

Compiled by Gordon Hanks, Horticultural Consultant,
with the assistance of Lyndon Mason and other
members of the National Cut Flower Centre
Management Group, August 2016

Field-grown woody cut foliage crops

Grower summary

- The increase in sales volume, quality and choice of cut flowers over the past 20–30 years has been accompanied by greater interest in cut foliage, both as a filler and in its own right.
- Cut foliage consists largely of woody stems cropped from the field, typically involving popular garden shrub species primarily grown for their foliage, such as aucuba, buxus and cotinus. The range is now being expanded by the addition of flowering branches of many garden shrubs, such as buddleja, *Cornus florida*, *Daphne x burkwoodii*, forsythia and spiraea.
- Many small trees, adapted by regular hard pruning, are becoming increasingly popular, such as contorted elm, hazel and willow.
- Other woody species are grown for their attractive bark (*Cornus alba* and *C. stolonifera*), buds (willows) or fruits (including callicarpa, hypericum, ornamental malus, ornamental prunus and symphoricarpos).
- Since an area of woody cut foliage plants was established at the National Cut Flower Centre (CFC) during 2010–2011, there has been an enthusiastic response from the industry. Substantial commercial plantings of hypericum, symphoricarpos and other hardy foliage plants have been made on UK nurseries.
- The number of species potentially involved in this sector, and the small production areas of each as individual species, means that little specific or generic research has been carried out. Much of the cultural information will be in the hands of specialist suppliers, who should be consulted for more detail.



Figure 1. The field-grown cut foliage area at the CFC

Introduction

Cut foliage comes in many forms, typically serving to add texture, colour, interest and bulk to bouquets and other floral arrangements. The term cut foliage is a catch-all, as the popularity of many subjects derives not from the foliage itself, but increasingly from their attractive buds or flowers, fruits or colourful stems. In addition, many woody plants have tremendous potential as cut flowers in their own right. This information sheet covers field-grown, woody cut foliage crops and does not include herbaceous perennials, foliage raised under protection, collected materials (such as cut conifer branches, moss and lichen) and ‘treated’ (dried, dyed or preserved) foliage.

Two or three decades ago in the UK, woody cut foliage was produced on a very small scale, due to a combination of limited interest and the availability of cheap imports. Some material also came from plants doubling as windbreaks, screens and hedges. Since then UK purchases of cut flowers have boomed and as bouquets have become more sophisticated the demand has increased for a wider array of exciting material produced by the burgeoning cut foliage sector worldwide. Characterising the sector, much of this information sheet is taken up with describing the wide choice of subjects available, rather than detailing individual best production methods.

When handling unfamiliar plant materials, always be aware of the possibility that some will, and others may, result in health issues through contact or ingestion.

Table 1. Examples of woody cut foliage subjects

Genus and common name	Examples and characteristics
<i>Amorpha</i>	<i>Amorpha canescens</i> – grown for its purple/grey flowers and aromatic foliage
<i>Aronia</i> (chokeberry)	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i> – grown for its red, persistent berries
<i>Aucuba</i> (laurel)	<i>Aucuba japonica</i> – golden variegated foliage
<i>Buddleja</i>	<i>Buddleja davidii</i> (butterfly bush) – very fragrant, long flower spikes. Many cultivars available with blue, pink, red and white and related colours, very vigorous, cut back hard in spring <i>B. globosa</i> – (frost hardy, but not fully hardy) and <i>B. x weyeriana</i> cultivars (eg ‘Golden Glow’, ‘Honeycomb’ and ‘Sungold’) – yellow, ball-shaped, fragrant flowers (unlike <i>B. davidii</i> they flower on last year’s wood and so cannot be cut back hard)
<i>Buxus</i> (box, boxwood)	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> and its cultivars – grown for their lustrous dark green or variegated leaves
<i>Callicarpa</i> (beauty berry)	<i>Callicarpa bodiniera</i> var. <i>giraldii</i> ‘Profusion’ – (successfully grown at the CFC) and <i>C. dichotoma</i> – magenta and white fruits <i>C. japonica</i> – vigorous with lavender fruits Some other <i>Callicarpa</i> species are frost hardy, not fully hardy. The white fruits of some cultivars discolour with time. Flowering occurs on new wood, so stems can be cut back and spring pruning can be hard. <i>Callicarpa</i> leaves are usually removed before market and this can be time consuming
<i>Calluna</i> (heather, ling)	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> cultivars – range of flower and foliage colours
<i>Calycanthus</i> (allspice, spicebush)	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i> – fragrant, red-brown flowers, ‘Athens’ has very fragrant, yellow flowers
<i>Camellia</i>	<i>Camellia sasanqua</i> and cultivars – grown for their attractive glossy foliage and white, pink and red flowers

