



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.)

### ***Abundant Amaranthus and garden visits***



Good morning to you all. I returned to the farm after nearly a week away to find that it had – finally – rained. Hurrah! Not enough, but we're grateful for every drop at the moment. Thankfully we have many perennials which are well established and in general more tolerant of the warm dry conditions we've had lately. Dahlias are now starting to bloom all over the place and it's always a delight to see them thriving after their winter dormancy.

On Monday we'll welcome the next group of [Great British Flower School](#) students for our on-site Wedding Florals course.

We always include a tour of the farm as part of our on-site events and this seem to be a highlight for many of you. You get to see behind the scenes, weeds and all – that’s the true face of organic, sustainable flower farming and floristry. If you fancy a look around - with a ton of learning and inspiration as the main event – have a look at the [details of our UK Flower Retreat](#) which is coming up in August. [Here's what some of last year's retreat participants had to say about their time with us.](#) (Don't tell them but we've refined it this year to give even better business and growth efficiency workshops in one package.)

Highlights on the farm this month are the incredible echinacea (now in its third season in the polytunnel) and Amaranthus that seems totally undeterred by the lack of rain and is growing abundantly. We've lost track of which Calendula we grew from seed this year and which has seeded itself but it's all looking lovely and sweet peas in the new polytunnel continue to flourish. Oh, and we've also started sowing biennials for next year...

All the veggies are now planted out, so I'm off to water the tomatoes. Happy growing!

Roz

## VISIT A GARDEN WITH THE NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME



Above: Long House Plants, Essex - from the NGS website

July and August are wonderful times for garden visits, whether for inspiration or a break from all those jobs to do in your own garden or plot. If you live in the UK or are here for a visit, the [National Garden Scheme \(NGS\) website](#) has a growing list of gardens open to visit for a small charge. Either [use their map search tool](#) or [browse gardens by County](#) to see what's open this week.

Profits from garden openings and the sale of tea and cakes go to the NGS which is a long-established nursing and gardening charity, and from them to other charities and organisations they support, including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and The Queen's Nursing Institute. In 2024 the NGS helped to open 3,372 private gardens to the public, raising £3.5 million for charity.

If you're not able to visit in person for whatever reason, there's a growing portfolio of [Virtual Garden Visits](#) on the NGS website – free but they nicely ask for a donation. A page to bookmark for those chilly winter months when we're dreaming again of summer!

# FLOWER FARMERS RETREAT 2025



Whether you're dreaming of becoming a flower farmer, just starting out, or already have some growing experience and want to make it truly profitable — this retreat is for you.

Join us on 16th and 17th August for a transformative **2-day Flower Farming Retreat** designed to fast-track your success, give you a clear path through what can be an overwhelming list of tasks, and equip you with the tools to build a *sustainable, income-generating flower business*.

The retreat will take place at Field Gate Flowers – Roz's stunning flower farm in the Buckinghamshire countryside. This is your chance to step away from the day-to-day and work *on* your business, not just *in* it. This event sold out in 2023 and 2024, so book as soon as you can.

For more information and to register, [step this way...](#)

**PODCAST REWIND: GROWING FLOWERS IN POLYTUNNELS**



There's a lot of information out there on growing vegetables in polytunnels but not so much about growing flowers. So, last summer Roz recorded a solo podcast addressing how and which blooms to grow in a polytunnel for maximum return. [Here's the link to listen.](#)

She shares her personal experience and gives practical advice on how to make the most of polytunnels and manage the unique challenges they present. From climate control to water efficiency, Roz covers all the essential aspects of polytunnel cultivation (and yes, much of this is also applicable to growing in greenhouses). The 'new' tunnel she mentions is now bursting with blooms – see the image above taken this spring – we can hardly walk through it now!

[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 Great British Flower School



## **FLOURISH ON THE FARM**

Our on-site courses have proved so popular, we've added more dates and tailored the additional courses to requests from you:

4th September – [Field to Floristry farm day](#)

11th October – [Mastering Wedding Bouquets and Buttonholes](#)

16/17/18 October – [3 Day Eco-Floristry Foundation course](#)

All the information you'll need for our on-site courses [can be found here](#).

## **FLOURISH ON DEMAND**

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.](#)

## SPRING BULB COLLECTION 2026



Low availability on ranunculus, narcissi and some tulip varieties.

Ranunculus have sold out but Roz is adding more to her order, so you can still order these but be quick! Narcissi are also very close to selling out and some varieties of tulip are getting low, especially 'Amberglow'.

If you've yet to place your order, the Spring Bulb Catalogue is available to browse [here](#) and [you can place your order 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.

To order, 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.

*It is sometimes possible for Roz to add to her pre-order but if varieties sell out we will allocate available bulbs those who ordered first.*

## **JOBS FOR THE WEEK**



### *Take rose cuttings*

Roses are often propagated as hardwood cuttings, taken when pruning in late winter. However, you can also take softwood cuttings from roses during spring and summer growth and semi-ripe cuttings in late summer/early autumn. Cuttings should be 25-30cm long. Trim to just beneath (but not through) a leaf node, and above a node at the top end (make sure your secateurs are sharp). Remove all the lower leaves and any thorns, then place around the edge of a pot with at least half of the stem submerged. You can pot several cuttings around the edge of one pot and pot on once they've established roots – or wait until next spring and plant out where you'd like your new rose plants to grow.

### *Apply mulch to borders after rainfall:*

If you haven't already done it, now would be a good time – to lock in the rainwater that finally fell last weekend. There's more hot dry weather ahead, so you'll still need to water but mulching will help to keep this around the roots where plants can take it up. Make sure you remove any perennial weeds from the root before mulching.

*Keep a growing diary*

It can be hard to find time to do this when you're running in circles to keep up with what needs doing in your patch. However, if you want to improve your cutting success year-on-year this is an essential part of your planning. If you have lulls in your patch, think about how you can remedy this next year. More perennials perhaps? Research plants that flower in early spring, in late spring, throughout the summer and into autumn to lengthen your cutting season.

## **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