



NFU update: Priorities and opportunities for UK horticulture

Martin Emmett

NFU

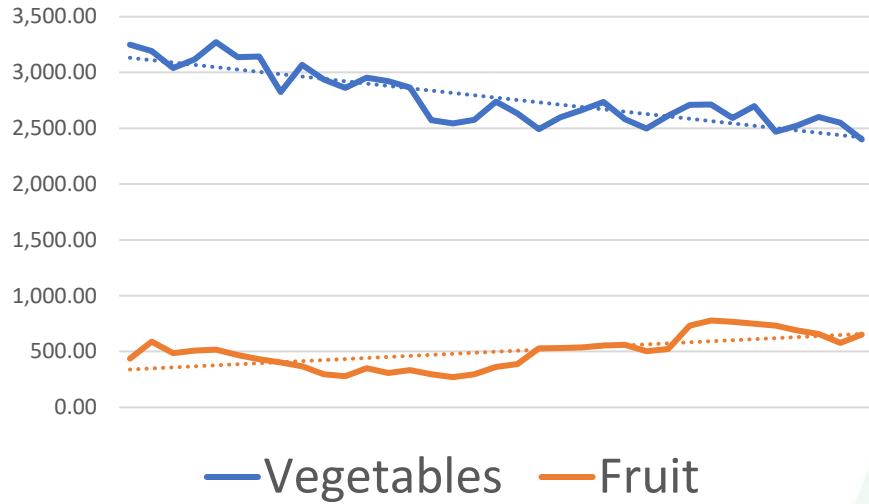
Priorities and opportunities for UK Horticulture

Martin Emmett
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NFU Horticulture and Potatoes

