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## mediateam

GLAS is organised on behalf of the Kildare Growers, supported by Bord Bia.

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# Welcome from

**BORD BIA**  
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It is wonderful to see GLAS continue to grow each year here in the National Basketball Arena, with another increase in both indoor and outdoor exhibitors once again in 2026.

This important showcase for the amenity horticulture sector, which Bord Bia is delighted to support, remains a key annual business and networking event.

It provides a vital platform for growers, service providers, and supporting agencies to exhibit, connect, and engage with visitors. In particular, it offers nurseries an important opportunity to meet plant buyers, helping to secure and build future sales.

In 2026, we are also seeing a clear acceleration in key industry trends - particularly the increased demand for biodiversity-friendly

planting, and a stronger focus on climate-resilient landscapes.

Consumers are becoming more informed and more intentional in their choices, seeking sustainable, pollinator-friendly, and locally grown plants. This presents both an opportunity and a responsibility for the sector to innovate, adapt, and lead in delivering high-quality, sustainable products.

Earlier last month, we once again welcomed large numbers of visitors to Bord Bia Bloom in the Phoenix Park. Engagement with the event was extremely positive, with a growing and increasingly diverse audience, including more young families. Plant sales remained strong, providing clear evidence that interest in gardening and plants continues to be sustained.

Despite this positive market sentiment, the amenity sector continues to face a number of ongoing challenges. The cost and availability of reliable growing media remains a concern, alongside continued pressure on input costs for growers. In addition, labour availability continues to be a key issue right across the horticulture sector.

Bord Bia remains committed to supporting the amenity sector as it navigates these challenges. Through our horticulture team, and our suite of tailored programmes and supports, we will continue to work in partnership with industry to drive resilience, sustainability, and long-term growth.

**Emer Gallagher Hall, senior manager,  
Horticulture Division, Bord Bia**

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# Editor's welcome

## The must-attend horticulture trade event of the year is back again!



Patryk Goron,  
Editor Growtrade.ie

Welcome to GLAS, Ireland's main event for gardening, landscaping, and amenity sportsturf. On behalf of the whole GLAS team, we're happy to bring together the industry's top professionals and businesses again.

To everyone exhibiting at GLAS for the first time, a warm welcome - you're in the right place to connect with the horticultural trade. And to all our returning exhibitors and visitors, it's great to have you back.

From rising energy costs to sustainability concerns and the ongoing peat issue, Ireland's horticulture industry has faced some serious challenges. Despite these obstacles, the industry is driven by passionate professionals, who keep adapting to meet the changing needs of the market.

There's plenty to see and do at GLAS this year. Be sure to visit the GLAS Learning Theatre packed with presentations from industry experts covering a wide range of topics relevant to the trade. Keep an eye out for our awards too! Today, our judges will be announcing winners for Supplier of the Year, the New Product New Plant showcase, and Best in Show.

With strong support from Bord Bia, GLAS offers a unique chance for buyers and sellers across Ireland's horticulture, sportsturf, and related industries to connect. Enjoy the show and don't forget to follow us on social media @[glasireland](#) and @[growtradeie](#).

### Growtrade.ie

**Growtrade.ie** is published by Mediateam, the team behind GLAS. With a strong track record in publishing, Growtrade.ie has built a loyal audience through timely, relevant coverage of the industry. Its content spans the full breadth of the trade, from horticulture and landscaping to sportsgrounds, parks, retail, and careers.

Over the past year, Growtrade.ie has covered the major stories shaping Irish and international horticulture. From the continued peat supply challenges and rising input and labour costs to AI's expanding role in horticulture.

Growtrade.ie readers rely on us for updates on upcoming plant fairs, open days, and highlights from the biggest events in the professional horticulture calendar.

### Growtrade.ie newsletter

Growtrade.ie's newsletter delivers the top trade stories straight to your inbox every two weeks. Designed for busy professionals, it offers a clear roundup with prominent headlines and summaries, so you can catch the key news at a glance.

### Small Talk

At Growtrade.ie, we're running an interview series titled 'Small Talk', where we talk to various influential members of Ireland's horticulture trade.



Launched in 2023, our Small Talk series featured some of the most recognisable and respected names in the horticulture industry. We've had conversations with Ireland's most well-known garden and landscape designers - Diarmuid Gavin, Peter Donegan, James Comiskey; lecturers in horticulture - Dr Noeleen Smyth, Dr Cara Daly, Gráinne McMahon, Hazel Proctor, Rachel Freeman, Sarah Simpson and many more. **Feel like you have the perfect story for us? Feel free to email our editor at [patrykgoron@mediateam.ie](mailto:patrykgoron@mediateam.ie)**

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# An insight into Bord Bia's services for the horticulture industry



**From Carol Marks, sector manager for horticulture at Bord Bia**

Bord Bia actively supports the amenity horticulture sector through various programmes, such as: consumer and trade promotion, business development, market research, and quality initiatives.

Here's a report on key activities from the past year and an overview of services available to the industry.

## **Garden Market Report**

Ipsos B&A has tracked consumer activity and spending in the gardening market since 2001.

The survey aims to provide Bord Bia with a tool to measure and track consumer spend,

purchase channels, and purchase motivations.

The biennial study was conducted in 2020 during the onset of COVID-19 and repeated in 2021 to monitor the pandemic's impact. It recorded exceptional growth in the gardening market, surpassing the previous highs of the Celtic Tiger years.

While the 2023 study revealed that habits returned to pre-Covid times, stabilising with an overall value of €966 million, down 35% from the €1.5 billion peak in 2021. Despite high inflation in 2023, the market has grown 21% since 2018, indicating that Bord Bia's focus on



**Kieran Dunne, Kildare Growers Group with Noel Grealish TD, Minister of State at the Irish Bred Plants Feature**



**The Celebrity Dream Garden, by Declan McKenna, inspired by Brendan Courtney**

outdoor spaces during Covid has left a lasting impact on attitudes towards gardening.

The 2025 study went into field in July 2025 and will conclude in July 2026, with full results available in early autumn.

Interim results for the final quarter of 2025 and the first two quarters of 2026 show positive results.

**Market trends and consumer spending:**

- ◆ total gardening spend for the same period increased from €641m in 2023/24 to €869m in 2025/26.
- ◆ consumer occasions rose by 20%, indicating higher engagement.
- ◆ outdoor flowering plants and indoor potted plants saw significant spending increases.



**Presentation of Irish Bred Plant (L-R: Mr. Jim O'Toole, CEO Bord Bia, Catherine Connolly, President of Ireland and Kieran Dunne, Kildare Growers Group)**

**Bord Bia Bloom 2026 in numbers**

**Some facts and figures from the five-day festival:**

- ◆ Over 90,000 attendees across five festival days
- ◆ 20 spectacular Show Gardens
- ◆ A brand-new Wellness Village
- ◆ 17 plant nurseries, alongside the Botanical Hub and Plant Emporium
- ◆ 14 Postcard Gardens created by communities nationwide
- ◆ 100+ Irish food & drink producers in the Food Village
- ◆ 300+ talks, demos and performances across five stages
- ◆ 3 indoor restaurants, including A Taste of Bloom curated by Neven Maguire
- ◆ 70+ food trucks across three vibrant outdoor food areas
- ◆ The return of visitor favourites like the Conservation Area, Craft Village and Budding Bloomers



**Brendan Courtney and Aine Lawlor on the Celebrity Dream Garden, designed by Declan McKenna, inspired by Brendan Courtney**

- ◆ fresh cut flowers also experienced a 20% growth, reflecting sustained demand.

