



# The Irish Hardy Nursery Stock Association



*IHNSA chairman Val Farrell and Minister for Horticulture Andrew Doyle discussing the Irish Nursery Stock Sector at GLAS 2018.*



*IHNSA chairman Val Farrell and Jim Quinn Shannon Garden Centre pictured at the trolley fair in Uniplumo Ltd*

**The Irish Hardy Nursery Stock Association (IHNSA)** is a commodity sector within the Horticulture Section of the Irish Farmers Association. It is the representative body of nursery stock producers whose main objective is to advance and protect the interests of primary producers in the hardy nursery stock sector. Following a disastrous year in 2018 with Storm Emma and Ophelia causing havoc for the nursery sector, this year has started on a kinder note. Despite economic improvements in the Irish economy which increases plant sales, the industry faces many challenges such as worker shortages, new legislation in relation to plant health and transportation.

The amenity sector in Ireland is worth €72 million at farm gate value of which nursery stock accounts for €50m. Growers in Ireland operate to an extremely tight margin and chairman Val Farrell urges all garden centres, retailers and consumers to support the **Irish amenity sector**. Below are some of the key areas of activity undertaken by the organisation over the past year.

The IHNSA in conjunction with IFA and Bord Bia organised two successful **trolley fairs** at the National Show Centre, Swords and Uniplumo Ltd, Oldtown Co. Dublin this spring. The events were previously managed by an external event management company. These event marks the start of the Irish nursery stock season and they are highly regarded in the industry. Bord Bia launched the "Value of the Garden Market Report" at the fair, showing that the value of the amenity market has grown by 9%, currently standing at €795m. The fair brings together key industry leaders and it is an excellent opportunity to showcase Irish produce.

The new regulation to modernise the EU **plant health** system will be applicable from December 14th 2019. Under the new regulation, all plants for planting will require a plant passport and each registered operator must have a "competent person" on-site or available to them. The IFA/IHNSA has brought the issue to the attention of Minister Doyle and requested that a set of guidelines are published. The IHNSA are working continuously in this space both nationally and at European level with the European Nursery Association to minimise the disturbance for the sector. The

IHNSA is continuously monitoring the issue of Xylella Fastidiosa with the stakeholder group. At a recent ENA meeting new rapid tests were discussed, it is hoped that this will improve early detection.

**Brexit** implications continue to cause concern for the sector. Due to the weakening of sterling, Irish exports to the UK are less competitive. Tariffs, VAT rates, plant movements and plant health are other potential issues that may arise. IHNSA will continue to work on these issues as the Brexit deadline looms.

The IHNSA has expressed interest for the next tranche of the **Green Cities** for a sustainable Europe project. The next tranche will run from 2021-2023 and 15 members have put themselves forward to date. Green Cities for a Sustainable Europe' is a platform that encourages the greening of public spaces by providing innovative ideas, scientific research, and technical expertise. The activities address certain themes such as health, climate, the economy, biodiversity and social cohesion. The programme is industry led and it will help professionals such as landscapers and architects in city and landscape planning to increase environmental biodiversity.

Following successful lobbying last year, application for **work permits** for workers from non- EEA countries opened. IFA is continuing to work with the Department of Justice to reduce application processing times and to make the system more user friendly. To date 180 permits have been issued with at least 50% going to the Mushroom sector. The Horticulture Forum has devised a user guide to apply for work permits which can be found on <https://www.ifa.ie/>

IHNSA members again participated in the **GroMór**/Garden Centre Campaign and engaged with REI to ensure nursery participation. Super Garden Judge Gary Graham and TV personality Karen Koster launched the 2019 campaign. GroMór 2019 is a nationwide campaign aimed at encouraging everyone to visit their local garden centres and nurseries and to buy Irish.

## IHNSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2019

<b>Val Farrell</b>	B&V Nurseries	info@bvnurseries.ie	087 250 3752
<b>Matthew Lohan</b>	Woodstock Trees & Shrubs	woodtrees@eircom.net	087 242 3340
<b>Hans Ravensberg</b>	Ravensberg Nurseries	ravensberg@gmail.com	086 858 8490
<b>Peter Stam</b>	Stam's Bamboo Nursery Limited	stam@iol.ie	086 812 1467
<b>Fred Townsend</b>	Teagasc	Fred.townsend@teagasc.ie	087 689 2323
<b>Martin Tully</b>	Tully Nurseries	martinsnr@tullynurseries.ie	086 255 1151
<b>John Flanagan</b>	SAP Nurseries	John.flanagan@sapgroup.com	086 857 6753
<b>Bill Kelly</b>	Kelly's Nursery Ltd	tracey@kellysnursery.ie/info@kellysnursery.ie	087 987 9593
<b>Theresa Duffy</b>	Nightpark Nursery	nightpark@eircom.net	087 797 9209



**IFA**

**IHNSA SECTION MEMBERSHIP FORM 2019**



**IHNSA**

IFA Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

Nursery Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Tel Landline \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ Nursery Size (acres) \_\_\_\_\_

IHNSA Subscription Rate (Includes IFA membership of €80)

Based on Nursery Turnover  Tick as appropriate

€950,000 and above €635  €510,000 - €950,000 €444

€190,000 - €510,000 €317  €190,000 and less €190

Payment by cheque  **Cheques should be made payable to IFA**

Payment by Credit or Debit Card  CVV (last 3 digits on signature panel of card)

Credit Card

Expiry Date

Laser Card

Expiry Date

or fill in the Direct Debit Mandate below



**IFA SEPA Direct Debit Mandate**

Unique Mandate Reference [UMR] – to be completed by Irish Farmers' Association. By signing this mandate form, you authorise (A) Irish Farmers' Association to send instructions to your bank to debit your account and (B) your bank to debit your account in accordance with the instructions from Irish Farmers' Association. As part of your rights, you are entitled to a refund from your bank under the terms and conditions of your agreement with your bank. A refund must be claimed within 8 weeks starting from the date on which your account was debited. Your rights are explained in a statement that you can obtain from your bank.

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