



SUMMER EDITION 2023

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CONTACT US

Tel: 01507 602427

Email: info@homegrownplants.org.uk

www.homegrownplants.org.uk

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It's nice to be back to normal. Gone is the Covid madness and we are back to issues of the weather and consumer demand. I realize that the war in Ukraine is bubbling in the background, let's hope it quickly comes to an end. The spring season has ended well for most growers and retailers. Crops have been cleared and sold at fair prices meaning that most of us will be back for more 'fun' next year.



Running a horticultural business doesn't get any easier. Let's face matters, it has become downright difficult especially for the smaller family run nurseries and garden centres. It's alarming the number of businesses up for sale as children decide not to follow their parent's horticultural careers.

Not much happens in the association in the spring and early summer as most of us are busy trying to earn sufficient money to get through to 2024. **Robin Squance, Chris Need, Simon Crawford, Andy Smith (BGA)** and myself are starting to plan the **2024 BPOA conference**. The date is **Wednesday 31st January 2024** at the **NFU HQ** with the **45th AGM** and dinner the night before at the **Woodland Grange Hotel, Leamington Spa**. Topics will be peat, energy and labour/robotics. Can anyone recommend some excellent speakers?

Your association needs younger grower members on the **Management Committee**. My last request for volunteers fell on deaf ears so I've contacted the **Young People in Horticulture Association (YPHA)** and we are going to offer all their 400 plus members **free BPOA Student membership** until 31st October 2024. I have not quite worked out how this will work in practice, but I'm sure there are people in the **BGA** who can make this work. **BPOA** will have a stand at the **Four Oaks Trade Show, Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th September 2023**, which is when we plan to get some momentum.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT CONT'D...

The **BPOA Technical Committee** keeps organising some great events, more will follow this autumn. As part of my campaign to get out of the office, I attended the **AHDB** energy efficiency in glasshouses meeting at **Dyson Farming's Carrington Estate**, Boston, Lincs looking at robotic strawberry harvesting and a giant anaerobic digestion plant with 2 x 2000hp turbines. Very impressive visit and highly recommend if you get the opportunity. Total area farmed is 38,000 acres, starting from nothing 11 years ago and having invested a mere £130m! The existing strawberry glasshouse was 6ha with a further 4.5ha being erected as we visited.

I also visited Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park with Pershore NFU. Not on the same scale but again very inspiring.

I always think that **British Protected Ornamental Association** is a mouthful, and it limits our remit in the world of ornamentals to under protection. Dropping the P would make **BOA, British Ornamental Association**, much easier to remember and may open the association to include cut flowers, perennials and shrubs. The **Management Committee** support my thinking, what do you the members think? Assuming no one objects, this will be a motion at the AGM in January 2024.

My role as BPOA Chairman allows me to attend the **NFU Board of Horticulture and Potatoes** meetings which is just down the road from my home between Stratford upon Avon and Evesham. It gives me access to all the Government correspondence they send out on a regular basis which at times is downright frightening. Defra have just surveyed, by email, the 2021 seasonal workers of whom 67.2% came from Ukraine. Well actually they didn't include any Ukrainians in their survey because it would be 'insensitive and logistically difficult'! Why? The biggest response came from Russians who we are technically at war with. I'm assuming the Russians would mark us down on that basis. What planet is Defra on?

The Growing Media Task Force whose members include the **NFU** and the **HTA** continue to target the original 2030 peat ban with exceptions such as mushrooms, propagation, carnivorous and ericaceous. I'm reasonably sure all growers will be able to grow most plants peat free in some form. My concern is what happens to these plants when they leave the nurseries. What shelf life will they have? Can retailers keep them in good condition/alive? And the biggest concern is what happens when the consumer takes the plants home and pots up in peat free compost? Is Defra about to destroy our marketplace?

If peat was not hard enough, the draft **Border Target Operating Model** proposes that as **from 31st January 2024** all 'medium and high-risk' imported plants and plant products will be inspected at **Border Control Points (BCP)** or **Control Points (CP)** rather than **Place of Destination (POD)** which is currently at nurseries and garden centres. There has been an application window (now closed) where you could apply to be part of the test pilot and have **Authorised Operator Status (AOS)** which means your business premises would be recognised as a **CP** and certain inspection obligations will be delegated to you and your colleagues. This involves an audit programme, staff training, the ability to isolate and destroy plants, amongst other requirements. The scheme will be piloted ahead of launch. It might work with full loads of edible planting material and full-sized trees, but it is not going to work with groupage ornamental loads.