**Size and trends in gardening market:**

- ◆ the market size in occasions for the same period grew from 15.4 million in 2023/24 to 18.8 million in 2025/26.
- ◆ market value rose from €509m to €980m over the same period.
- ◆ gardening activities like planting bulbs, bedding plants, and shrubs increased in frequency and value.

**Outdoor and flowering plants:**

- ◆ occasions for outdoor plants like bulbs, bedding, and trees increased, with some categories peaking in 2021/22.
- ◆ spending on outdoor plants grew by 31%, with notable increases in bulbs and planting seeds.
- ◆ hanging baskets and outdoor containers remain popular, with fluctuating but generally rising occasions.

**Bord Bia was Bloomin’**

Bord Bia Bloom, celebrating its 20th year, attracted over 90,000 visitors to Dublin’s Phoenix Park throughout the June Bank Holiday weekend.

Event organisers reported that business was thriving, and spirits were high all weekend long in part due to the sunshine, which made a welcome appearance and remained constant throughout.

Many exhibitors reported strong sales and a need to restock throughout the weekend, while at the Plant Emporium, sales of plants from Irish Nurseries maintained a similar level as the previous year.

A new addition for this year was the Irish Bred Plant Feature – showcasing the wide range of plant varieties bred by Irish Nursery Growers including Betula ‘Spider Alley’, and Cistus ‘Little Miss Sunshine’.

A specimen of each was presented to the President of Ireland - Catherine Connelly, patron of Bloom.

**Dates for 2027**

Bord Bia has confirmed that Bloom 2027 will take place from Thursday, 3rd June to Monday 7th June next year.

**The Celebrity Dream Garden at Bord Bia Bloom 2026**

To celebrate 20 Years of Bord Bia Bloom, a very special Celebrity Dream Garden was commissioned as an addition to the Easy Steps to Dream Gardens suite of seven gardens by Bloom award winning garden designers.

We teamed up with Declan McKenna, inhouse designer with Silverstream Landscapes, and TV and Radio personality Brendan Courtney, to help him bring his dream garden to life.

Declan worked with Brendan over 2025/26 to bring Brendan’s vision for his own garden to life, to demonstrate how working with a garden designer can benefit anyone, and to make garden designs and plant recommendations easy and accessible to all.



The Celebrity Dream Garden by Declan McKenna, inspired by Brendan Courtney at Bloom.

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The full design, planting plan and plant list is available, alongside the other seven Dream Gardens, on the Bord Bia Bloom website for the public to download.

An interview with Declan and Brendan, from the Celebrity Dream Garden, featured on the BLOOM SPECIAL TV programme, aired on RTE One on Thursday evening 28th of May, immediately following the Super Garden Finale!

A suite of social media assets, along with downloadable Point of Sale material was sent out to garden centres to help them

promote the plants contained in the garden.

Brendan Courtney, and Bord Bia/Bord Bia Bloom, posted about the garden design process and progress, while a full social media campaign was conducted during Bloom and over the following months, encouraging the public to recreate the design/planting in their own garden.

The publicity also directed the public to the other seven Dream Garden designs on the Bord Bia Bloom website, and we witnessed a huge uplift in downloading of all the designs.

## We are here to help

Contact Carol Marks or Michal Slawski via email on:

[Carol.marks@bordbia.ie](mailto:Carol.marks@bordbia.ie) or  
[Michal.slawski@bordbia.ie](mailto:Michal.slawski@bordbia.ie)

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# Horticulture Education Leadership Group (HELG) shaping Ireland's green workforce

As the Irish horticulture industry gathers at GLAS 2026 - bringing together growers, landscape professionals, educators and innovators - the spotlight is firmly on the future of skills, talent and education. With horticulture spanning food production, environmental management, urban greening and lifestyle sectors, the need for a coherent and forward-looking education system has never been greater.

Responding to this challenge, the Horticulture Education Review 2025 report, commissioned by the Department of Agriculture, Food and The Marine has laid the foundation for a transformative agenda, culminating in the establishment of the Horticulture Education Leadership Group (HELG), as a strategic multi-stakeholder body tasked with driving change across education.

## An industry at a turning point

Ireland's horticulture industry is dynamic, diverse and increasingly central to addressing global challenges - from climate change mitigation to sustainable food systems. Yet the 2025 Review identified a paradox: while education provision exists across all levels, student numbers are declining and programmes are under capacity.

Key issues include limited exposure to horticulture in early education, fragmented progression pathways, and a persistent lack of awareness about career opportunities.

## A global horizon for Irish horticulture education

A defining principle of the Review is the concept of a "global horizon" for horticulture

## From Dr Owen Doyle, chairperson of HELG

education. This vision recognises that Irish horticulture operates within an international landscape shaped by rapid technological innovation (AI, robotics, precision horticulture), sustainability and climate action imperatives, changing consumer demands for plant-based and locally sourced products and increasing globalisation of knowledge, markets and supply chains. Aligning education with these drivers ensures that graduates are not only job-ready but future-ready.

## Reforming curriculum and pathways

HELG's immediate priority is curriculum reform across all levels of education. The Review highlights the need to modernise content, particularly where standards have not kept pace with industry developments.

Proposed changes include the continued integration of digital technologies, data analytics and AI, placing a stronger focus on sustainability, climate science and resource efficiency, the inclusion of enhanced business, financial and entrepreneurial skills and having a greater emphasis on hands-on learning, internships and apprenticeships.

## Building stronger industry-education links

The HELG is tasked with strengthening partnerships that will expand apprenticeships and work-based learning opportunities, supporting industry-led curriculum input and real-world projects, enabling continuing professional development (CPD) for existing



**L-R: Gráinne McMahon, Owen Doyle, Cara Daly, Hazel Proctor and Rachel Freeman**

staff and the encouragement of research collaboration and innovation.

## Promoting horticulture careers

The HELG has a critical role in changing perceptions of horticulture. Despite its economic and societal importance, the sector continues to face challenges in attracting new entrants.

The Group is developing a coordinated advocacy strategy through collaboration with schools to introduce horticulture concepts early, the development of accessible career resources and pathways, the promotion of success stories and diverse career options through targeted campaigns that challenge outdated stereotypes. Repositioning horticulture as a high-tech, sustainable and impactful career choice will build a stronger talent pipeline.

## Delivering impact

The HELG represents a significant milestone in the evolution of horticulture education in Ireland. Its success will be measured not only in policy implementation but in tangible outcomes, including increased student enrolment across education levels, improved alignment between skills provision and industry demand, enhanced programme viability and stronger international engagement and competitiveness.

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# Cultivating opportunity - Teagasc support for a growing nursery stock sector



## From Dónall Flanagan, nursery stock/ornamentals specialised advisor at Teagasc

The Irish nursery stock and ornamental sector is entering a period of significant strategic advantage.

While the wet winter and late spring disrupted tree harvesting schedules and delayed early-season sales, ongoing housing development and subsequent new gardens along with forecast new tree and hedge planting schemes is creating opportunities for domestic producers.

The escalating transport costs from traditional hubs like the Netherlands has created a financial barrier for some imports, providing Irish growers with an opportunity to displace foreign stock and capture a larger share of the home market with high-quality, locally acclimatised plants with the benefit of lower pest risks.

The recently published 'Teagasc Horticulture Crop Input Prices 2026 Report' highlights a 7.5% year-on-year input cost increase specifically impacting the nursery stock sector.

Driven by a 6.2% rise in effective labour costs, which now represent a significant 43.4% of total production expenses and an average 10.1% spike in fertilisers, the figures underscore the necessity for continued evolution of production systems.

