
Course information:

Agroecological Horticulture training

2025 - 2026

- Strengthening local food resilience together -



ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Building local food resilience and empowering more people with the skills to launch their own edible horticulture ventures has never been more essential.

Our training program offers a unique chance to gain the knowledge, experience and insights needed to make an impact in sustainable agriculture.



What you'll learn

- **Business Planning** – learning about different horticulture business types
- **Agroecological Growing** – Sustainable and ecological farming practices
- **Site & Soil Assessment** – Understanding soil health and potential
- **Plant Health, Pests & Diseases** – Key principles for thriving crops
- **Crop Planning** – For productivity and succession
- **Tools & Scaling up**– Selecting the right tools & equipment for the job
- **Food Safety, Packaging & Labelling** – Essentials for safe and market-ready produce
- **Market Access & Diversification** – Finding and expanding customer bases
- **Seed Saving** – Ensuring quality and sustainability
- And much much more!



OUTLINE

The programme will be led by Emma Maxwell, grower, trainer, and mentor from Ash & Elm Horticulture through a blend of tutor led online and in person sessions at Ash & Elm Horticulture.

This will be complimented by visits to established market gardens. There will be self directed activities in between sessions.



Taught sessions

Online tutor led sessions to build foundational knowledge, develop your business plan and crop strategies



On site learning

Hands-on sessions at Ash & Elm Horticulture in Llanidloes, where practical skills will be demonstrated in a thriving market garden



Farm visits

As well as sessions at Ash & Elm Horticulture, we will also visit another inspiring market garden providing insights and inspiration from experienced growers.



Mentoring

One-on-one guidance to refine your ideas, identify market opportunities, and receive tailored support.



Who is the programme intended for?

- Those with some prior experience of growing/horticulture
- Those preparing to start an edible horticulture business
- Those looking to diversify

Your contribution

- Self directed study between sessions
- Have growing land available to start your venture
- Plan and start growing during the course period



Application deadline for expressions of interest
Monday, 27th October, 2025

Programme start date:

Week commencing Friday 7th November 2025 at
Ash & Elm Horticulture, Llanidloes



Ready to apply?

For more information or an informal chat:

Contact:

Claire -
claire@ecodyfi.cymru



Provisional course dates

Taught sessions	Timings	Topic	Online/ in person
Session 1 - 7 Nov	1pm until 5pm	Course overview, business planning, terminology	In person at Ash & Elm
Session 2 - 14 Nov	3pm - 5.30pm	Site, soil, routes to market, Good food loops	Online
Session 3 -21 Nov	3pm - 5.30pm	Planting plans, succession, rotation	Online
Session 4 - 28 Nov	3pm - 5.30pm	Compost, protected cropping, sowing timetables	Online
Session 5 - 16 Jan	3pm - 5.30pm	Insurance – whats needed Making money from horticulture – some examples, economy of scale Working together - Machinery rings, food hubs, co-operative sales outlets Marketing/social media/comms skills Time management	Online
Session 6 - 23 Jan	3pm - 5.30pm	Scaling up, tools, harvesting, packing	In person at Ash & Elm
Session 7 - 30 Jan	1pm until 5pm	Finances, record keeping, pricing	Online
Session 8 - 6 Feb	3pm - 5.30pm	Plant problems, pests, diseases	Online