Horticulture Crop Protection Ltd (HCP) is up and running. BPOA have paid £1,000 to help set up the company and **Robin Squence (BPOA Technical Chairman)** has joined the Board. There is a Zoom meeting scheduled for 22nd August to finalize the Ornamentals Risk Register. If you are interested why not attend this meeting by registering [here](#).

Derek Jarman is a Director of Hayloft Plants Ltd (multi-channel retailer & grower of garden plants) and Chairman BPOA (British Protected Ornamentals Association)
derek@hayloftplants.co.uk

@hayloftplants
19th July 2023

You may recall when the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) closed its doors in March, there was some concern about how their crucial work, particularly in generating EAMUs and EAs, would continue. To overcome this challenge, we collaborated with other crop associations to support the establishment of a new entity, Horticultural Crop Protection Ltd (HCP).



To help maintain this service for ornamentals growers, BPOA have partnered with the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) to encourage voluntary contributions to HCP from our respective members, supporting work that directly benefits ornamentals growers.



Our annual membership survey, set to be distributed shortly (alternatively you can complete [here](#)), will include a section asking if you'd like to make a voluntary contribution to HCP. If you're interested, you can opt to receive an invoice from BPOA or the HTA for the following amounts, based on your BPOA membership band:

HCP	Business turnover
£200	Below £500,000
£400	£500,000-£1M
£1,000	£1M - £5M
£2,250	£5M-£10M
£4,950	Over £10M

These invoices will be distributed around 31 August, along with your yearly subscription invoices. BPOA will then be invoiced by the HCP for these funds.

Rest assured, your contributions will be used effectively. Both BPOA and HTA maintain pest and disease risk registers, which are shared with HCP to highlight priority areas for ornamentals. We'll regularly assess HCP's progress and keep you updated.

It's important to note that while we will monitor HCP's output closely, the success of HCP will hinge on growers prioritising the collective well-being of our industry. Operational independence is essential for HCP to function effectively as a small business. This means that HCP, or BPOA, can't guarantee specific activities for individual contributors. These contributions should be viewed as a collective effort to safeguard our industry's ability to generate vital EAMUs.

If you're also a member of HTA, they may send a similar communication. Rest assured, we're working closely with HTA to ensure no one is charged twice.

Thank you for your time and for considering this important initiative. Your support can play a significant role in safeguarding the future of UK ornamentals production.

If you have any questions or queries, please email info@britishornamentals.org.

Responses to the [annual membership survey](#) are required back by no later than Friday 25th August 2023 please.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- **Management Committee—14 September at 3.30PM via Zoom**
- **Management Committee—14 December 2023 at 3.30PM via Zoom**

Technical Committee

After another strange spring season, I imagine you are all taking some much-needed rest. It does raise the question of how do I plan for next year, could you have predicted the short sharp bedding season, we didn't, I think we are all scratching our heads and wondering when things will settle down.

Guessing production numbers has become a bit of a lottery, we also have the looming peat ban, border control points, EPR, inflation and staff shortages to consider, who would want to run a nursery?

Just to let you know BPOA is here to help, we continue to run events and webinars, and our spring conference is a great way to meet other members.

We are always interested in your views and suggestions for events.

[Local groups](#) are also a way to network and share problems please check the website and sign up for your nearest group.

We are also starting a [Member advice centre](#) to help you find the best advice, quite often sharing and discussing a problem helps everybody find the solution.

About Horticulture Crop Protection

Horticulture Crop Protection Ltd (HCP) has been set up by the UK Horticultural industry to take over the processing of pesticide minor use applications (EAMUs) and emergency authorisation applications, following the wind-down of AHDB Horticulture. HCP operates on a 'not-for-profit' basis and is owned and funded by the Crop Associations. A small team at HCP team manages the EAMU and Emergency Authorisation approval process. This also includes carrying out residue and efficacy trials to support applications where necessary.



How is HCP funded?

Funds are subscribed to HCP voluntarily.

Subscriptions are voluntary and are collected from growers through the network of crop associations.

BPOA & HTA

We have been working with the HTA to collect subscriptions on behalf of the ornamental sector. After much discussion, we decided to collect subscriptions using turnover bands that are similar to the current membership bands.

