

# Commercial Horticulture Plan 2020

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



# Executive summary: Commercial Horticulture in Wales, Delivering for future generations

**Horticulture is a key growth sector for Welsh Government.** It is essential to delivering the objectives of Rural Development Plan for Wales and has contributed to meeting the ambition to grow the food and drinks sector by 30% in 2020, increasing industry turnover to £7billion.

**But this is not about growth at any cost.** Access to natural and finite resources, such as land, energy and water, are vital to growing edible and ornamental produce. Management of these natural resources will be prioritised, through the Sustainable Farming Scheme, with farm payments aligned with sustainable land practices that respond to the climate emergency and reverse biodiversity decline.

Furthermore, the new Strategic Plan for the Food & Drink Industry in Wales proposes to take forward a commitment to developing the skills of the workforce, using resources sustainably, addressing public health, aswell as meeting sustainable brand values that aim to enhance Brand Wales.

The current pandemic has also highlighted a reliance on global supply chains and placed more emphasis on an already significant and growing consumer demand for provenance, and the need for shorter supply chains, increasing resilience in primary production and rural communities.

**Boosting horticulture farming is key to the Welsh Government's plans to emerge from the coronavirus pandemic and identified by their Green Recovery Taskforce as a route to accelerating Wales' transition to a low-carbon economy and a healthier, more equal nation.**

The horticulture industry in Wales is well positioned to deliver on these combined policy challenges and opens-up commercial opportunities for farms to diversify into horticulture and more land to be accessed for the sector to expand.

Lead by Tyfu Cymru, a project managed by Lantra, and with funding from the Welsh Government Cooperation and Supply Chain Development scheme, this Commercial Horticulture Action Plan for Wales outlines **a multi-stakeholder, whole supply chain, approach to develop and sustain the commercial production of edible and ornamental horticulture produce in Wales for the long term.**

It draws on our experience of building the skills necessary to enhance the capacity and capability of the industry. It aims to scale-up proven achievements that will continue to benefit Welsh horticulture businesses. **It responds to both immediate needs and provides leadership to equip businesses with the knowledge and practical skills for green and inclusive growth supported by applied research and appropriate use of technology.**

To achieve this, it is crucial that the horticulture industry in Wales can demonstrate how it delivers on the goals of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and by **ensuring the industry adopts practices that support natural resource management, biodiversity, circular economy, public health and contribute to the economic regeneration of rural Wales.**

Work is underway to demonstrate and report on how Tyfu Cymru activities are enabling the industry to contribute to these strategic goals.

