



# National Cut Flower Centre Open Evening

J.A. Collison and Sons, Perch Holme Nursery, Market Lane, Walpole St Andrew, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE14 7LX

The National Centre for Food Manufacturing, University of Lincoln, Park Road, Holbeach PE12 7PT

CFC, Rookery Farm, Joys Bank, Holbeach St Johns, Spalding, Lincolnshire PE12 8SG

**10 August 2016**  
(16.00 onwards)

The National Cut Flower Centre (CFC) is now in its penultimate year of AHDB funding, and once again the Centre has a full programme of work which this year focuses on new product development.

The event will commence with a visit to the deep pool hydroponics trial at the Perch Holme Nursery site of J.A. Collison and Sons. Attendees will be able to see the trial in progress as well as some smaller trials evaluating other production systems including an aeroponic system, a shallow pool hydroponic system and an ebb and flood system using tulip 'pin trays'.

After viewing the hydroponics trial, formal presentations will then be staged at the Holbeach campus of Lincoln University a short distance away. The presentations will provide a summary of the current CFC trials programme, the cut flower herbicide trials work and an introduction to the vase life facilities. After the presentations, there will be a tour of the new vase life facility that has been converted from an existing area of Minerva House by Lincoln University for Chrysal UK (to be known as the Chrysal UK Technical Consulting Centre at the University of Lincoln) including an opportunity to view some of the vase life trials that are being undertaken with products from the current CFC trials.

Following this, there will then be an opportunity to view the trials at the main CFC site, Rookery Farm. The new product development trials include a wide range of species such as cleome, gomphrena, grasses and perennial scabious. In conjunction with ADAS, there will also be an opportunity to view the ongoing herbicide trials evaluating replacements for oxadiazon (e.g. Ronstar Liquid) for use on sweet william and transplanted aster. Other trials available for viewing include direct seeded 'fillers', traditional alstroemeria as a spot crop, as well as the ongoing demonstration plots of various perennials, including a wide range of delphinium, eryngium and veronica and the ongoing hardy cut foliage trials. There will also be a chance to see an observation trial of all of the main commercially available column stocks varieties planted in both steamed and un-steamed soil along with an opportunity to

view the early stages of a trial funded by Bulrush examining the use of anaerobic digestate as an alternative growing media for boxed lilies.

The event provides a good overview of the current AHDB funded work within the cut flower sector and allows attendees the opportunity to put forward their priorities for future work.

The programme commences at the Perch Holme Nursery site of J.A. Collison and Son at 16.00 to view the deep pool hydroponics trial, before moving onto the Lincoln University Holbeach Campus about an hour later before finally culminating at the main CFC site at Rookery Farm for a tour of the trials from 18.30 onwards. Attendees can join us at any point of the event depending upon their main interests. The event will be rounded off with a hog roast and an opportunity to have an informal discussion about the CFC as well as the industry in general.

### Event Programme

<b>Time</b>	<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
<b>16.00</b>	<b>Meet at J.A. Collison and Sons (Perch Holme Nursery) to view the deep pool hydroponics trial</b>	
<b>17.00</b>	<b>Meet at Lincoln University, Holbeach Campus for presentations and facilities tour (coffee and tea will be provided)</b>	
<b>17.10</b>	<b>CFC trials overview (2016)</b>	<b>Lyndon Mason, project leader</b>
<b>17.20</b>	<b>Cut flower herbicide trials and potential future work</b>	<b>John Atwood, ADAS and Lyndon Mason</b>
<b>17.40</b>	<b>Introduction to the Chrysal cut flower and pot plant testing facility</b>	<b>Martin Squire, Chrysal UK</b>
<b>17.50</b>	<b>Tour of the new Chrysal facility</b>	
<b>18.30</b>	<b><i>Coffee and registration at CFC site (Rookery Farm)</i></b>	
<b>18.45</b>	<b>Tour of the various CFC trials led by Lyndon Mason</b>	
<b>20.00</b>	<b><i>Hog roast, refreshments and depart</i></b>	