Crucially, specialty controlled-release fertilisers saw surges of up to 27%.



## Horticulture apprentice Sean Melia - the winner of Super Garden 2026

With labour accounting for such a high proportion of input cost growers are continuously reviewing their production systems to improve their efficiency.

### Driving efficiency through structured automation

To fully capitalise on this import-substitution potential and mitigate ongoing labour cost pressures, Irish growers are actively transforming their production models. The clear direction of travel for the industry is toward advanced automation. However, achieving this requires a deliberate, step-by-step development:

- ◆ standardise production: aligning pot sizes, tray formats, grading and crop layouts to eliminate unnecessary operational variables

- ◆ mechanise processes: introducing targeted mechanical aids for potting, trimming, and internal transport
- ◆ automate infrastructure: deploying substantial capital investments in smart, fully automated systems once workflows are streamlined

Teagasc is actively supporting this transition, helping growers optimise layouts and understand efficiency gains to ensure capital investments deliver maximum returns.

### Teagasc research

Work continues in Ashtown investigating growing media in light of shifts towards lower peat inputs.

A significant investment has been made in Ashtown in a wood

and material milling line that will be used to investigate the potential of traditional and novel materials for growing media development.

Teagasc Ashtown is hosting Detect PNP a department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine funded research programme looking at some novel eDNA detection methods for specific nursery diseases.

Sustainability in horticulture is being assessed through a range of different projects also.

Innovation drives demand, and Teagasc's comparative plant trials are comparing new and established varieties in the Irish climate.

At Ashtown, the European Fleuroselect trial shines a spotlight on the latest ornamental grasses in 2026, evaluating their resilience, visual impact under Irish conditions.

Simultaneously, the pan-European Eurotrials network has launched its latest evaluation

phase, focusing on Philadelphia (Mock Orange).

Over the next three seasons, these woody cultivars will be rigorously assessed for attractiveness, hardiness, habit, and disease resistance.

Providing growers with localised performance data helps identify high-value, top-tier plants optimised for automated production lines.

**Teagasc Horticulture Education** is in a good place for 2026 with numbers applying for the two apprenticeships in horticulture showing strong interest.

The Teagasc college in the National Botanic Gardens hosts the horticulture apprenticeship that caters for both the amenity and edible sectors. The Teagasc College in Kildalton hosts the sports turf apprenticeship.

This year's Super Garden competition winner sponsored by Bord Bia at Bloom was awarded to a second year apprentice on

the horticulture programme at the Teagasc College in the national Botanic Gardens.

Sean Melia from Meath displayed his winning garden "Urban Jungle" at this year's Bloom event in the Phoenix Park, a fantastic achievement for the young apprentice.

Both horticulture apprentice programmes have participants from across the country and the block release nature of the programme lends itself to a broad geographical spread. Both programmes are two years in duration and intakes are taking place in August /September for the new programmes. Both colleges also offer courses for full and part-time students in horticulture through Certificates, Advanced certificates and Degrees awarded by SETU in Waterford.

Any queries can be directed to the Botanics in Dublin and Teagasc Kildalton in Kilkenny at:

**botanic.college@teagasc.ie** or **Kildalton.college@teagasc.ie**



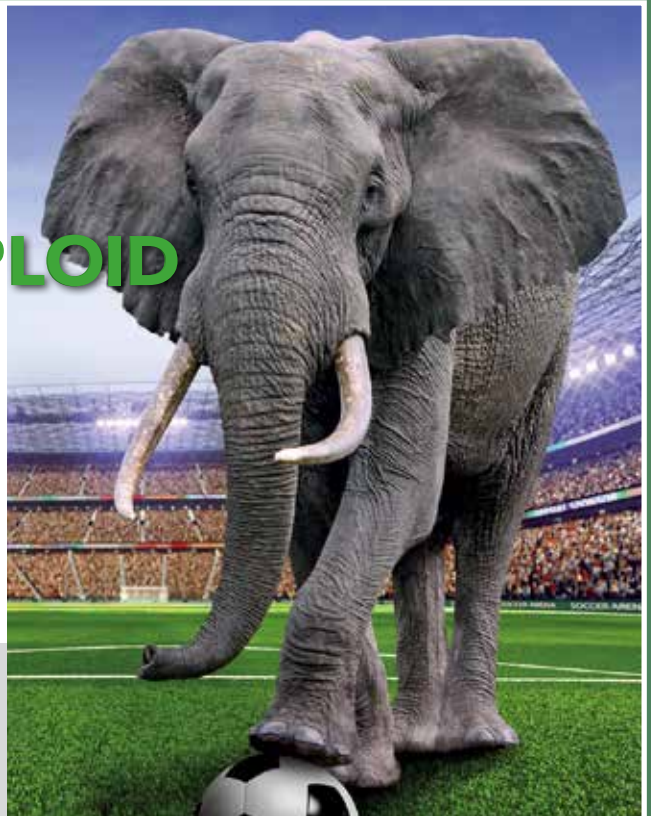
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# GLDA Seminar 2026 - the interconnection of all things

By **John B. Smyth**  
**MGLDA**

This year's GLDA Seminar in February once again offered inspiration, practical insight, and optimism in the face of climate pressures, biodiversity loss, and urban expansion.

Bringing together landscape architects, gardeners, contractors, designers, and horticulturalists, the event explored how future landscapes can work more intelligently alongside nature.

While the speakers represented a wide range of disciplines, they were united by a shared belief - landscapes can be resilient, biodiverse, and deeply connected to people and place.

## Lulu Urquhart

The seminar opened with Lulu Urquhart, whose thoughtful and sensitive approach captivated the audience. She spoke about designing landscapes that allow ecology, memory, and natural processes to coexist. Her projects demonstrated how emotional connections to place emerge through observation and ecological understanding.

## Adam Hunt

Adam Hunt's presentation revealed the depth of research and observation behind his work, particularly in habitat regeneration and woodland ecology. A memorable example came from Abbeyleix Ancient Woodlands, where he described how species such as *Prunus spinosa* and *Crataegus* can be used to protect young oak saplings from grazing pressure.

## Designing with nature together

Following the first break, Lulu and Adam returned for a joint presentation - "Designing with Nature". Their collaboration highlighted the relationship between cultivated landscapes and wild ecological systems, presenting gardens as living ecological dialogues rather than purely aesthetic spaces.

## Galen Fulford

After lunch, Galen Fulford, founder of Biomatrix Water, delivered one of the seminar's most innovative presentations. He explored how floating ecosystems and modular planting systems can transform sterile urban waterways into thriving habitats. These floating landscapes improve biodiversity and water quality while creating more attractive and ecologically functional environments for people and wildlife.



**L-R: Margie Ruddick, Kinta Oakes, Frazer McDonogh**

## Margie Ruddick

Margie Ruddick's presentation challenged the audience to rethink restoration as the rebuilding of relationships between ecosystems, communities, and landscapes rather than simply recreating the past. Drawing on projects in India, Mexico, China, and the

United States, she demonstrated how ecology, design, and culture can work together to create meaningful places. Her work highlighted the importance of reconnecting water systems, wildlife, local communities, and cultural memory.

## Neil Porteous

Neil Porteous closed the day with "Plants for Irish Gardens for the 21st Century", focusing on how planting decisions must respond to climate change while preserving the character of historic landscapes.

Grounded in practical experience, Neil reminded the audience that resilient landscapes are built through observation, knowledge, and the commitment of those who care for them over time.

## Conclusion

This year's speakers shared a common message - future landscapes must be more resilient, biodiverse, emotionally engaging, and ecologically intelligent.

