



FIELD GATE FLOWERS
THE CUT FLOWER COLLECTIVE

Field Gate Flowers &

The Cut Flower Collective weekly newsletter

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(Please note if reading this at a later date that some links may no longer be valid.)

Bring on the biennials



Hello flower lover.

Today at Field Gate Ali Conway and I will be running The Great British Flower School's Eco-Floristry basics course, to a full house. We launched the school with online courses and workshops, so it's fantastic to now be hosting on-site courses as well. Later this month, and through until September, we have Eco-Funeral, Wedding and Large Installation courses running, as well as a repeat of today's sessions. Further details are below, with links to the GBFS website if you'd like to book to join in.

The team on the farm have continued weeding and planting out and, in an update to my comments last week on the weeding team, there has been some fantastic work done by our new recruits, with

the larger dahlia plot now looking superb with its dressing of wood chip. Thank you all!

June seems an ideal time to celebrate the glory of flowers, and we'll be holding our annual online Cut Flower Festival from 24-26th June – see below for further information and how to join us.

And finally... If you're a flower farmer or other business owner, looking to get organised, motivated and scale up your business, I have two spots for 1-2-1 mentoring over the next few months. This can cover strategy, marketing, visibility, understanding the numbers, or running workshops and online courses. I offer everything from power hours to weekly mentoring over a 12-week period, and my aim is to help those feeling overwhelmed get clear, focused, and confident with a bespoke plan. If this resonates with you, reply to this email and ask to book a free discovery call with me to chat about how I can help.

Wishing you the best of June as we continue our flowering season.

Roz

BIENNIALS FOR 'THE GAP'



Are you experiencing the June gap? In early summer, gardeners and flower farmers alike can find that there's a gap between the flush of spring flowers and the bounty of high summer flowering. A perfect way to admirably fill this lull for next year is to sow biennials now.

Biennial plants grow over two seasons before flowering, setting seed and dying. Sow them now and they'll be

established enough to plant out in early autumn. They'll enter a period of semi-dormancy over winter and start putting on growth again once temperatures warm and light levels increase next spring. In April, May and June, they're that wonderful surprise that rewards you when you'd almost forgotten about them (and are probably dashing around fretting about your 2026 annuals!).

Biennials suitable for a cutting patch or garden include *Digitalis* (foxglove), *Lunaria annua* (honesty), *Angelica sylvestris*, *Hesperis* (sweet rocket), *Dianthus barbatus* (sweet william), and *Oenothera biennis* (evening primrose).

For more tips and advice on sowing biennials, [join The Cut Flower Festival online from 24-26 June](#). One of our live sessions will be devoted to biennials and we'll be taking questions.

THE CUT FLOWER PODCAST: OUR CATALONIAN RETREAT



A month ago, Roz (along with Ali Conway and Tom Coleman) were hosting their first floristry and business retreat in Catalonia, Spain. The first time for anything is always a learning experience – so what did Ali, Tom and Roz learn from this event and what would they do differently another time?

[This episode of The Cut Flower Podcast](#) takes listeners behind-the-scenes as they discuss the diverse backgrounds of the retreat attendees, floristry and design techniques that were shared, the magic of cross-industry collaboration, and how teamwork and community made this event unforgettable

[The Cut Flower Podcast archive](#) now has several years of regular episodes, featuring Roz's conversations with growers, florists, photographer, environmentalists, horticulturalists and business mentors, as well as her solo 'Ask Roz' broadcasts.

Subscribe via your chosen Podcast provider (Apple/Google/Spotify etc) and you'll be sent notifications as each new episode arrives.

THE 2025 CUT FLOWER FESTIVAL IS COMING!



Join us from 24th - 26th June as we focus on the flowers we grow and the joy they bring to us as growers and to those we share them with.

This year's festival is set to be our busiest and best yet. We'll be sharing resources and tips from the moment the Facebook Group opens on 19th June. Live events during the festival will focus on Foliage & Perennials for Cutting, as well as which Biennials to grow and how to get the best from them.

[Register your interest in the festival](#) and we'll send you a link to the pop-up Facebook Group where we'll be hosting events.

FLOWER FARMERS RETREAT 2025



Roz, Ali and Tom are already making plans for the next floral retreat in Spain, in May 2026. But you don't need to wait until then to tap into their expertise... The UK Flower Farmers retreat for 2025 will take place right here on UK soil in just a few weeks. Registration will open soon but save the date if you think this is for you.

This year's UK Flower Farmers retreat will be held at Field Gate Farm, MK16, on 16th and 17th August. Over two days, we'll offer workshops and talks covering the best crops to grow for maximum profit as well as propagation, floristry, marketing, business planning, branding, social media and content planning. You'll also be able to network and enjoy some much-needed time out.