Cultural requirements and production methods

The information in this section was compiled from textbooks, research findings, web-based information and the catalogues and websites of plant suppliers, augmented where possible by observations from the demonstration plantings at the CFC.

Choice of subjects

A wide selection of woody cut foliage subjects is listed in Table 1. It shows how consumer interest has spread from pure flowers and foliage to include attractive fruits and the form of the stems themselves. The success or failure of a novel subject will, ultimately, depend on the vase life obtained following the rigours of commercial production and handling.

Unless otherwise stated, the plants listed in Table 1 are understood to be fully hardy (withstanding temperatures down to -15°C), and only these and some frost hardy plants (withstanding temperatures down to -5°C) are included.

For some of the plants listed, little is known of their husbandry requirements or performance as commercial cut foliage crops. Before trialling any unfamiliar plant, obtain further information from suppliers and elsewhere, and test small quantities first. Most plants listed here are shrubs, however, some are trees, and so regular hard pruning may be required to maintain an appropriate plant shape.

<i>Caryopteris</i>	<i>Caryopteris x clandonensis</i> and its cultivars – lavender to dark blue flowers, and ‘Worcester Gold’ has bright yellow foliage as well (not to be confused with <i>C. incana</i> , grown as an annual)
<i>Celastrus</i> (bittersweet, staff vine)	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> and <i>C. scandens</i> – grown for their yellow-orange fruit
<i>Cercis</i>	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> ‘Alba’ – grown for its white flowers
<i>Chimonanthus</i> (wintersweet)	<i>Chimonanthus praecox</i> – waxy, very fragrant yellow flowers
<i>Chionanthus</i> (fringe tree)	<i>Chionanthus retusus</i> – grown for its white flowers and lustrous dark green leaves
<i>Clethra</i> (summer-sweet, sweet pepper bush, white alder)	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i> ‘Pink Spires’ and ‘Rosea’ – grown for their very fragrant flowers; other species and cultivars available, some frost hardy rather than fully hardy
<i>Cornus</i> (dogwood)	<i>Cornus alba</i> ‘Sibirica’ and <i>C. stolonifera</i> (syn. <i>C. sericea</i>) – bright red stems, and <i>C. stolonifera</i> ‘Flaviramea’ yellow stems; harvest once the leaves have dropped in autumn and cut plants close to the ground by late winter ‘Flaviramea’, <i>C. alba</i> ‘Kesselringii’ and ‘Sibirica’ – grown successfully at the CFC <i>C. florida</i> cultivars – spring flowers of many colours, attractive foliage (good autumn colours), red berries and unusual winter buds; can be cut as budded branches, stored and forced in winter
<i>Corylopsis</i>	Various species and cultivars of <i>Corylopsis</i> – grown for their fragrant yellow, early spring flowers
<i>Corylus</i> (hazel)	<i>Corylus avellana</i> ‘Contorta’ – contorted stems and catkins, grown successfully at the CFC
<i>Cotinus</i> (smoke bush)	<i>Cotinus coggygria</i> – grown for its pink to purple panicles, some with purple leaves; ‘Magic Green Fountain’ and ‘Royal Purple’ grown successfully at the CFC
<i>Cytisus</i> (syn. <i>Argyrocytusus</i>) (broom)	Various species and cultivars of <i>Cytisus</i> – grown for foliage, white, yellow to garnet flowers and green angled stems
<i>Danae</i> (Alexandrian laurel)	<i>Danae racemosa</i> – grown for its rich green evergreen ‘leaves’
<i>Daphne</i>	<i>Daphne x burkwoodii</i> – grown for its pinkish-white, fragrant flowers; ‘Carol Mackie’ also has variegated foliage Various forms of <i>D. odora</i> are fragrant and could be used, but frost hardy, not fully hardy
<i>Deutzia</i>	Many species and cultivars may be suitable, a few are frost hardy rather than fully hardy
<i>Erica</i> (heath)	Especially <i>Erica carnea</i> and its many cultivars – grown for their winter foliage with flowers of many colours; the common types of erica are fully hardy
<i>Eucalyptus</i> (gum, ironbark)	Only a few are fully hardy (eg <i>Eucalyptus coccifera</i> , <i>E. pauciflora</i>) or ‘borderline’ fully hardy (eg <i>E. dalrympleana</i> , <i>E. gunnii</i>), some others are frost hardy; cut back close to the ground to maintain a good supply of juvenile foliage
<i>Euonymus</i> (spindle tree)	<i>Euonymus alatus</i> – grown for its corky, winged stems
<i>Fatsyhedera</i> (tree-ivy)	<i>Fatsyhedera lizei</i> – grown for its ivy-like evergreen foliage, but frost hardy, not fully hardy
<i>Forsythia</i>	Many cultivars grown for their golden yellow flowers
<i>Gaultheria</i> (syn. <i>Gaulnettya</i> , <i>Pernettya</i>)	Many (but not all) <i>Gaultheria</i> species and cultivars are fully hardy, they form clusters of attractive pink, red and white berries (eg <i>G. shallon</i>)
<i>Hamamelis</i> (witch hazel)	<i>Hamamelis x intermedia</i> and its cultivars ‘Arnold Promise’, ‘Diane’, ‘Jelena’, ‘Pallida’, and ‘Ruby Glow’ – fragrant yellow, copper and bronze-red flowers
<i>Hedera</i> (ivy)	Several species are suitable, especially <i>Hedera helix</i> (fully hardy) and ‘Arborescens’ – contorted stems, successfully grown at the CFC
<i>Hydrangea</i>	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> ‘Annabelle’ and <i>H. paniculata</i> ‘Grandiflora’, ‘Praecox’ and ‘Tardiva’ – large white flower heads in summer <i>H. macrophylla</i> and its many cultivars – flowers in shades of blue, pink, red, white and yellow; ‘mop-head’ types with fuller flower heads, may be preferred to ‘lace-caps’ <i>H. quercifolia</i> and its cultivars ‘Harmony’, ‘Roanoak’ and ‘Snowflake’ – grown for foliage, large white panicles and fruits in summer Hydrangeas mostly flower on old wood