The seminar successfully balanced visionary thinking with practical application, offering ideas from professionals actively shaping landscapes around the world.

Events such as the GLDA Seminar are vital for the industry, providing opportunities to learn, collaborate, and reconnect with those who share a passion for landscapes and horticulture.

With next year marking the GLDA's 30th anniversary, anticipation is already building for another memorable celebration of landscape design and environmental stewardship.

For more information on the GLDA's activities and membership options see [www.glda.ie](http://www.glda.ie) or email at [info@glda.ie](mailto:info@glda.ie)

# CAFRE: educating a flourishing horticulture industry

## James Crawford, senior lecturer at CAFRE reviews the last 12 months of activity

The College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) Greenmount Campus has had another outstanding year supporting the local horticulture industry.

The campus has been proud to host horticulture students from across Ireland at two notable events in the academic calendar.

Firstly, Greenmount hosted the Bord Bia David Robinson Memorial Lecture in October 2025, welcoming over 100 students to hear Neil Porteous, Historic Gardens Consultant, reflect on the past 40 years of his career in horticulture.

Secondly, Greenmount Campus hosted the Irish final of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture's Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition in March 2026, where seven competitors from across Ireland competed for a coveted place at the Grand Final.

### Student achievement

CAFRE is extremely grateful for the continued support provided by the horticulture industry through bursaries and work placement opportunities.

This year, five students from BSc (Hons) Degree and Foundation Degree programmes received £1,500 bursaries from Bulrush, Idverde, the Ulster Farmers' Union, The Gibson Trust and the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society.

In addition, a Further Education horticulture student secured a Colegrave Seabrook Foundation scholarship, competing successfully against entries from other land-based colleges across Great Britain.

CAFRE students also achieved recent success at WorldSkills UK, with students earning one

silver and one bronze medal in the Landscaping category. These accolades reflect the dedication and hard work of the competitors, as well as the high quality of training and opportunities available across CAFRE campuses.



**CAFRE finalists: Tiernan Kelly, Luke Donald with his Silver Medal, Cameron Gilbert with his Bronze Medal and Rhys Logan, who was highly commended by the Judges at the WorldSkills UK Landscape Gardening Finals**

### Careers and events

CAFRE's annual careers event in February 2026 provided students with the opportunity to explore a range of career pathways and academic progression routes.

Guest speakers included Craig Alcorn and Clara Agnew (Alcorn's Garden Centre, Letterkenny), Aleana Cairns (Horticulture Adviser, CAFRE), John Beardmore (Ohio State University), Bill Winchell (Raker-Roberta's Young Plants, Michigan), Will Armitage (Horticultural Trades Association) and Jill Peterson (Momento Belfast), all of whom offered valuable insight into the diverse opportunities within the sector.

### Study tours

Higher Education students travelled to the Loire Valley region of France over the Easter break, undertaking a programme of horticultural visits.

These included Pépinières Lepage, a large-scale ornamental and bulb producer in Nantes; L'Institut Agro Rennes-Angers,

a leading centre for higher education and research in agriculture and horticulture; market gardener Vincent Favreau; and L'Arboretum Gaston Allard in Angers, where students gained insight into municipal park and garden management.

Further Education horticulture and floristry students travelled to the Netherlands, where they explored both sectors in depth. Visits included the renowned Keukenhof Gardens, Royal FloraHolland in Aalsmeer, and Waterdrinker, a major floriculture wholesaler.



**CAFRE students met with French horticulture students in L'Institut-Agro to discuss international design projects**

CAFRE's horticulture teaching resources continue to be of a very high standard, with a new campus development currently planned for completion in 2032.

With a wide range of full-time and part-time courses available across further and higher education levels at Greenmount Campus, Antrim, CAFRE looks forward to continuing to host key industry events and inspire the next generation of horticulturists.

**If you would like to find out more about CAFRE's courses visit [www.cafre.ac.uk](http://www.cafre.ac.uk)**



**CAFRE Greenmount Walled Garden**

# The Arboricultural Association Ireland Branch Veteran Trees - living links to the past



## Michael Yallop, Ireland branch secretary explains a little more about veteran trees

When people think of important trees, they often think of the tallest, oldest, or most impressive specimens. However, some of the most valuable trees in our landscape are known as veteran trees. These remarkable trees are not only living monuments to the past but also provide habitats and ecological benefits that cannot be replaced within a human lifetime.

A veteran tree is not necessarily the oldest tree in a landscape. Rather, it is a tree that displays characteristics associated with



### Example of a veteran tree

age, stress, or natural decline. These features can include hollow trunks, cavities, deadwood, large wounds, fungal fruiting bodies, decaying limbs, or extensive areas of exposed heartwood. While such characteristics may appear to

indicate a tree in poor condition, they are often what make veteran trees so valuable from an ecological perspective.

Veteran trees can be found throughout the UK in a wide variety of locations but sometimes they can be harder to spot in Ireland.

Ancient woodlands are often home to veteran specimens, but they are equally likely to be found in parklands, old estates, churchyards, hedgerows, farmland, and even urban environments. Some of the most notable veteran trees occur as isolated field trees, where they have been allowed to develop naturally over centuries without competition from surrounding woodland.

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Species commonly associated with veteran status include oak (*Quercus robur*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), yew (*Taxus baccata*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). However, almost any tree species can develop veteran characteristics if given sufficient time and suitable conditions.

### The importance of our veteran trees

The importance of veteran trees cannot be overstated. They provide a unique habitat that supports an extraordinary range of wildlife. Cavities within trunks and branches offer nesting and roosting sites for birds, bats, and small mammals. Decaying wood supports countless species of fungi, beetles, flies, and other invertebrates, many of which are entirely dependent upon the specialised conditions found within ageing trees. In fact, a single veteran tree can support hundreds if not thousands of different species throughout its lifetime.

Despite their importance, veteran trees are increasingly vulnerable. Development pressures, agricultural intensification, inappropriate management, and changes in land use can all threaten their long-term survival. One of the greatest misconceptions surrounding veteran trees is that the presence of deadwood or decay automatically means a tree is dangerous. While some veteran trees may require management to address specific risks, many can continue to thrive safely for decades with appropriate care.

Protecting veteran trees begins with recognising their value. Surveys should be undertaken to identify veteran specimens before development or land management works are proposed. Once identified, adequate space should be provided around the tree to protect both its canopy and root system. Activities such as excavation, storage of materials, vehicle movements, and changes to ground levels should be avoided within the rooting area wherever possible.

Management should focus on retaining veteran trees for as long as practicable. In some cases, this may involve sympathetic pruning, installation of support systems, or creation of exclusion zones to reduce disturbance. Importantly, deadwood should only be removed where there is a clear and justifiable safety concern, as it forms a critical component of the habitat value of the tree.

Veteran trees are more than just old trees. They are living ecosystems, historical landmarks, and irreplaceable components of our natural heritage. Their protection should be regarded not simply as good arboriculture, but as an investment in the future of our landscapes.

The branch can be contacted at [irelandbranch@trees.org.uk](mailto:irelandbranch@trees.org.uk)

  
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IRISH LANDSCAPE INSTITUTE  
 INSTITIUID TÍRDHREACHA NA hÉIREANN



## ABOUT THE ILI

The Irish Landscape Institute is the professional body representing Landscape Professionals in Ireland.

ILI was founded in 1992 and is a registered member of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), a member of the Tree Council of Ireland and of the World Urban Parks.

ILI aims to

- Set standards of excellence in the fields of landscape architecture, design, planning and management.
- Support the interaction of landscape architecture with related disciplines such as engineering, architecture, urban design and town planning.
- Support the development of landscape education at all levels in Ireland.

