

Press release: 13 October 2021

The Modern Garden with PlantNetwork: connecting gardens and sharing skills for 25 years.

Working as a professional horticulturist can be a solitary experience. Even working as part of a team, you might be the only one with your specialism or area of responsibility. Talking with and learning alongside others who share your experience, expertise or interests can provide the networking, support and skills that you, and your garden, need. PlantNetwork has been doing this for the last 25 years: connecting gardens and sharing skills.

Since its formation in the mid-1990s, PlantNetwork has provided an opportunity for gardens and their garden teams to share ideas and information, provide peer-to-peer training and network horticulturists. The aim of PlantNetwork is to connect gardens to share knowledge, information and skills to ensure that the public gardens and plant collections of the UK and Ireland are maintained at the highest possible standard for conservation, education, research and enjoyment by the public.

To celebrate our 25th birthday, PlantNetwork is looking to the future of gardening and professional horticulture in our 'Modern Garden' conference this November and December. What will gardens in the mid 21st century look like and what skills will horticulturists of the future need? We will hear from an exciting line-up of speakers offering their perspectives on the future, from technological innovations to the challenges posed by climate change as well as issues relating to sustainability and plant health. Making gardens more multifunctional (offering a range of social, economic and environmental services) and recognising the role of traditional skills (such as meadow management) will also feature.

With speakers from around the world, including academics and researchers, professional horticulturists, and experts in their field, the conference offers an opportunity to engage with the horticultural topics that will shape gardening in the future. Each conference session will include speaker presentations and a panel discussion, providing an opportunity for all delegates to question and comment on the topic.

In a highly accessible and affordable online format, participation in the conference is possible without the need to travel or take time away from work. With four afternoon sessions across two weeks, it is ideally suited to the working horticulturist, with all sessions available on catch-up. There will be networking opportunities between sessions to allow delegates to discuss the conference topics further or simply to meet other horticulturists. A workshop and special closing session, which will be available as a stand-alone event, will continue the discussion of gardens and gardening in the future.

For more information about the conference, including the programme and how to book, please visit the conference website: <https://plantnetwork.org/news/the-modern-garden-conference/>. The conference takes place from 2pm (GMT/UTC) on 24th - 25th November and 1st - 2nd December 2021.

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For more about PlantNetwork:

PlantNetwork is a charity and membership organisation that provides training and network support to gardens and gardeners throughout Britain and Ireland. We have been doing this for 25 years – and look forward to connecting gardens and their gardeners for many more years to come!

Through its work, PlantNetwork contributes to maintaining and developing the horticultural and plant conservation skills for which our gardens are renowned. The goals of PlantNetwork are:

- Supporting gardens and plant collections for conservation, knowledge and enjoyment.
- Providing networking and professional development for the plant network community.

Since being formed in 1996, PlantNetwork has brought together both institutional and private members and now represents over 300 gardens including all the major public horticultural and botanic gardens in the countries.

If you work in gardens, from botanic gardens and arboreta to public parks; have a professional interest in amenity or botanical horticulture; manage or care for a documented plant collection; or wish to learn more about gardening in the gardens of Britain and Ireland, then membership of PlantNetwork is for you.

Find out more about us: <https://plantnetwork.org/>

To find out more about the events we are organising in 2021, please see: <https://plantnetwork.org/category/news/> and <https://plantnetwork.org/category/meetings/>