



DEMONSTRATION FARM

Eric Wall Ltd 
www.ericwallnursery.co.uk

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Eric Wall Ltd is one of the largest tomato nurseries in the UK. We are a family run business and have been growing tomatoes in Barnham, near Chichester since 1977. The business ethos is based around quality, commitment to innovation and continual reinvestment, driven by our most important asset – our people. We strive to grow great tasting, top quality tomatoes with environmental care and the principles of Integrated Farm Management help to guide many of our management decisions. We gained LEAF Marque certification in 2004.



The Farm

A family run, LEAF Marque certified, horticultural business growing a range of top quality vine tomatoes with environmental care using the principles of Integrated Farm Management.

Crops for food

We are one of the largest tomato nurseries in the UK, covering 28 acres of glasshouses, producing a range of top quality vine tomatoes. We supply to two of the main UK retailers. Growing tomatoes sustainably has always been at the heart of the business and over the last decade we have worked hard to reduce our environmental impact through energy efficient boilers, thermal screens and more sustainable water management. We work hard to preserve and enhance the valuable habitat around our reservoirs, which acts as a food source and nesting site for a wide range of wildlife. As part of our on-going conservation work, we carry out regular monitoring of the wildlife and flora on site which helps to track the impact of our activities and identify areas of improvement.



Community

Reaching out to our customers is critical to ensure they are aware of the progress tomato growers are making in sustainable food production. As an industry, we have a great story to tell. We are really proud of what we are doing and are keen to share it with others through on-site visits, hosting study groups and taking part in initiatives like LEAF Open Farm Sunday. We believe it is vital that people are given the opportunity to see for themselves the steps we take to produce great tasting tomatoes using the very latest sustainable growing methods. As a LEAF Demonstration Farm we look forward to welcoming groups to the farm and sharing what we do.

Conservation

Over the last decade, we have worked hard to reduce our environmental impact by investing in new infrastructure including replacing our boilers with more energy efficient models, upgrading heating pipes, insulating our heat storage tanks and fitting moveable thermal screens to seventy percent of our glasshouse structures, which has significantly reduced our energy use.

We are committed to reducing waste wherever possible and all our tomato waste is sent for composting. We also use a special kind of ground cover plastic which allows plant material to dehydrate on the floor. Rain water is collected from the glasshouses and fed to our on-site reservoir and used for irrigation.

Likewise, we strive to grow tomatoes without the need for artificial plant protection products by using predatory insects to control pests for us. This also means that we are able to use bumble bees to pollinate the tomato plants.

Visits

As a LEAF Demonstration Farm, we host visits for a wide range of groups interested in horticultural production. Climate change is having a huge impact on how and what we grow and we are keen to show people how the horticulture sector is positively addressing these challenges to ensure we continue to supply high quality produce, grown sustainably using modern methods which help to minimise our environmental impact.



About LEAF Demonstration Farms

LEAF Demonstration Farms are commercial farms, which show the beneficial practices of Integrated Farm Management (IFM) to a broad range of audiences, through organised visits. They communicate an understanding of IFM in order to encourage uptake by farmers, support from the industry and political awareness of sustainable food and farming. For more information, visit www.leafuk.org.

