

## HTA Grower Technical Workshop Programme for 2026

# ***Maintaining soil structure and fertility in field-grown ornamental crops***

**J & A Growers Ltd, Bradshaw Farm, Wasperton, Warwick CV35 8BF**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

*This event provides a technical insight into maintaining soil structure and fertility via the use of manures, soil improvers and cover crops, drawing on experiences from other crop sectors. Delegates will learn about the factors which impact soil structure and nutrient availability, integrating manures and cover crops into production and guidance on the regulations around fertiliser applications. There will be an opportunity to see three different cover crops at the host site and learn about the pros and cons of using them. The event also provides an opportunity for networking and to hear about how the host nursery is tackling soil related problems in the production of seed-raised ornamental crops.*



### **Workshop agenda**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
<b>J &amp; A Growers Ltd, Bradshaw Farm, Wasperton, Warwick CV35 8BF</b>		
09:00 – 09:30	<i>Coffee, tea, and refreshments</i>	
<b>Presentations</b>		
09:30 – 09:50	<b>Setting the scene</b>	Selchuk Kurtev, <b>Zest Sustainable-ICM</b>
09:50 – 10:30	<b>Introduction to the three pillars of soil health</b>	Jade Prince, <b>HL Hutchinson</b>
10:30 – 11:10	<b>Omnia Farm Management System, from soils to stock and everything in between</b>	Rowan Duckworth, <b>HL Hutchinson</b>
11:10 – 11:20	<i>Coffee, tea, and refreshments</i>	
11:20 – 12:00	<b>Management of soil structure and fertility – basic principles, fertiliser applications and manures</b>	Lizzie Sagoo, <b>ADAS</b>
12:00 – 12:40	<b>Fundamentals of cover crops, experiences from the vineyard sector, and summary of the AHDB decision tree for nutrient management following cover crops project</b>	Flora O’Brien, <b>NIAB</b>
12:40 – 13:40	<i>Lunch buffet</i>	
<b>Demonstrations and nursery tour</b>		
14:00 – 14:15	Introduction to J&A Growers	Jamie Dewhurst and Ed Holmes, <b>J&amp;A Growers</b>
14:15 – 15:45	Visit to cover crop plots and soil pits and demonstration of cover crop biomass evaluation (estimate of nutrient return from cover crops). Followed by nursery tour	Presenters and all
16:00	<i>Wrap up, networking and depart</i>	

The number of attendees per business will be limited to two.

BASIS and NROSO continual professional development points will be available on the day of the workshop.

Address and local directions:

***J & A Growers Ltd, Bradshaw Farm, Wasperton, Warwick, CV35 8BF***

(highlighted in yellow on the map)

***What3words: ///forget.slept.silk***