We are going to create the **HCP ornamentals group** to help provide a central point for all the ornamental grower groups to contribute. This is likely to be chaired by Wayne Brough and will include representatives from each group. Every year we need to suggest new EAMU's to the HCP team based on our risk registers. BPOA has been working on the risk register and currently has identified the following targets.

Disease:

- Downy mildew

- Botrytis

- Powdery mildew

Pests:

- Aphids

- Thrips

Vine weevil
Whitefly

With the money that we raise, we can maintain existing EAMU's, apply for new EAMU's and ask for changes to existing EAMU's to make them more workable.

We know exclusions can be a problem, perhaps more worrying is the splitting of EAMU's for protected or outdoor production, it is likely that we will need two separate EAMU's in the future. Money from collected from the ornamental sector will be used to maintain the service and for ornamental EAMU applications. We will be able to choose what we want the money spent on and there are opportunities to share costs across other sectors.

Very soon we will be sending out a [member survey](#), including the turnover bands, asking if you would like to contribute to the HCP ornamental fund, you will have the option to pay through BPOA or HTA.

I would urge all members to support HCP, without it the supply of EAMU's will dry up and disappear.

Think of the HCP contribution, as pesticide insurance for your business, could you run your business without pesticides? Remember it also includes biological controls now subject to EAMU's

Member's advice centre

The BPOA would like to offer our members the widest range of advice possible, with access to experienced advisors and the most up-to-date technical advice.

Members can contact these advisors on an introductory basis, initial contact would be free, offering only telephone or email advice, any further work may be charged for.

Cyclamen Problems

[Eric Forschelen](#) has frequently shared with BPOA his wealth of experience in cyclamen production, gained from working with the world's leading breeders and growers. At the 2020 conference, he explained how a focused approach using data could improve cyclamen growth.

This spring Eric explained how to prevent cyclamen problems and prevent diseases.

Eric is often called Mr Cyclamen his unrivalled knowledge of cyclamen growing is acknowledged by growers and breeders.



Nutritional problems

[OMEX Horticulture](#) operates across many crops, including soft fruit, top fruit, protected edibles and protected ornamentals.

The team is made up of technical experts located throughout the UK, giving growers topical crop nutrition advice, backed up by global research and development facilities.

Richard and Joe are well known in UK horticulture and have a wealth of experience across many crops.

Peat-free composts have a unique set of problems, finding the correct nutrition is a good place to start.



EPR—Extended Producer Responsibility

[Are you ready?](#)

You may have had to record packaging data or supply it to your customers, this was due by July 31st, the good news this has been delayed.

Do you have any obligations, Aidan Gill from the NFU gave us a presentation in January, find out more here

Updated

Reporting of packaging data under Extended Producer Responsibility for obligated businesses has been pushed to Mid-August when the data reporting platform will be ready. You will still need to report the first half of this year's data by 1 October.

AUTUMN EVENTS

Four Oaks show September 5-6th

Come and say hello - we will be in the Educate, Collaborate & Innovate Zone!

Grow your own biomass



A BPOA event with Terravesta, why growing miscanthus could help secure your fuel supply. Likely to be early November at Lincoln University, currently trialling miscanthus. Further details to follow.

Poinsettia conference

[SAVE THE DATE](#)—23rd November 2023. Details in the Poinsettia Group Update, below.

POINSETTIA GROUP UPDATE



The Poinsettia group is currently planning the open day at Bridge Farm, where we will again have speakers from each of the breeders in regards to what is to come from them from a Poinsettia point of view. We will also have a slightly increased focus on peat free Poinsettia production & hopefully a good discussion with policy makers in terms of how Poinsettia importing may or may not be affected and the knock on implications for our growers.

There will also be a new area with trade stands so growers can catch up with their suppliers and get updated on any new products in what will be a relaxed setting. Then of course we will have the Poinsettia trials which are now being grown by 10 different sites and will be brought to the open day for scoring and the winner will be announced. We're sure that the event will build on the success of last year's.

We now have a date for the event - Thursday 23rd November 2023—so please keep this clear and respond so we can organise the food and drink appropriately. The yearly membership letter will also be going out shortly.

Tracking your poinsettia heights

The BPOA [poinsettia tracker](#) is available to use through the BPOA website.

Must read

Defra's Independent Review into Labour Shortages: Published by Defra on 30th June the NFU welcomed the recommendations provided in the report. We are pleased to see the independent panel recognize that action is needed to improve British farmers access to a skilled and motivated workforce and have been calling for a long term 5-year rolling scheme to guarantee businesses have the certainty they need to continue producing food.