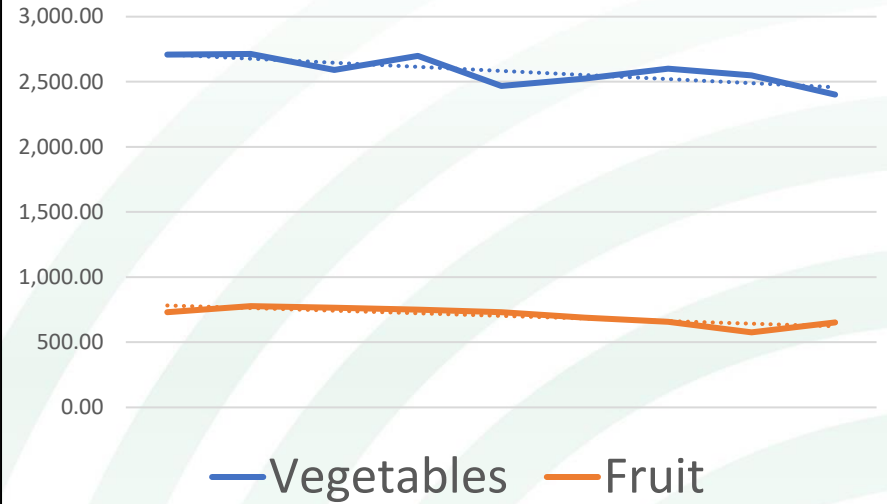


UK production

Volumes since 1988

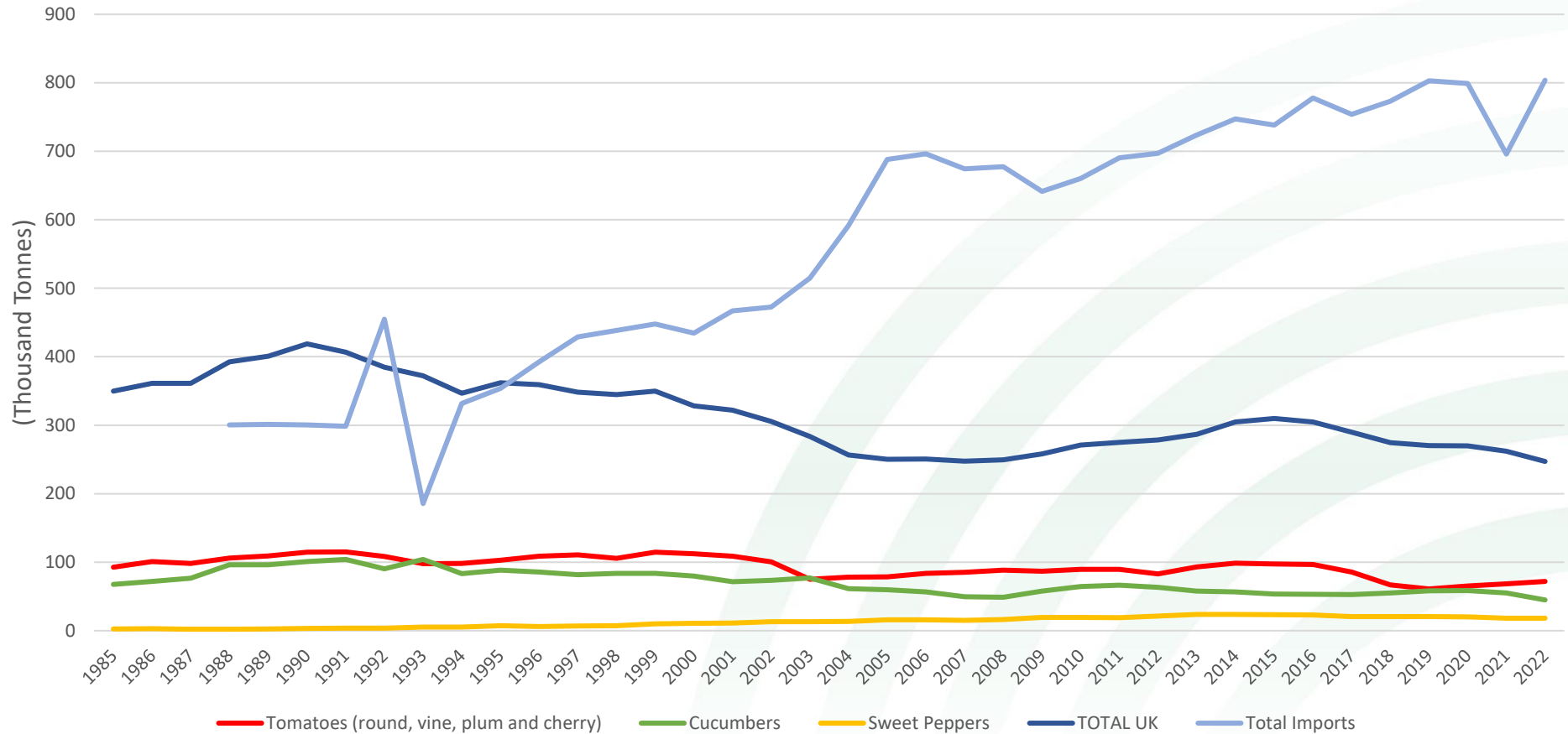


Volumes since 2014



Source: Defra Horticulture Statistics

Protected crops volumes



Source: Defra Horticulture Statistics





UK horticulture growth strategy

DELIVERING GROWTH FOR THE UK HORTICULTURE SECTOR

NFU'S 10 BUILDING BLOCKS FOR GROWING SUCCESS

With the government as a champion for UK horticulture, the sector is ready to expand the national production of fruit, vegetables, plants and flowers. The NFU has identified ten critical building blocks that will be necessary for the industry:

- 1. Access to labour:**
A minimum five-year rolling seasonal worker scheme, with suitable length National Living Wage or unrealistic cap on worker numbers.
- 2. Access to affordable and sustainable energy supplies:**
Urgent recognition of energy-intensive horticulture sectors within the ERM scheme, and expansion of grid infrastructure to support investment in new capacity.
- 3. Access to crop protection:**
An enabling crop protection policy which ensures the UK is not disadvantaged by the EAMU programme beyond March 2023, previously funded by AHDB.
- 4. Access to water:**
As the sector is vulnerable to drought and the challenges from reduced rainfall, greater investment is needed in infrastructure to collect, store and distribute water between regions.
- 5. Access to sustainable growing media:**
As the sector is vulnerable to drought and the challenges from reduced rainfall, government collaboration to move towards peat-free in an environmentally sustainable way is critical that growers can have open discussions and fair negotiations of their customers.
- 6. Productivity investment:**
It is critical that a replacement to the EU Fruit and Veg Aid Scheme is finalised that is more inclusive than the previous EU scheme, and that there are no further restrictions on the use of peat in commercial production is not the right approach.
- 7. Enabling import controls for plants and plant products:**
Minimising the barriers and costs for importing plants and plant materials - while maintaining biosecurity.
- 8. Access to environmental funding schemes:**
Recognition of horticulture is required in ELMs and Countryside Stewardship schemes across the sector.
- 9. Enabling planning policy:**
Consistency is needed in planning decisions to support - not restrict - horticulture. This includes the provision of high quality, short-term accommodation.





ACCESS TO
PERMANENT
AND
SEASONAL
LABOUR



ACCESS TO
AFFORDABLE
ENERGY
SUPPLIES



ACCESS TO
CROP
PROTECTION



ENABLING
IMPORT
CONTROLS
FOR PLANTS
AND PLANT
PRODUCTS

AN ENABLING
PLANNING
POLICY

PRODUCTIVITY
INVESTMENT



FAIRNESS IN
THE SUPPLY
CHAIN

ACCESS TO
WATER



ACCESS TO
SUSTAINABLE
GROWING
MEDIA



ACCESS TO
ENVIRONMENTAL
FUNDING
SCHEMES

NFU Horticulture Strategy

- Border Control Points (BCPs) delayed until 30th April.
- Growers encourages to explore becoming Control Point to avoid BCPs
- Pilot for Authorised Operator Scheme in Q2 of 2024

NFU asks:

- AOS to be rolled out before 30th April
- Urgent clarity and communication on groupage loads, BCP and CP costs
- Require legal recourse to hold APHA to the SLA which requires inspections at BCP within 4 hours



 **THE BORDER TARGET
OPERATING MODEL**

Biodiversity Net Gain



UK supermarkets face tomato shortages

20 February



By Theo Leggett

Business correspondent, BBC News

Supplies of some fruit and vegetables, including tomatoes, to UK supermarkets have been disrupted by poor weather in Europe and Africa.

The British Retail Consortium (BRC) said that harvests had been hit by "difficult weather conditions".