## WHAT DO WE DO?

Landscape architecture and its related disciplines require both creative and technical skills. Landscape professionals work on a wide range of projects involving the planning, design and management of the external environment.

Landscape professionals:

- Research and advise on planning, design and stewardship of outdoor spaces within and beyond the built environment.
- Carry out landscape studies, such as Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment for EIA.
- Implement and monitor strategies and plans for green infrastructure, landscape

conservation and urbanism for the public realm and private spaces.

- Design and manage open space projects, including streetscapes, plazas, public parks and gardens, sports grounds, zoos, botanic gardens, recreation areas, farms, burial grounds.
- Undertake planning, design, restoration and maintenance of cultural, historic and environmentally sensitive landscapes.
- Contribute to the aesthetic and functional design of infrastructure such as roads, energy and major development projects.
- Inspect sites and analyse factors such as climate, soil, flora, fauna, surface and subsurface water and drainage.

## BECOMING A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Becoming a Landscape Architect and a full member of the Irish Landscape Institute requires:

- A level 8 qualification in landscape architecture from an IFLA accredited course and
- Successful completion of the ILI Professional Practice Examination after minimum 2 years full-time experience and ILI graduate membership

## BENEFITS OF ILI MEMBERSHIP

- Use of title MILI (Corporate only)
- Listing and profile on our website
- Listing in our register of members
- Reduced rates at ILI and other events

- Access to the ILI CPD programme
- Regular information broadcasts

## JOIN ILI

Membership of the Irish Landscape Institute is available at corporate, graduate, student and affiliate level. Practice membership is offered to firms employing corporate ILI members.

## EVENTS, AWARDS & CPD

**ILI Conference** held biennially featuring local and international speakers (CPD).

**Continuing Professional Development** ILI offers regular CPD training including seminars, tours and site visits to its members, non-members and affiliated professionals.

**ILI Design Awards** honours excellence in landscape disciplines. Award categories include: Public Realm, Private Spaces, Institutional Landscapes, Green Infrastructure, Research, Landscape Management and several others. Celebrated biennially.

For more information visit:  
[irishlandscapeinstitute.com](http://irishlandscapeinstitute.com)

The ILI is a registered member of:



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# Who will be the New Product, New Plant award winners at GLAS 2026?

Judging begins at 9am, with the winners of this year's New Product New Plant Awards - including Best in Show Trade Supplier, Best in Show Horticulture & Supplier of the Year - all revealed at a special presentation at 12.30pm.

## NEW PRODUCT NEW PLANT AWARDS ENTRIES

*Here's a selection of some of the New Product New Plant Awards entries at this year's show.*

### **Ball Colegrave: Alstroemeria Inticancha®**

**Liliana** produces elegant, long lasting big flowers for borders, and container plantings. It has a compact, tidy growth habit and flowers continuously through summer with good repeat blooming. Highly resistant to pests and diseases. Superb garden plant.

**Calibrachoa Cabaret® Early Purple Kiss** is a novel addition to the Cabaret® line-up. The delicate soft mauve flower with punchy purple halo is ideal for mixing in baskets or containers. Easy to grow and free branching, plants continue to grow, fill and spread.

**Vitessa® Compact Burgundy Bicolour** is a fast-flowering Verbena boasting a compact habit and exceptionally early bloom, perfect for early retail sales. Uniform, tidy growth and rapid flowering with vibrant two-tone colours for maximum visual impact. [Stand C3](#)

### **Rentes Plants: Flower Carpet Rose**

**Hoopla** is a new, compact ground-cover rose with masses of rosy-pink semi-double blooms, glossy healthy foliage and strong disease resistance, flowering from early summer to frost. Ideal for borders, pots and mass planting. [Paddock KG1](#)

**Wildflowers.ie:** New range of native species, generally unseen in cultivation, they may not even be in flower, since the Collection is taken from our living genebank, as we are redeveloping our nursery to supply seedling wildflowers. [Stand J5](#)

**Ballyward Plant Services:** The **GIANT GS950T** is designed and manufactured in Holland, its tracked skid steer delivers exceptional traction, stability and lifting performance in a compact package. Rubber tracks provide low ground pressure, making it ideal for landscapers, groundworks and construction professionals working on sensitive or challenging terrain. Powerful, versatile and highly manoeuvrable, it helps operators maximise productivity on every job. **GIANT G1500L X-TRA HD** combines compact dimensions with impressive lifting power. Its heavy-duty drivetrain, outstanding stability and excellent visibility make it the perfect choice for landscapers, contractors and material handling applications. With

superb traction and versatility, it delivers maximum performance where larger machines cannot access. [Outdoor A](#)

**Better Plants:** Roses are hungry plants. **Better Plants Rose Tonic** delivers organic seaweed nutrients directly through the leaf, acting fast to correct deficiencies, strengthen stems and produce better quality blooms. Certified organic. [Stand J2](#)

**Fargro:** Meet **Romeo** – Fargro's new biofungicide for ornamental growers tackling botrytis, downy mildew and powdery mildew. **Romeo** is a host plant defence inducer based on Cerevisana, a naturally derived active ingredient that works differently to a conventional fungicide. Rather than attacking the pathogen directly, it triggers the plant's own natural defences, helping it resist infection before it takes hold. **Romeo** is well established with growers in the UK, where it's used across both edible and ornamental production as part of an integrated disease management approach. [Stand C8](#)

**Farizon: V7E** combines smart technology, versatility, and efficient electric performance in a purpose-built commercial vehicle for Irish businesses. Joining the larger **Farizon SV**, it expands customer choice with practical, reliable, zero-emission mobility. [Outdoor I](#)

**Hygeia Chemicals: Grow with Goulding Potato Shield.** This innovative spray is a biologically rich fertiliser designed to help growers to stop potato blight while improving soil and plant health. Tried and tested by the National Vegetable Society of Ireland, it contains a highly concentrated blend of beneficial soil microorganisms that support strong, resilient plants. The spray uses a unique Natural Microbial Technology, a combination of: Postbiotics – natural metabolic compounds that support a healthy growing environment, Probiotics – living microorganisms that strengthen and protect plant systems, Prebiotics – nutrients that enhance soil fertility and long-term resilience. Together, these three elements build healthier soil and give potato plants a strong defence, ensuring stronger, healthier potatoes. [Stand B1](#)

**NaturaVolt:** Introducing the **eWeeding roller** by **NaturaVolt!** This award-nominated, chemical-free innovation destroys weeds down to the root using advanced electric tech. Perfect for safe, sustainable, and highly efficient large-scale professional weed control. [Stand B6](#)

**TU Dublin Horticulture:** This year we are launching a new, part-time, two year level 7 degree designed for holders of a level 6/ apprenticeship qualification using flexible blended delivery and one day a week on campus learning. [Stand G8](#)

**Vermeer: The BC170** delivers big performance in a compact, ultra-lightweight design under 750 kg – perfect for effortless transport across Europe without special permits. Its five-position turntable offers outstanding maneuverability, making it easy to position the machine for maximum efficiency, even in tight city environments. [Outdoor C](#)

**Westland Horticulture: Kent and Stowe Metal Hose Reel Set:** The Kent and Stowe Metal Reel is a heavy-duty stainless-steel reel, Engineered with durability in mind. The aluminium chassis and stainless steel drum provide unmatched reliability, incorporating everything you need to get watering. The set includes: The **Extraordinary Hose 30m**, The **Metal Spray Gun** & The **Metal Connector Set** all in one. For effortless assembly, simply connect and enjoy for effortless watering. **Westland Organic Gold Planting Compost:** Westland Organic Gold Planting Compost combines Westland's decades of expertise with the enriching power of Carbon Gold biochar. This compost naturally improves soil structure, aeration, as well as nutrient retention. Made from local, sustainably sourced, and matured organic ingredients, Organic Gold Planting Compost provides a biologically active, root-boosting blend that is perfect for planting. [Stand F4](#)

**White's Amenity: Polyversum:** A biological fungicide that offers activity against key diseases such as Fusarium, Sclerotinia, Botrytis, Phoma, Phytophthora, Pythium, and Rhizoctonia. It is approved for use in organic production and contains no pre-harvest interval. [Stand C7](#)

# Advance your career with the Chartered Institute of Horticulture



## From Joseph Croke, chair of CIH Ireland

The Institute of Horticulture was established in 1984 with the aim of fostering a close relationship between all sectors of professional horticulture throughout Ireland and the UK. On 21 July 2014 the Institute became Chartered, it is now known as the Chartered Institute of Horticulture (CIH).