Border Controls – Common User Charge Proposals: As part of the Target Operating Model, Defra proposed administering a Common User Charge; a flat rate levied on every SPS consignment that is eligible for BCP checks entering GB via the Port of Dover or Eurotunnel. The charge applies whether the consignment is selected or not. The proposal will only apply to government run BCPs. Defra are seeking feedback on the impacts of this proposal on businesses of all sizes. Consultation closes on 9th July 2023. You can email horticulture@nfu.org.uk with your views to help inform our response or submit them directly to Defra on the [Citizen Space consultation site](#)

Policy updates

Peat Growing Media: At an APPG for horticulture this month, Minister for Natural Environment and Land Use, Trudy Harrison MP stated that “*not under my watch*” will Defra’s peat policy “*scupper*” the industry. Given that Defra has announced a 2026 peat ban, the NFU has been holding the Minister to her word and calling for a delay in the proposed ban, including challenging why 2026. The NFU has been coordinating closely with the HTA on several recent lobbying activities and both organisations continue to work in close partnership together.

EFRA inquiry of the food supply chain: The EFRA Select Committee has announced it will be investigating how profitability and risks are shared through the food supply chain and the existing government system of monitoring and regulation of these. The impact of external factors on the supply chain, such as imported food and global commodity prices will also be examined. The NFU are keen to hear from members to help inform our response. [If you'd like to share your views, please submit via this online form](#)

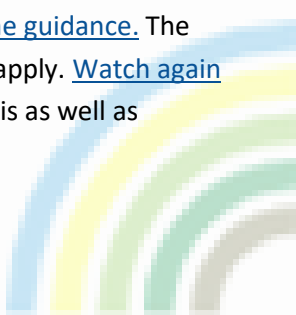
Worker Welfare: The House of Lords horticultural inquiry heard directly from three seasonal workers on their experiences in the UK; each citing poor practice on farm. The session was also covered on Farming Today. The NFU has issued a statement in response to this, highlighting that members take worker welfare seriously and are constantly adapting to ensure workers have a positive experience. Evidence from the scheme operators also shows that the vast majority do have positive experiences. We are working to ensure the House of Lords get a balanced and representative view of the SWS for future evidence sessions.

In brief:

Negotiation Skills Training – 4th October: A 1-day unique workshop to help build your negotiation skills. The course is targeted to retail suppliers, but the skills you learn can be applied to any buyer/seller relationship. Delivered by highly skilled ex-retail buyers [Register here today](#)

Its show season: NFU Horticulture Board chairman Martin Emmett spoke on a panel at the Festival of Fresh talking about the opportunities for growth of UK horticulture. He also highlighted the priorities in the NFU horticulture strategy and the importance of holding government to its promises made in the No10 Food Summit.

ELMs Update: NFU responded to Defra [SFI 23 offer](#) along with details of the full offer including [scheme guidance](#). The Our SFI roadshow led NFU expert teams covered everything you need to know about SFI and how to apply. [Watch again here](#). We recognise ELMs isn't geared up for every sector in horticulture, but continue to challenge this as well as working to ensure the current offer is fit for purpose.



HCP UPDATE

Horticulture Crop Protection Ltd (HCP) has been set up by the UK Horticultural industry to take over the processing of Plant Protection Product minor use applications (EAMUs) and Emergency Authorisation applications (EAs), following the wind-down of AHDB Horticulture.

HCP operates on a 'not for profit' basis and is owned and funded by the Crop Associations including the BPOA. A small team at HCP team manages the EAMU and Emergency Authorisation submission process. This also includes carrying out residue and efficacy trials to support applications where necessary.

Funds are subscribed to HCP on a voluntary basis. The subscription system comprises two elements: A contribution to the running costs of the organisation and the actual costs of making an application. Every EAMU and EA has a specific cost, added to this is the cost of any residue or efficacy trials needed to support an application.

Subscriptions are voluntary and will be collected from growers through the network of Crop Associations including the BPOA.

HCP have been working with the BPOA to update their sector specific Risk Register which scores crop relevant pests and diseases in order to highlight targets which are a priority concern.



