

Horticulture tour for international greenhouse growers

Inspiring two-day insight into innovative Dutch horticulture

Dutch greenhouse horticulture leads the world. Market developments, environmental requirements and new laws mean that horticultural businesses in the country are constantly having to innovate and change. International growers will have the opportunity to get acquainted with the latest developments in Dutch greenhouse horticulture during the HortiContact Tour on 19 and 20 February 2019. Several nurseries and knowledge centres are on the programme for the excursion on day 1.

For the third year in a row, this tour is being run by Uniglobe Westland Business Travel, In Greenhouses Magazine and the organisers of the HortiContact trade fair (at Evenementenhal Gorinchem on 19-21 February 2019).

The complete programme for the third edition of the tour has been confirmed and consists of a Practical Day and a Seminar and Exhibition Day.

Practical Day

On the first day of the tour (19 February 2019) participants will visit growers and research locations. The excursion leaves from Rotterdam at 08:15. The first stop at 09:00 is at Marjoland in Waddinxveen, one of the biggest and most innovative rose growers in the country. This is followed by a visit to the Wageningen University & Research Greenhouse Horticulture business unit and the Delphy Improvement Centre, both in Bleiswijk. After lunch, the excursion will continue with visits to the 80-year-old company Anthura, orchid and Anthurium breeders and propagators in Bleiswijk. Followed by Oostland in Berkel en Rodenrijs, a modern company growing red, green and orange sweet peppers.

Seminar and Exhibition Day

Day 2 of the tour takes place in Gorinchem, 35 km east of Rotterdam. At this exhibition location, researchers from Wageningen University & Research will give lectures on various new research projects: Silke Hemming (head of the Greenhouse Technology scientific research team) on "Diffuse light and glass",



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Erik Pekkeriet (Senior Business Development Manager Agro Food Robotics) on "Robotics and precision greenhouse horticulture", Feije de Zwart (Researcher Greenhouse Climate and Energy) on "Next Generation Growing" and Jim van Ruijven (Scientific Researcher Water Technology & Emission) on "Water and Emissions". After the lunch the group will visit the trade fair. Thanks to the generous support of various sponsors, participation in the tour is free of charge. International

growers simply have to arrange their trip to the Netherlands and their accommodation. The organisers can coordinate hotel accommodation and transfers from and to the airport for anyone interested.

Are you a grower and interested in joining this tour? For more information, or to sign up, go to www.horticontacttour.nl. Suppliers, students and consultants are admitted on the tour, nor are Dutch growers who work in the Netherlands for a Dutch business.

New: HortiPackaging and Soft Fruit Experience

The sixteenth edition of the greenhouse horticulture trade fair is expanding with two completely new components: HortiPackaging and the Soft Fruit Experience. These initiatives will have their own space on the exhibition floor.

HortiPackaging focuses on growers, packing stations and trading houses. "Packaging, labelling and coding are hot items in the horticulture sector," explains Mariëlle Schonewille of the exhibition organisers. "The visitor will find everything on packaging here, from products and machines to interesting lectures in the knowledge theatre. Important themes such as sustainability, automation and the wants and needs of the market will be discussed."

The Soft Fruit Experience focuses on three visitor target groups: existing growers of greenhouse soft fruit, growers who want to switch from other crops to soft fruit in greenhouses, and growers who grow soft fruit outdoors and are looking to invest in a greenhouse. "Soft fruit is playing an increasing role in the greenhouse horticulture sector and we want to respond to that," says organiser Ramon Schlepers.

With an average of over 500 exhibitors and more than 14,500 visitors, HortiContact is the largest trade exhibition for the greenhouse horticulture sector in the Netherlands. The trade fair is being held at Evenementenhal Gorinchem on 19, 20 and 21 February 2019 and is open from 13:00 to 21:00.