### Role and aims of CIH

- ◆ Promote the profession of horticulture and the professionalism of those working in the industry
- ◆ Act as an authoritative body, consulting with Government and other policy making bodies
- ◆ Confer recognised status upon professionally qualified and experienced horticulturists
- ◆ Promote educational and training opportunities and encourage the development of all disciplines within horticulture
- ◆ Cooperate with other bodies on matters of common concern
- ◆ Disseminate information on matters affecting the profession and provide opportunities for discussion amongst horticulturists through the website, publications, conferences, seminars etc.
- ◆ Unite Horticulturists and give their members bargaining power and national recognition



### Winner of the Ireland YHOY 2026 Chéilirs Brecc

Chartership has improved the status of horticulture as a profession for Irish horticulturists in all sectors including landscape design and construction, nursery stock production, sports turf and many more horticulture sectors.

The organisation highlights to the government and the wider public that horticulture demands high level skills and continuing professional development.

Being a member of the CIH confirms that the horticulturist and their business is truly professional, carrying similar standing to other chartered professions and professional bodies.

The Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition (YHOY) was held March 24, 2025 at CAFRE Greenmount College with students coming from all over Ireland north and south.

Chéilirs Brecc was the proud Irish winner, student of Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. He represented Ireland at the international final on May 28, 2026 in Rochdale Hall.

### Career development

There are different levels of membership of the CIH to reflect the level of professional development that any individual has in their career. This helps people to develop as professionals and for everyone to have a place on the road to chartership, there is something for everyone wherever you are in your

career path.

The stages in career development status in the Institute range through Associate, Member, Fellow and Chartered levels. Membership rates start as low as €62 per year for early career horticulturists for their first three years of membership (early careers are the first five years in career) with varying rates appropriate to each level, while students join for free.

Members can use their professional title on cards, emails, and promotional materials. Benefits include exclusive access to horticultural industry visits across all regions, a quarterly magazine, elite networking opportunities, and members-only webinars on diverse horticultural topics.

The 2025 annual CIH study tour was in the Kildare and Wicklow area with visits to Commercial Nursery Stock and Vegetable Production businesses, Amenity Sports Turf and a number of important Community initiatives.

The 2026 CIH Ireland study tour will take place in the Kerry region and the exact date will be decided by members. There will also be sub-regional exclusive events in Ireland for CIH members.

The CIH is the only professional body in Ireland and the UK currently awarding chartered status. Visit [www.horticulture.org.uk](http://www.horticulture.org.uk) or email [ireland@horticulture.org.uk](mailto:ireland@horticulture.org.uk) for more information.

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# The Kildare Growers are in safe hands



The Kildare Growers trade show in Goffs 1990

## By Patrick Doran, Doran Nurseries

The Kildare Growers - the group you all know well is slowly being handed over to the next generation. From the old grey heads you've learned to love (or put up with), to the vaguely familiar faces you may have seen as kids or teenagers on their annual outing to the Kildare Growers trade show.

### Doran Nurseries - Patrick Doran

It wasn't until recently that I really committed to taking over Doran Nurseries (to be honest, I'm not sure the day will ever come, seeing dad is unlikely to ever leave the place).

I joined the nursery full time after finishing my engineering degree. Over the last few years, we have been working hard to improve our quality, reduce our weed count, and bring the nursery to the next level.

### L&K Dunne Nurseries - Aaron Dunne

Aaron stepped into his full-time nursery role back in 2021 after finishing his horticulture degree at UCD. Aaron has rigged up sensors in his glasshouse to monitor the crop and installed drip irrigation to produce the most wonderful hanging baskets and window boxes.

There is nothing easy about being a young plant producer, and L&K

Dunne Nurseries are one of the best in the business.

Those of you who are customers of L&K will surely have noticed the big strides taken by Aaron, Kieran, and Laurence in recent years. They are producing more plants, at a higher quality, than ever before.

### Rentes Plants - Chris, Roy and Bryan Rentes

Weit "retired" at the ripe age of 69 and "handed" the reins over to the three lads - Chris, Roy, and Bryan. Unsurprisingly, Weit can still be found walking around the nursery pretty much any day of the week.

Chris, Roy, and Bryan have been working full time in Rentes for as long as I can remember, and the brothers are doing an incredible job. Weit built a fantastic reputation for quality, and the three brothers are polishing that reputation. As Weit said, "plants sell themselves" and the brothers truly carry that mantra on, producing some of the best quality plants in the country.

### Schram Plants - Tim and Paddy Schram

After taking over from Flip and Mariann in 2018, Tim and Paddy have made serious steps to make the nursery the perennial powerhouse it is today. There is nothing easy about producing and shipping over 500 varieties of perennials across multiple sizes. The depth of the range is truly impressive and

matching that range with quality is exactly what gives Schram's the winning recipe.

Their wide range is made possible by their in-house propagation, which gives them control and the ability to produce varieties that aren't available elsewhere or are exceptionally difficult to come across.

### Woodstock Trees and Shrubs - Matthew Lohan

Starting from the very solid foundations set by Matt, Matthew took over the nursery only a few years ago (2022), and it has gone from strength to strength - Woodstock is now one of the most trusted tree suppliers in the country.

Following tradition, Matthew is a real tree expert, growing a fabulous range of specimen trees, complemented by a fantastic range of perennials and shrubs that gives landscapers a one-stop-shop experience (they'll even help you with a little planting scheme if you ask nicely enough).

### Irish Born and Bred at Bloom

That shared success was on full display at Bord Bia Bloom 2026, where the Kildare Growers celebrated Irish born and bred plants in front of 100,000 visitors.

### The next era: working together

The founding generation built the businesses, built the friendships, and - without ever calling it that - built their own succession plan. They can be proud of what they are handing over, and confident in the hands now holding it.

On behalf of The Kildare Growers - Doran Nurseries, L&K Dunne Nurseries, Rentes Plants, Schram Plants, and Woodstock Trees and Shrubs - we thank you for being part of GLAS 2026. Here's to the next 40 years of growing together.



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# Professional Gardeners' Guild Ireland

For over 45 years the Professional Gardeners' Guild has been the meeting touchstone for professional gardeners employed in private gardens and estates



## PGG meetings and events

The Professional Gardeners' Guild (PGG) organises national and regional meetings throughout the year in all parts of the country for members and their guests.

Meetings are informal gatherings of between 20 and 100 members; the object of the day is not only to look round the garden or gardens hosting the meeting, but also to meet other members, to exchange views, ideas, information and plants.

## The Professional Gardener journal

The PGG produces a quarterly journal - The Professional Gardener, with articles produced almost entirely by members of the Guild.