SPRING BULB COLLECTION 2026



Our Spring Bulb Catalogue is open for browsing [here](#) and [we're taking orders here](#).

As always, the bulbs and corms featured are those that Roz has selected to grow at Field Gate and the majority we have already grown and had great success with. Most tulip bulbs available for ordering within the UK are unsized (usually small 9-10s) but those featured in our catalogue are 12+ bulbs, which means they have a circumference of 12cm or more. These are top quality bulbs, selected to cover the breadth of the tulip growing season, stem length and colour for cutting.

If you've not done this before, or would like a reminder, here's what you need to do:

[Find all the details in the catalogue here.](#)

Place your order at <https://fieldgateflowers.co.uk/tulips/> (including ranunculus and narcissi). Once we have confirmation from the Dutch bulb suppliers (usually mid-summer), we will inform you of any changes (hopefully none, but occasionally there are bulb shortages).

You will receive your bulbs/corms in early Autumn.

There is no immediate deadline for ordering but some varieties will sell out and we will allocate available bulbs those who ordered first.

The Great British Flower School



Visit us for small group floristry training

With eco-florist Ali Conway at the helm, **Flourish at the Farm** is a series of sustainable floristry trainings on site at Field Gate Farm (MK16) and nearby venues.

Ranging from half day bouquet-making to two-day installations, workshops run on various dates throughout the summer. [View details of each course and register to join at the Great British Flower School website here.](#) On-site courses have limited availability so we advise you to book as soon as you can.

Floristry training to fit around you

For those unable to commit to a longer online course or attend our workshops in person, we've put together two 'on demand', self-taught eco-floristry packages for you to purchase and access at a time that suits you. These courses are designed for beginners or those looking to upgrade their floristry skills or transition to environmentally friendly methods:

1. Blooming Basics

Your simple start to the art of eco-floristry in 4 video lessons + downloadable PDFs for each module.

2. Flourish Foundations

Go a little deeper and build your eco-floristry confidence with 6 video lessons, each with an accompanying PDF to download.

[Explore more about these courses and find the links to purchase them here.](#)

The Great British Flower School

Flourish on the Farm

JUNE
21

Eco Floristry basics:
hand-tied gift bouquets
10am-1pm (1/2 day)

JUNE
21

Eco Floristry basics:
compote bowl table centrepiece
2pm-5pm (1/2 day)

JUNE
21

Eco Floristry basics full day:
hand-tied gift bouquets
+ compote bowl table centrepiece
10am-5pm (full day)

JUNE
23
& 24

Eco-Funeral Masterclass
The complete eco-funeral course -
from base construction & design to
completion
10am-4pm (2 days)

JULY
14

Wedding Florals
Including bridal bouquets & personal
party flowers
10am-4pm (1 day)

AUGUST
11
& 12

Large installations:
The complete large design. Full church
installatin, from design & set-up to on-
stie create at a stunning church venue.
10am-4pm (2 days)

SEPT
27
& 28

Eco-Funeral Masterclass
The complete eco-funeral course -
from base construction & design to
completion
10am-4pm (2 days)

Flourish on demand

Blooming Basics

the art of eco-floristry in 4 video lessons +
downloadable PDFs

Flourish Foundations

build your eco-floristry confidence with 6
video lesson and accompanying PDFs

JOBS FOR THE WEEK



Thin out direct-sown annual seedlings – If you've sown seeds such as Cosmos, Nigella, Ammi, Amaranthus, etc. in drills, they will need to be thinned out before they get too large to give the front-runners space to grow and bloom. Once the seedlings have enough greenery to be able to take hold of, you can begin to do this. Try to pull out the weakest looking of the seedlings, taking care not to disturb the roots of the ones you want to keep. You should be left with some strong young plants spaced apart according to the instructions that came on the seed pack.

Be on aphid watch – This is particularly relevant if you're growing roses for cutting. Ladybirds are one of the aphid's most

successful predators, so encourage them where you can – along with other beneficial organisms – by leaving a wild patch in your garden and some shallow water (even the smallest need a drink sometimes). Birds, hoverflies, lacewings and earwigs are also natural aphid predators. If you have a small number of aphids, squish them off by hand or spray them with a hose jet. As a last resort, use an organic (chemical free) spray based on plant extracts, plant oils or soft soap.

Plant out (or direct sow) any remaining plants grown from seed - once we're past the summer solstice, mid-June, the days start to get shorter and plants sense it. So, anything that you want for cutting this year needs to go out NOW.

COURSES AND MEMBERSHIPS

Any questions? Ask me in my Facebook groups:

[The Cut Flower Collection from Field Gate Flowers](#) (for anyone passionate about growing cut flowers) [Growth &](#)

[Profit in your Cut Flower Business](#) (for flower farmers or those about to embark on a cut flower business)

Membership groups:

The Best Bunch

Growth Club.

Roz