<i>Hypericum</i> (St John's wort)	<i>Hypericum</i> 'Albury Purple' – bronzed foliage <i>H. androsaemum</i> and <i>H. x inodorum</i> – many cultivars with black, green, pink and red berries <i>H. x inodorum</i> 'Glacier' – also has variegated foliage <i>H. x inodorum</i> 'Magical Green Fall', 'Magical Tropical Fall' and 'Magical White Fall' grown successfully at the CFC Susceptibility to rust varies between cultivars. <i>Hypericum</i> flowers on new wood, so they can be cut back hard once the buds have started to grow
<i>Ilex</i> (holly)	Deciduous species including <i>Ilex decidua</i> , <i>I. serrata</i> , <i>I. verticillata</i> and their cultivars – generally have non-spiny foliage and yellow, orange and red fruits (often harvested for Christmas or Easter markets) <i>I. serrata</i> is frost hardy but not fully hardy Various evergreen species such as <i>I. aquifolium</i> and its many cultivars – often with variegated leaves, may also be used for foliage though the leaves are often spiny <i>I. aquifolium</i> and some others are not fully hardy Mostly dioecious, so occasional male plants are needed for fruiting
<i>Itea</i>	<i>Itea virginica</i> – may be suitable, holly-like leaves and catkin-like flowers; some other species are only frost hardy
<i>Jasminum</i> (jasmine, jessamine)	Some <i>Jasminum</i> may be used for cutting but only <i>Jasminum nudiflorum</i> is fully hardy, with small yellow flowers borne on bare stems in winter and early spring
<i>Kalmia</i>	Many <i>Kalmia</i> species (eg <i>Kalmia latifolia</i>) – may be suitable, with their showy, usually pink, flower heads
<i>Kerria</i> (Jew's mantle)	<i>Kerria japonica</i> 'Picta' – grown for its yellow flowers and creamy variegated foliage
<i>Koelreuteria</i>	<i>Koelreuteria bipinnata</i> – large panicles of red-spotted yellow flowers followed by pink-rose fruit capsules, but it is frost hardy, not fully hardy
<i>Lonicera</i> (honeysuckle)	<i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i> – suggested for its very fragrant white flowers
<i>Magnolia</i>	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> and its cultivars – frost hardy, not fully hardy; <i>M. grandiflora</i> – lustrous dark green foliage and 'Bracken's Brown Beauty', 'Little Gem' and 'Samuel Sommer' have yellow-tinged fragrant purple flowers
<i>Malus</i> (apple, crab apple)	Many species and cultivars of <i>malus</i> – may be suitable, with their often attractively coloured fruits
<i>Morus</i> (mulberry)	<i>Morus alba</i> (syn. <i>M. bombycis</i>) 'Unryu' (or 'Tortuosa') – used for its contorted stems
<i>Myrica</i>	<i>Myrica cerifera</i> – used for its aromatic foliage and grey waxy fruits, but frost hardy, not fully hardy
<i>Nandina</i>	<i>Nandina domestica</i> – used for its foliage, flowers and fruit, 'Gulfstream', 'Moonbay' and 'Moyer's Red' added fragrance with delicate white flowers; frost hardy, not fully hardy
<i>Oxydendrum</i>	<i>Oxydendrum arboretum</i> – used for its glossy leaves and large panicles of white flowers
<i>Philadelphus</i> (mock orange)	<i>Philadelphus</i> 'Snowball' – successfully grown at CFC; most, but not all, philadelphus are fully hardy
<i>Photinia</i>	<i>Photinia</i> 'Snowbelle' – successfully grown at CFC; some, but not all photinia, are fully hardy
<i>Pieris</i>	Many species and cultivars of <i>Pieris</i> (eg <i>P. japonica</i>) – may be suitable, with their attractive clusters of urn-shaped, often white, pink or red flowers and sometimes attractively coloured young leaves; many fully hardy, although young foliage may be damaged by late frosts, others are frost hardy
<i>Poncirus</i>	<i>Poncirus trifoliata</i> – grown for its bright green stems, despite being spiny
<i>Prunus</i> (ornamental cherry)	<i>Prunus</i> species and cultivars – may be flowered on forced branches; most (but not all) ornamental cherries fully hardy
<i>Quercus</i> (oak)	<i>Quercus palustris</i> and <i>Q. rubra</i> – successfully grown at CFC; most (but not all) oaks are fully hardy

