend various industry meetings, conferences, visit business and research facilities throughout the UK which are pivotal to the development of the sector. I would highly recommend the LSA Fellowship Scheme to any young person who is looking to expand their knowledge and understanding of the horticultural industry."

Lauren Hladun, Supply Chain Technologist, Manor Fresh, 2021 Fellow



"So far I've really enjoyed the LSA, with a post-COVID trip to Brussels as well as a meet up at Lincoln University. It's been great to build relationships with the other cohorts and attend events outside of your normal work remit. It really expands your professional and industry horizons in that regard."

Sam Brook, Senior Agronomist, Vitacress Ltd, 2022 Fellow



WHAT WE WILL DO FOR YOU

- You will be awarded a bursary of up to £3,000 which you can draw down on to cover your activities within the scheme.
- A two-year scheme increasing your knowledge of current research and wider industry issues.
- Opportunity to attend meetings and study tours across the horticulture sector.
- Form lasting industry connections with like-minded horticultural professionals through our current fellowship cohort and graduated alumni.
- Increase your understanding of the wider horticultural industry and the organisations within it.

APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW

We are looking for new entrants and developing managers who are on a professional management pathway within commercial UK horticulture. The 2 year Fellowship Scheme starts on 1st January 2023.

For more information contact Stacie Rae.



01507 602427



admin@britishgrowers.org



www.lsactfellowship.org

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*1st February 2023
NFU Conference Centre,
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- Building a future workforce
- Technical updates
- Carbon accounting
- How data can help?

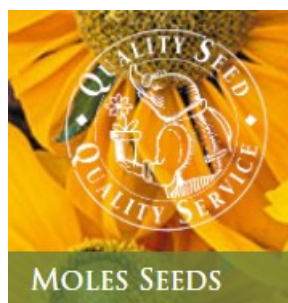


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