Horticulture Crop Protection

Top priority Pests and Diseases 2023:

	Pest	Disease
Pot plants	Aphids Thrips Vine weevil	Downy mildew Botrytis Powdery mildew
Bedding	Whitefly Aphid	Downy mildew Botrytis Powdery mildew

HCP will also be liaising with the BPOA to determine which EAMU applications HCP should submit over the coming months. HCP works in collaboration with Plant Protection companies to gain new products for growers of horticultural crops and also to retain EAMUs on products that are undergoing the renewal process. The Health and Safety Executive is the national regulator for the UK, on behalf of the UK government and the devolved administrations.

Recent EAMUs secured:

EAMU 2022 3553 – Decis Protech on ornamental plant production (pot and bedding plants, bulb cut flowers, non-bulb cut flowers, field grown hardy nursery stock, and mature trees) grown outdoor, under temporary protection, or under permanent protection with full enclosure.

Jo McTigue

joanna.mctigue@hcpltd.org

The HCP website will be launched in September 2023

<https://www.hcpltd.org/>

Floral Fantasia Update

The Floral Fantasia display garden at Hyde Hall is now starting to shine and impressed visitors from around the world on July 4th when a group of around 90 delegates visited for the annual Fleuroselect Convention, which was held in the UK this year. The display plantings are now flowering well and despite the dry period plant growth overall is good, thanks to a good deal of hand watering. Ceramic patio containers, donated by Woodlodge, have been used to display a wide range of varieties from different breeders who have supported the Floral Fantasia initiative through donations. The sensitively designed plantings in the beds and containers are a credit to Molli Christman and the Hyde Hall team who continue to be under pressure because of staff shortages.

Comments from the Fleuroselect delegates were very complimentary and support from the European organisation was assured by President Elect Marc Driessen, Director at Beekenkamp Plants. Other representatives of flower breeders at the convention pledged their continued support for the Floral Fantasia display garden, initiated by Peter Seabrook in 2019.

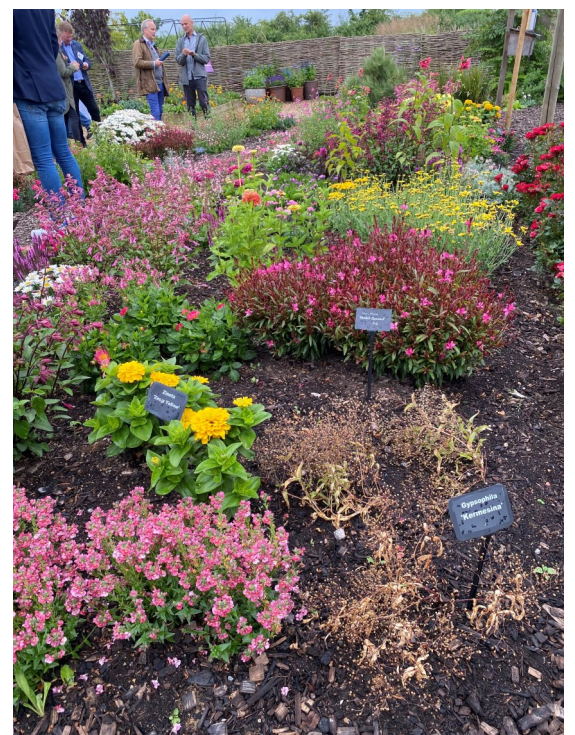
On the following day, July 5th, members of the Horticulture Press attended and were given a presentation on the history and purpose of Floral Fantasia. Following this they toured the garden and were shown the exciting new varieties to look out for and write about. Andrew Tokely from Kings Seeds announced a donation of £600 from the sale of Sweet Pea 'Seabrook's Fantasia' this spring.

The 'Year of the Salvia' trial is now established and flowering well. Mandy Tout is the new Trials Coordinator at Hyde Hall and will take some responsibility for maintaining the Floral Fantasia display. A panel of individuals has been invited to assess the tender Salvias in the trial for the RHS Award of Garden Merit. This panel/forum will be under the chairmanship of Michael Smith of W. D. Smith who has done so much to make the Floral Fantasia garden possible.

The Floral Fantasia Management Group meet regularly to monitor the garden, aiming to maximise the opportunity for all stakeholders. Financial pledges continue to be made by industry groups and companies but more support to develop the garden is still needed. The need for an automatic watering system is clear and hopefully this can be arranged in the coming months in readiness for next summer.

If you can possibly spare the time please visit Floral Fantasia at Hyde Hall and spend an hour or so taking in the magnificent seasonal displays.