<i>Rosa</i> (rose)	A number of <i>Rosa</i> species and cultivars – produce particularly attractive fruits (hips) and may be suitable as cut branches; examples are <i>R.</i> 'Fru Dagmar Hastrup' (syn. 'Frau Dagmar Hartopp') (tomato-shaped dark red hips), <i>R. glauca</i> (many spherical scarlet hips, twice per year), <i>R. noyesii</i> 'Geranium' (orange-red hips) and <i>R. rugosa</i> (tomato-shaped red or orange-red hips)
<i>Ruscus</i> (broom, butcher's broom)	<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i> – fully hardy and produces spine tipped, glossy green cladophylls ('leaves') and (in female and hermaphrodite plants) round, bright red berries on the upper sides of the cladophylls
<i>Salix</i> (willow)	<i>Salix caprea</i> , <i>S. discolor</i> , <i>S. gracilistyla</i> and <i>S. gracilistyla</i> 'Melanostachys' (syn. <i>S. melanostachys</i>) – grown for their soft furry catkins (coloured grey, grey-pink and purple-black, respectively) <i>S.</i> 'Golden Curls', <i>S.</i> 'Scarlet Curls' and <i>S. babylonica</i> var. <i>pekinensis</i> 'Tortuosa' (syn. <i>S. matsudana</i> 'Tortuosa') – grown for their contorted stems (coloured golden, red and yellow-brown stems, respectively) <i>S. sachalinensis</i> 'Sekka' – grown for its flattened, fasciated stems <i>S.</i> 'Darts Snake' and 'Caradoc' – grown for their coloured stems; grown, with its cultivar 'Sekka', successfully at the CFC
<i>Sarcococca</i> (Christmas box, sweet box)	<i>Sarcococca hookeriana</i> – grown for its early spring foliage and fragrant flowers Some other <i>Sarcococca</i> species not fully hardy
<i>Skimmia</i>	<i>Skimmia japonica</i> and its cultivars – dioecious, grown for evergreen foliage, fragrant white flowers and red fruits <i>S. japonica</i> subsp. <i>reevesiana</i> (syn. <i>S. reevesiana</i>) – hermaphrodite, has brilliant red fruit
<i>Spiraea</i>	<i>Spiraea japonica</i> cultivars including 'Bumalda' (syn. <i>S. x bumalda</i>) – grown for their carmine, pink, rose and white flowers; fully hardy but some early growth may be damaged by late frosts
<i>Symphoricarpos</i> (snowberry)	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> var. <i>laevigatus</i> – grown for its pure white fruits; its cultivars, including 'Bright Fantasy', 'Charming Fantasy', 'Magical Avalanche' (successfully grown at the CFC) and 'Magical Pride' have blue, pink, purple and white fruits
<i>Syringa</i> (lilac)	<i>Syringa x laciniata</i> is grown for its heat tolerant, fragrant panicles of lilac flowers <i>S. vulgaris</i> and its cultivars – very fragrant single and double flowers of a range of blues and reds; fully hardy but some early growth may be damaged by late frosts
<i>Ulmus</i> (elm)	<i>Ulmus alata</i> – grown for the form of its stems, which have corky 'wings'
<i>Viburnum</i>	<i>Viburnum x birkwoodii</i> , <i>V. x carlcephalum</i> , <i>V. carlesii</i> and <i>V. x juddii</i> – fragrant, rounded or domed, white (semi-snowball) flower heads; <i>V. x birkwoodii</i> has glossy leaves and <i>V. x birkwoodii</i> and <i>V. carlesii</i> attractive red fruits <i>V. macrocephalum</i> – called the snowball bush because of its flower heads; unlike those above it is frost hardy, not fully hardy <i>V. opulus</i> 'Compactum' and 'Roseum' – white 'lace-cap' flower heads and bear bright red fruits <i>V.</i> 'Pragensis' (syn. <i>V. x pragensis</i>) – glossy leaves and domed white flower heads <i>V. tinus</i> and its cultivar 'Red Spirit' – flattened white flower heads and dark black fruit <i>V. opulus</i> 'Compactum' and 'Roseum', and <i>V. tinus</i> and its cultivar 'Red Spirit' – successfully grown at the CFC Many other <i>viburnum</i> species and cultivars
<i>Vitex</i>	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i> – elegant, aromatic foliage and upright panicles of fragrant, lilac to dark blue, or white, flowers; frost hardy, not fully hardy

