



# The value of UK plant and tree production

Market Insights

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# The Value of UK Tree and Plant Production

## Introduction

The UK has around 350 commercial growers of plants and trees destined for the UK's 20 million gardens contributing significantly to the UK economy.

This factsheet aims to describe the current and growing value of plants and trees produced for UK homes, gardens and public green spaces.

The plants and trees produced in the UK were worth £1.7 billion in 2023<sup>1</sup>, comprising £1.2 billion of Hardy Ornamental Nursery Stock production, £330 million of Pot Plants and £179 million of Flowers and Bulbs (see Table 1).

## Key Headlines



In 2023, UK production of plants and trees was valued at £1.7 billion<sup>1</sup>



The environmental horticulture sector (also referred to as 'ornamental' by external sources) generates tax revenues of £334 million annually<sup>2</sup>



Hardy Ornamental Stock production makes up the majority of the plants produced in the UK, valued at £1.3 billion<sup>1</sup>



UK ornamental tree and plant production has increased in real terms by 9% over the last 10 years, from £1.56 billion in 2014, to £1.7 billion in 2023.<sup>1</sup>

Table 1: Value of UK production of plants and trees in 2023 constant prices<sup>1</sup>

Value in GBP (millions)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Flowers and Bulbs	-	-	£126	£168	£154	£154	£154	£153	£179	£179
Pot plants	-	-	£401	£382	£383	£389	£344	£385	£310	£330
Hardy ornamental nursery stock	-	-	£1,118	£1,141	£1,177	£1,195	£1,196	£1,313	£1,182	£1,177
<b>UK Total</b>	<b>£1,542</b>	<b>£1,518</b>	<b>£1,643</b>	<b>£1,692</b>	<b>£1,714</b>	<b>£1,739</b>	<b>£1,695</b>	<b>£1,851</b>	<b>£1,671</b>	<b>£1,686</b>

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Figure 1 shows that removing the impacts of inflation and looking at the figures in 2023 constant prices, the value of UK ornamental tree and plant production has increased in real terms by 9% over the last 10 years, from £1.56 billion in 2014, to £1.7 billion in 2023. Several factors include; increasing consumer demand for gardening and the benefits provided by plants and green spaces; a growing and ageing population feeding a larger core gardening market; and increasing demand and recognition for the role plants and can play in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Table 2. The economic contributions of UK environmental horticulture production (2019)<sup>2</sup>:

	Direct impact	Total impact (direct, indirect and induced)
UK GDP	£882m	£1,647m
Tax revenues	£142m	£334m

Notes on terminology

For many years, the production of plants and trees intended for planting in domestic gardens and public green spaces for visual benefit has been referred to as ‘ornamental’ horticulture (to be distinguished from plants grown for production of food, referred to as edible horticulture). However, there is an increasing body of academic and economic research and evidence that these ‘ornamental’ plants and trees contribute hugely in terms of the environmental, social, and health benefits they deliver to society. So as such, there is a growing mind-set shift within the industry to think of and present itself not as ‘ornamental’ horticulture, but as ‘environmental’ horticulture. However, many external or historical sources referenced in will refer to the original ‘ornamental’ naming, hence the use of the two terms interchangeably.

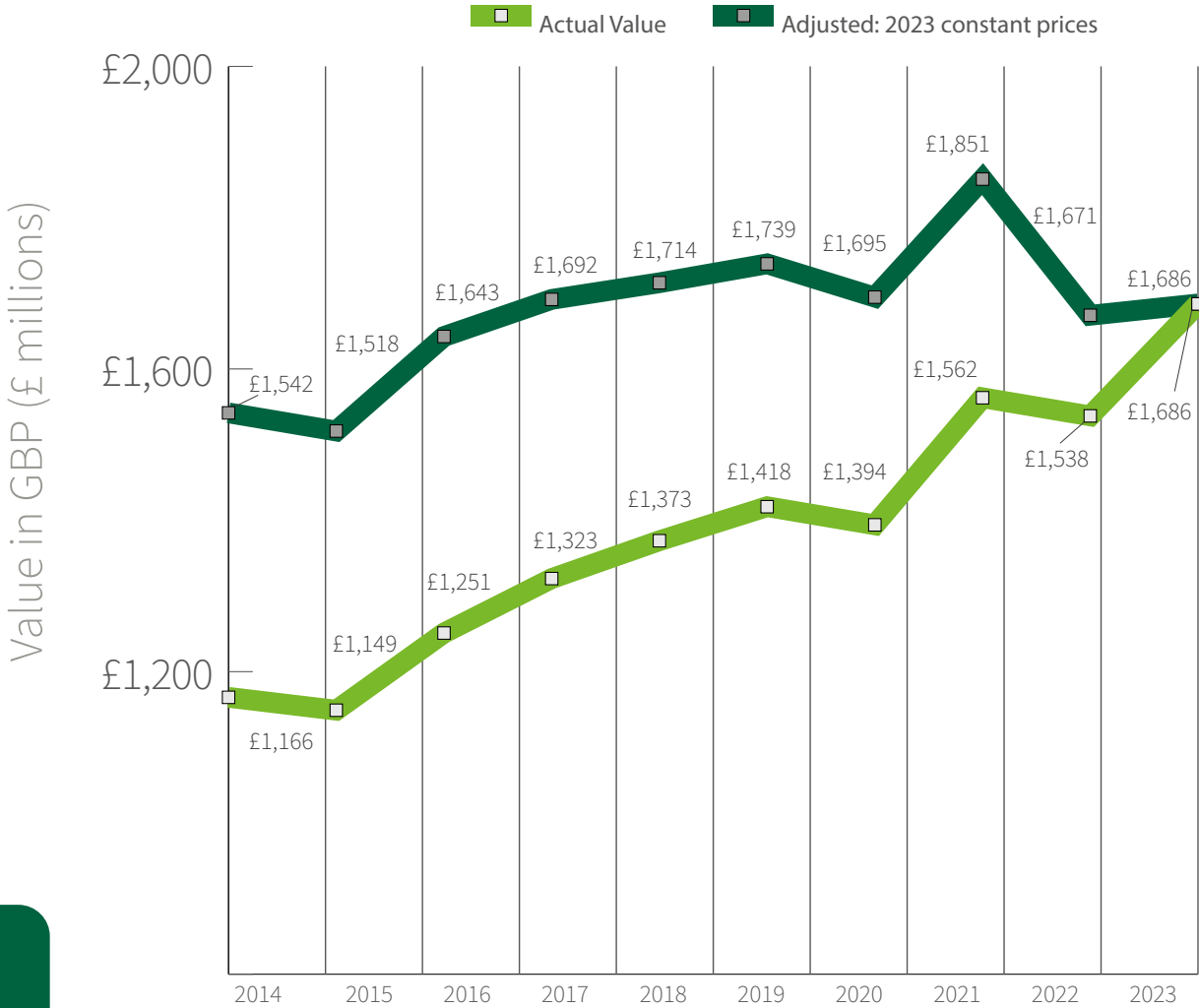


Figure 1. The Value of UK Ornamental Plant and Tree Production (2014 to 2023)<sup>1</sup>.

# References

1 Horticulture Statistics, DEFRA (2023)  
2 Growing a Green Economy: the importance of ornamental horticulture and landscaping to the UK, OHRG (2021)