Simon Crawford & Tim Kerley July 13th 2023





Become a Part of the Solution with the Responsible Sourcing Scheme (RSS)

In an era where consumers are increasingly conscious of their environmental footprint, the Responsible Sourcing Scheme offers a practical solution for growers.

By joining the RSS, you're not just making a commitment to sustainability, but also aligning your practices with the rising demand for more environmentally responsible products.

As a member, you'll be able to demonstrate your commitment to growing in more responsibly sourced growing media. This not only enhances your environmental sustainability but also resonates with the values of your customers.

Join the RSS today and take a proactive step towards a more sustainable future. Together, we can make a difference!

For more information contact
info@responsiblesourcing.org.uk

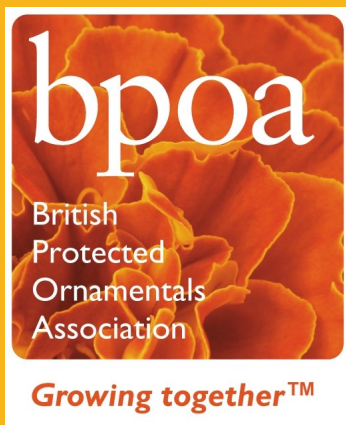


www.responsiblesourcing.org.uk

SAVE THE DATE



British Protected Ornamentals Association Conference: 31 January 2024



NFU CONFERENCE CENTRE, STONELEIGH

GET YOUR MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT CODE BY EMAILING

INFO@BRITISHORNAMENTALS.ORG

EARLY BIRD TICKET OFFER CLOSING 4 JANUARY 2024

[REGISTER HERE](#)



LSA Charitable Trust Fellowship Scheme

My main aim in participating in the Fellowship was for exposure to the wider world of horticulture, and this was achieved through all the events both in person and online. Through the Fellowship I have been asked to be a part of the HTA Ornamentals Technical Committee which has further branched off into other events/visits.

The scheme as a whole has opened up the world of horticulture to me and has been a massive confidence boost as I move forward.

David Malcolm, Site Manager, Boningale Nurseries Ltd, 2021 Fellow



I have enjoyed meeting other Fellows, seeing what they do, the challenges they face and exchanging ideas and experiences within the industry.

The Fellowship has given me the opportunity to learn about the key issues facing the industry but also ways in which the industry is addressing them. Many issues in crop production are similar across horticulture. The wider horticultural industry can benefit from working together, building relationships, and sharing knowledge in schemes such as the LSA fellowship.

Isobel Tickner, Product Development Assistant, Tozer Seeds




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 2024.

For more information contact Coral Clark.

 01507 602427

 admin@britishgrowers.org

 www.lsactfellowship.org

SUPPORTED BY



The West Sussex Growers' Association invite you to **join them** for a day of Innovation, Automation and Robotics on Thursday 9th November at Plumpton College in the new Agri-Food building. The opening speaker will be the dynamic Minette Batters, NFU President, who will be followed by a host of highly notable speakers including Professor Simon Pearson from the University of Lincoln; Prof Gail Taylor, Plant Science from University of California Davis; Kit Franklin from Harper Adams; Joshua Dalby, Chief Engineer at Ricardo; Andy Hall, Robotics Engineer from Tortuga and Anthony Yousefian, VP Climate & Circularity at Wiliot.

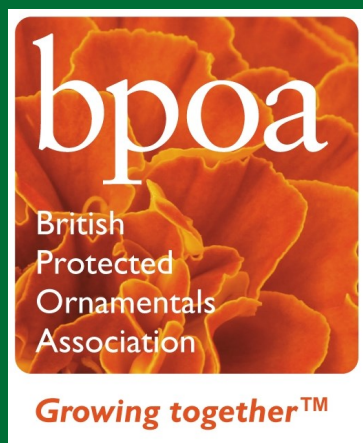
CONFERENCE 2023

INNOVATION AUTOMATION ROBOTICS



 West Sussex
Growers' Association

Sponsored by
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We are attending the Four Oaks
Trade Show on 5 & 6 September -
come and see us in the Educate,
Collaborate & Innovate Zone!



Trade Show

Four Oaks 

5-6th Sept 2023

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](#).

SAVE THE DATE

British Poinsettia Growers Group Conference

23 November 2023

Bridge Farm Group, Spalding

Further details to follow

BRITISH
POINSETTIA
GROWERS GROUP



TRADE
MEMBERS



Hortiserv Ltd