This list is not intended to be complete and only a few examples of cultivars are included; the information given should not be taken as applying to species or cultivars not mentioned. The bulk of the information was taken from:

- Larson, RA (editor) (1992), Introduction to floriculture, 2nd edition, Academic Press, San Diego, USA.
- Armitage, AM and Laushman, JM (2008), Specialty cut flowers, 2nd edition, Timber Press, Portland, USA.



Cornus alba 'Kesselringii'



Cotinus 'Royal Purple'



Hypericum inodorum 'Magical White Fall'



Photinia 'Red Robin'



Symphoricarpos 'Magical Pride'



Viburnum opulus 'Compactum'

Figure 2. Some field-grown woody cut foliage subjects trialled at the CFC

Establishment

Producing cut stems from perennial subjects naturally involves a period of investment before a useful crop can be harvested. With the species grown at the CFC, two or three years were needed before productive yields of stems could be cut. During this time, attention is required to maintain optimum nutrition, provide sufficient irrigation, ensure freedom from pests, diseases and weeds and to develop an appropriate plant habit via necessary pruning, with much to be learned from the ornamental nursery stock sector. In some cases, virus infections may warrant a regular programme of stock bed replanting.

Plant spacing and pruning

Ideal plant subjects are likely to produce flowers on new wood and cope with being cut back hard to maintain a compact plant shape suited to relatively close spacing. Species that produce flowers on old wood, or are unable to tolerate being cut back to the base regularly, will need wider spacing. Table 2 shows a range of examples of inter-plant and row spacings, from Armitage and Laushman (*) and CFC trials (**).

