

# Horticulture Group

# Newsletter



December 2008

## Editorial Welcome

Welcome to the final and re-branded edition of the newsletter for 2008. The Horticulture Group Committee would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Growing Success: Horticultural Business Perspectives Conference

SCI's Horticulture Group hosted "Growing Success: Horticultural Business Perspectives" on 21 November at SCI's London HQ. The primary objective was to promote the benefits of knowledge transfer to the horticultural business community and specifically to increase awareness of the government sponsored Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) scheme.

Speakers at this event represented key stakeholders who would be engaged in any successful KTP contract: the research scientist, the company director and the 'associate' who carries out the "transfer".

Speaking from the government's perspective, Dr Paul Naylor emphasised the commitment to

grow KTPs (*Sainsbury Review of Science and Innovation* Oct 2007) and told delegates that the Technology Strategy Board was targeted to double the number of projects in 2009. From experience, Naylor suggested that the best projects are those that offer mutual benefit to both the scientist and the company. However, in a typical project, all parties have to allow time and resource to get used to each other and enable a team spirit to develop.

Food supply, security and traceability were themes explored by Ian Merton, a Director of MorePeople and former Food Director of Sainsbury's, who warned that the downturn in the economy was affecting buying habits of the public. His message to delegates was clear. Any company operating today should be looking to reduce its cost base. Innovation and creative thinking

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## Group Development

Dear All,

I'm sure you will all agree that we have had an action-packed 12 months.

I would like to thank **everyone** who has supported the group and hope that you have seen the real benefit of becoming a member of SCI and in particular the Horticulture Group.

As we enter into 2009 we will announce the details of further events and conferences which are in the pipeline. You will see on pg2. that I have listed some of the events which the Group are involved with as well as a Regional Interest Group Event in Huddersfield which might be of interest to some of you.

Finally I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Kind regards,

**Erin Taylor (Group Dev. Mgr)**

Society of Chemical Industry

[www.soci.org](http://www.soci.org)

SCI founded in London 1881 and in New York 1894  
Incorporated by Royal Charter 1907, Registered as UK Charity 206883  
Recognised as a not for profit organisation across the world

was essential if companies were to survive and in future grow and take advantage of new business opportunities. He stressed that strategic partnerships with the knowledge-based economy - the university sector - was a key in creating these new opportunities. The event concluded with an inspirational presentation from Tully Wakeman, Managing Director of East Anglia Food Link. Tully emphasised the urgency of 'post-peak oil' food production. He provided statistics that show how

oil consumption has vastly outstripped both oil discovery and extraction rate.

**Full article can be found in the January 2009 edition of C&I.**



## Industry News

### Business

#### Remediation relief for eradication of Japanese Knotweed

Legislation will be introduced in the Finance Bill 2009 to extend land remediation relief to cover expenditure incurred in remedying long-term derelict land and in dealing with Japanese knotweed.  
<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2008/pbrn21.pdf>

#### New Defra Council

Dame Suzi Leather has been appointed as Chair of the Council of Food Policy Advisers.  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/latest/2008/food-1106.htm>

#### Good year for Chemicals

The 2008 season proved to be a good one for fertilisers and chemicals.  
[http://www.gfkrt.com/news\\_events/market\\_news/single\\_sites/003166/index.en.html](http://www.gfkrt.com/news_events/market_news/single_sites/003166/index.en.html)

### Education

#### Student funding

Students should be aware that there are cash grants available to help with fees, books or travel from

the David Colgrave Foundation. The focus is on ornamental horticulture. As of 2008, the Foundation is working with the following colleges: Hadlow College, Welsh College of Horticulture, and Writtle College. The deadline for applications is 31 January 2009.

#### Health and Well-being Wildlife indicators show improvement

Government indicators published today show encouraging signs for the health of England's wildlife.  
<http://www.davidcolegravefoundation.org.uk/>

### New Products

#### Blueberry picking trolley

Castlefield products have developed a new picking trolley to meet the need of growers.  
[http://www.castlefieldproducts.co.uk/product\\_week.asp](http://www.castlefieldproducts.co.uk/product_week.asp)

#### More Diagnostic kits

Diagnostic kits are available and can provide rapid on-site pathogen detection and disease diagnosis.  
<http://www.forsitediagnostics.com/>

#### Longer life for plums

Trials with storage regulator Smart-Fresh (1-MCP) from Agrofresh aimed at extending the storage life of plums have produced good enough results for the product's commercial use to be recommended (*Hort Week*, 28 November, 2008)  
<http://www.agrofresh.com/smartfresh.html>

### New Technology

#### Advanced seed mat technology

Terraseed® is advancing crop technology by replacing agrochemicals for weed, pest and disease control by the use of advanced seed mat systems  
<http://www.terraseed.com/>

### Pest and Disease

#### Read more about how Fungal Footbaths could save Honeybees.

[http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/newsandevents/pressreleases/fungus\\_foot\\_baths](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/newsandevents/pressreleases/fungus_foot_baths)

#### Growers making good use of Pest Bulletin

Use of HDC's web-based Pest Bulletin service, which alerts vegetable growers when to expect outbreaks of key pests has jumped by almost 40%. (*HDC News*, Dec 2008/Jan 2009)  
<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/whri/hdcpestbulletin>

## Events Calendar

Event Name	Date	Venue	Contact
GM Crops: Real benefits, Real concerns?	11 March 2009	University of Huddersfield	Erin Taylor <a href="mailto:erin.taylor@soci.org">erin.taylor@soci.org</a>
An evening with Don Curry	23 March 2009	SCI Headquarters London	Erin Taylor <a href="mailto:erin.taylor@soci.org">erin.taylor@soci.org</a>
Pesticide Application in Sport, Leisure and Amenity Areas	19 May 2009	SCI Headquarters London	AAB <a href="mailto:anna@aab.org.uk">anna@aab.org.uk</a>

### Postharvest Unlimited 2008

This third instalment in the Postharvest Unlimited series was organised by Dr Werner Herpich and Dr Martin Geyer from the Leibniz-Institut für Agrartechnik from Potsdam and took place in Berlin. This is a very unique conference series since it has successfully combined postharvest physiology and engineering topics. 155 attendees from 34 countries came to listen to 50 oral presentations which included:

G. Bengtsson who gave an overview of the current knowledge regarding postharvest treatment effects on the content of health related compounds.

J. Streif shared the current understanding regarding ripening regulation and quality and R. Lu discussed emerging technologies to assess postharvest quality.

**Dr Ir. Wendy Schotsmans** is a researcher in Postharvest Physiology and Biochemistry at the IRTA (Institute of Research and Technology in the AgriFood Chain), in Lleida, Spain. Also member of the Horticulture Group.

### Letters to the Editor

Over the last few months we have been analysing the questionnaire that you kindly completed and returned. There was an overwhelming desire for a 'Letters to the Editor' section in the Newsletter – so here it is.

If you have anything you would like to ask then please send your letter to Erin Taylor at [erin.taylor@soci.org.uk](mailto:erin.taylor@soci.org.uk) or Erin Taylor, Group Development Manager, SCI, 14-15 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PS.

**For submitting ideas or to volunteer to be part of a committee or a group, please contact:**

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