Used frequently by members as a forum for discussion, a means of communication and a source of reference, it contains regular articles on plants and gardens, news, views and reports from both local and national meetings. There are also topical features focusing on a particular element of heritage gardening, e.g. tree planting or water management.

## PGG traineeship scheme

In 1995, in response to the growing shortage of skilled,

trained gardeners, the Guild set up a traineeship scheme, which has been used as a model for the more recent, HLF funded training scheme.

The PGG traineeship provides successful candidates with the opportunity to gain 'hands on' practical experience whilst working as part of the team within major gardens throughout the country.

## Benefits of PGG membership

Benefits that members enjoy include conferences, regional and national meetings, a seed-exchange programme and access to a legal helpline.

The Guild produces an employment 'job sheet', which is sent out to members who are looking for work. It also maintains a register of self-employed members, which is made available to members of the public looking for professional help.

## The objectives of the Guild are:

- ◆ to promote and encourage professional contact, communication and co-operation between gardeners
- ◆ to promote better management and maintenance of gardens and designed landscapes,

especially those of historic, horticultural and botanic value

- ◆ to promote and encourage the exchange of ideas and information on all aspects of professional gardening, including the use of both new technology and traditional skills, by means such as meetings, conferences and publications
- ◆ to promote training of an appropriate kind in schools, colleges and the work place in order to provide the horticultural industry with skilled gardeners and garden managers
- ◆ to promote gardening as a profession and to assist in the placement of professional gardeners in private employment
- ◆ to promote and maintain close links with related organisations.

Our aims are to promote professional contact, share information and skills and, through our extensive ongoing learning and traineeships, to continue to provide the horticultural industry with skilled gardeners and garden managers.

**Visit [pgg.org.uk/membership](http://pgg.org.uk/membership) today and join us.**



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# IHNSA: promoting green urban landscapes with native Irish plants



## In its representative capacity, IHNSA advocates for its members and the wider horticultural industry

The Irish Hardy Nursery Stock Association (IHNSA) is a commodity sector within the horticultural section of the IFA and is the representative body of nursery stock producers whose main objective is to advance and protect the interests of primary producers of hardy nursery stock.

### Horticulture apprenticeships

The IHNSA, Teagasc, and the Botanic Gardens Horticulture apprenticeship equip apprentices with the knowledge, skills and competence to work in their chosen field of horticulture. The apprenticeship scheme currently

has apprentices enrolled from September 2024 and 2025 courses. There is increasing demand for the apprenticeship year on year with the next course to commence in September 2026. The first group of graduates have graduated this year after completing the two-year programme. Employers must be registered in advance. Apprentices can be employed before commencing their apprenticeship.

### IHNSA's duties

The IHNSA serves as a unified voice for the nursery stock industry. They operate through collaboration, knowledge sharing, and advocacy to support the growth and development of its members and the horticultural sector. As a member of the European Nursery Stock Association, IHNSA provides insight into the state of play of the Irish nursery sector in Europe.

The association liaises with government agencies, policymakers, and industry stakeholders to ensure that the concerns and needs of nursery stock producers and suppliers are considered in relevant policies, regulations, and legislation.

### European Nurserystock Association (ENA)

The Irish Hardy Nurserystock Association (IHNSA) and Irish Farmers Association (IFA) hosted the ENA Summer Meeting from the 28th June to the 01st July 2026. It marked 20 years since the IHNSA and IFA hosted the ENA Summer meeting in 2006. With over 20 delegates, secretaries and partners welcomed from across the European Union and beyond, the programme was packed with Irish Nursery visits to some of Ireland's leading nurseries including Tully's, Pat Fitzgerald and Kelly's.



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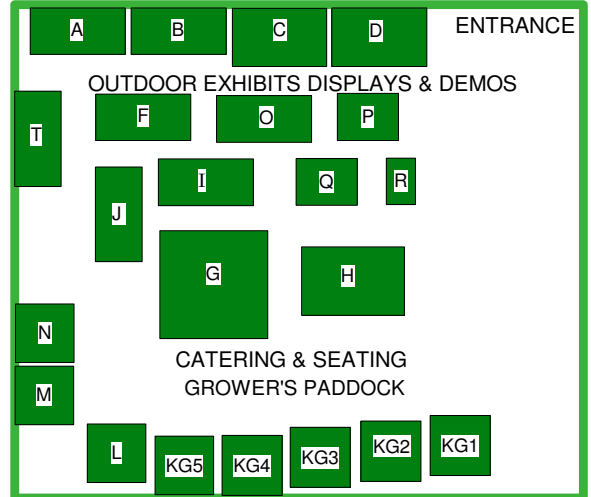
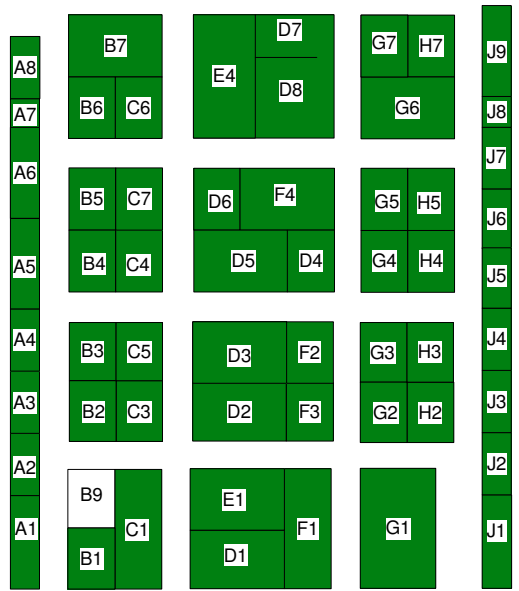
### EXHIBITORS

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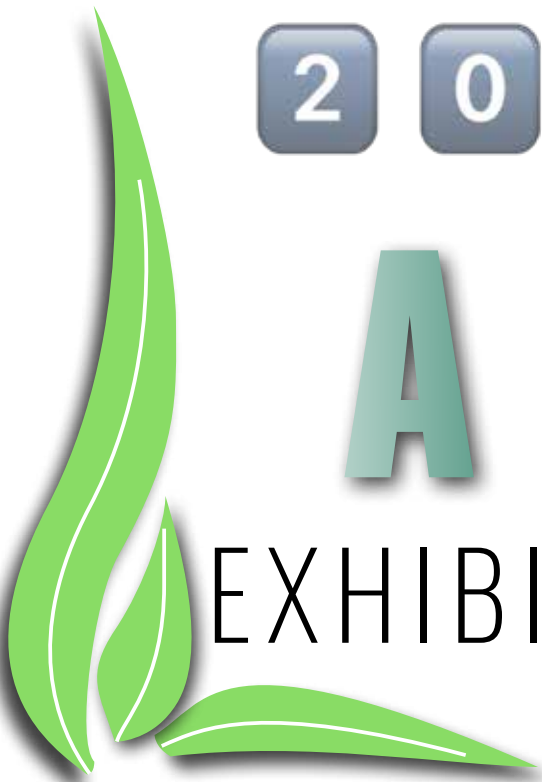
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Doyle's Wholesale **F**  
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Farmhand **B**  
FJS Plant **J**  
Fountainworks **R**  
FUSO Ireland **G**  
ISEKI UK & Ireland **T**  
Kelly's Nursery **N**  
Kildare Growers **KG1, 2, 3, 4, 5**

L&K Nurseries **KG3**  
Mac Egan Engineering **O**  
New Product New Plant Awards  
Nostrand **H**  
O'Connor Nurseries **M**  
O'Dowd Nurseries **P**  
Rentes Plants **KG1**  
Schram Plants **KG4**  
Seed Direct **Q**  
The Plant Collector **L**  
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A - Z



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## Arboricultural Association

F8  
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086 199 5203  
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An advertisement for MARTIN Packaging. The background is a blue and white striped conveyor belt with several cardboard boxes. The MARTIN Packaging logo is prominently displayed in the center. To the right, the slogan 'Stick with Quality, Seal with Trust' is written. Below the conveyor belt, there is text describing the company as 'Irish Manufacturers of Packaging Products, Printed Tape, Branded Carrier bags & Garden Centre Bootliner'. At the bottom, there are six circular icons representing different packaging products: a roll of tape, a roll of printed tape, a roll of brown paper, a cardboard box, a roll of paper, and a machine. The website 'www.martinpackaging.com' is listed below the icons. At the very bottom, the company's address and contact information are provided.