Table 2. Examples of spacings adopted for field-grown woody cut foliage subjects

Genus/crop	Spacing
<i>Buddleja</i>	45cm in row*
<i>Callicarpa</i>	100–150cm in row*
<i>Caryopteris</i>	38cm x 45–60cm*
<i>Cornus alba</i>	100cm x 100cm**
<i>Cornus florida</i>	150–210cm in row*
<i>Corylus</i>	80cm x 80cm**
<i>Cotinus</i>	80cm x 75cm**
<i>Hedera</i>	50cm x 50cm**
<i>Hydrangea</i>	90–120cm x 150–240cm*
<i>Hypericum</i>	45–60cm x 70cm*
<i>Ilex</i> (cutting by hand)	120cm x 300cm*
<i>Ilex</i> (machine cropping)	600cm x 600cm*
<i>Philadelphus</i>	70cm x 70cm**
<i>Photinia</i>	70cm x 70cm**
<i>Quercus</i>	60cm x 50cm**
<i>Salix</i>	100cm x 100cm**
<i>Symphoricarpos</i>	90cm x 90cm**
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	80cm x 80cm**
<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	60cm x 60cm**

Scheduling

Many shrubby subjects may offer little opportunity for scheduling or seasonal extension, so their seasonality should be exploited rather than seen as a limitation. On the other hand some budded, flowering or fruited stems or branches may provide opportunities for cold storage and forcing over winter.

Yields

Cropping hypericum cultivars only two years after planting at the CFC resulted in yields of 20 to 25 stems per plant. Armitage and Laushman quoted yields for two or three-year-old buddleja of 60–100 stems/plant/year (buddleja is particularly vigorous), 15–30 stems/plant/year for callicarpa, 25 for *Cornus alba* and 15 for hypericum.

Specifications and post-harvest quality

Specifications for stem length and weight and, where applicable, numbers of flowers or fruits or flower head size, will need to be developed. Good post-harvest quality and satisfactory vase life appear to be obtained commercially for many subjects. Preliminary measurements made at the CFC on cotinus, hypericum and symphoricarpos cultivars usually gave vase lives of six or seven days following simulated storage for five days, but there were sometimes substantial differences between cultivars. It is expected that vase life could be extended by picking at the most appropriate stages, optimising storage and investigating the use of conditioners and 'flower foods'.



Figure 3. Cotinus during post-harvest quality assessments

Summary of National Cut Flower Centre trials

As the potential range of woody cut foliage species is enormous, only a small selection could be grown at the CFC. Plants were grown on 1m-wide outdoor beds on a heavy silt soil at Rookery Farm, Holbeach St Johns, Lincolnshire from 2010 onwards. Crop protection products were applied as appropriate. Marketable stems were cropped from 2012 onwards. All plantings were pruned back hard in early March 2014.

Following establishment of the demonstration area of woody cut foliage there has been distinct interest from the industry. It is known, for example, that substantial commercial plantings of hypericum, symphoricarpos and other hardy foliage have been made on UK nurseries.

Further information on the National Cut Flower Centre project and trials work

Further details can be found in the following project reports, available from either the AHDB Horticulture website horticulture.ahdb.org.uk or the CFC website thecutflowercentre.co.uk

- Annual reports on AHDB Horticulture Project PO/BOF 002a (2013-2015): The National Cut Flower Trials Programme for 2013-2017.
- Annual and final reports on AHDB Horticulture Project PO/BOF 002 (2010-2012): The National Cut Flower Trials Programme for 2010-2012.
- Final report on AHDB Horticulture Project PC/BOF 268a (2009): Establishing a trials centre for the cut flower sector.
- Annual and final reports on AHDB Horticulture Project PC/BOF 268 (2008): Establishing a trials centre for the cut flower sector.

The industry-led National Cut Flower Centre was set up at Kirton Research Centre, Kirton, Lincolnshire in 2007 with AHDB Horticulture and Lincolnshire Fenlands LEADER+ support. In 2009, with AHDB Horticulture funding, the CFC moved to a dedicated site at Rookery Farm, Holbeach St Johns, Lincolnshire, where the current funded programme will continue until the end of 2017. The basic remit of the CFC is the stimulation of UK polythene tunnel and field-grown cut flower production through providing know-how from practical trials carried out under UK conditions.

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horticulture.ahdb.org.uk

AHDB Horticulture, Stoneleigh Park,
Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2TL

T: 024 7669 2051 E: hort.info@ahdb.org.uk

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