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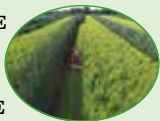
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# Learning Theatre lineup

## All Bord Bia Learning Theatre presentations at GLAS take place upstairs from the main entrance lobby

The dynamic nature of our industry brings both challenges and opportunities that will shape the future of the sector. The hugely popular Learning Theatre at this year's GLAS – proudly supported by Bord Bia – features talks from leading experts on some of the hottest trends and topics across our industry.

Below is the the Learning Theatre lineup at this year's GLAS, proudly supported by Bord Bia. Attendees can look forward to talks from leading experts on some of the hottest topics in the industry.

## Timetable

### 10am – 10.30am

#### The future of horticulture – what does a future-ready horticulture sector look like?

A strong determination to shape the future of our sector – itself a showcase for the green industry. Embedding horticulture's societal importance. New technologies, innovative products and modern sales concepts to position businesses sustainably and for the long term. Building resilient supply chains. How the likes of AI can help and impact your business, and the industry at large.

**Moderator:** Dr Owen Doyle, Chartered Horticulturist. Co-founder and Managing Director Bio-Logic Ltd. Technical Consultants in the horticulture, agriculture, and environment sectors.

**Speakers:** Michael Gaffney, Teagasc; Pat Fitzgerald, Fitzgerald Nurseries; Sinead Mulcahy, Department of Agriculture Food & the Marine

### 10:30am – 10:45am

#### Q&A: The future of horticulture – what does a future-ready horticulture sector look like?

### 10:50 – 11:20

#### Regulatory compliance – Plant Health and Biosecurity Strategy 2026-2030

The horticulture industry faces increasingly strict regulations on pesticide use, water management, and environmental impact. Adapting to these regulations requires investment in training, technology, and compliance monitoring.

**Presented by:** Mary Canty, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

### 11:25 – 11:55

#### Innovations in design and landscaping

There is a growing emphasis on designing landscapes that can withstand both extreme weather and temperature fluctuations.

**Moderator:** Kinta Oakes, GLDA.

**Speakers:** Deirdre Prince, Executive Landscape Architect and Parks Officer, Dublin City Council; Frazer McDonogh, Garden Designer, Rock and Waterscapes; James Comiskey, Landscape Architect and Garden Designer, About Your Garden

### 12:00 – 12:30

#### Training for the horticulture industry

A timely session as Growtrade.ie's annual Industry Sentiment Survey reveals careers and career development as the industry's leading concern.

**Presented by:** John Mulhern, Teagasc

### 12:35 – 13:05pm

#### Fertilisers for the Future

Discover the latest trial results, innovations in biodegradable fertiliser technology ahead of upcoming European regulations, and how ICL is developing products that deliver outstanding plant quality whilst supporting a more sustainable future for growers.

**Presented by:** Andrew Wilson, Technical Manager for ICL UK & Ireland

### 13:05 - 14:00

#### New Plant New Product Awards presentation on the main show floor

### 14:00 - 14:30

#### Beyond Peat - The crisis continues

On the 4th June 2026, the European Commission decided to refer Ireland to the Court of Justice of the European Union for failing to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive. Member States are required to carry out an assessment of the environmental impacts of projects likely to have a significant negative impact on the environment, including peat extraction projects. These assessments guarantee the preservation of peatlands, which play a vital role for both ecological balance and climate mitigation.

**Moderator:** Anna Kavanagh, Horticultural Expert and former Head of Technical, Quality and Research Development with Bord Na Mona.

**Speakers:** Dr Eoghan Corbett, Teagasc; John Neenan, GMI; James Spillane, Westland Horticulture; Rachael Wisdom, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

### 14:30 - 14:45

#### Q&A: Beyond Peat - the crisis continues

### 15:00 - 15:30

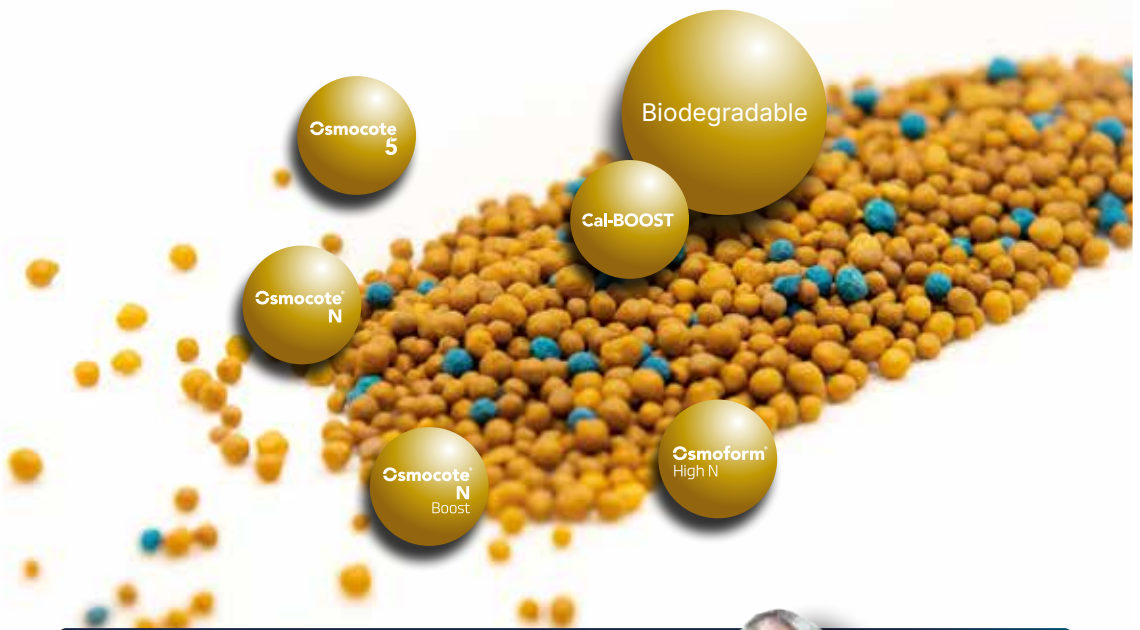
#### Biochar at Work: Transforming Turf, Trees, Sports Pitches and Soils

A review of the various biochar trials that Arigna has ongoing. The short presentation will cover the results to date, the lessons learned and Arigna's view of the opportunities and challenges for biochar as an input in sports amenity, landscapes and horticulture sectors.

**Presented by:** Cathal Fitzgerald, Chairman, Arigna Group.

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## Join us in the Learning Theatre!

ICL's Technical Manager, Andrew Wilson, presents ICL's latest advancements in **biodegradable fertilisers** and trial results at 12:35pm in the Learning Theatre.

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