

The garden industry: a look back at 2014's biggest developments

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Garden centres and nurseries saw consolidation and some sales growth in 2014, with Wyevale Garden Centres, Solus, John Woods and Roundstone making headlines.

January

- Retailers put back bedding stocking a fortnight to Easter after big wastage in the cold spring of 2013, which worked out well given the rainy start to 2014.
- Notcutts bought Garden Pride.
- Kelkay bought Borderstone.
- GCA 2013 retail sales were up 3.68 per cent. HTA said sales were up six per cent.
- The EU attempted to implement Plant Reproductive Material legislation –but failed.
- Seed and plant companies linked to WW1 charities for poppy promotions.
- Thompson & Morgan left TV shopping channel QVC for Ideal Shopping Direct.
- RHS appoints David Morley from John Lewis to run its retail, gardens and shows.
- Hillview Group buys Garden Store

February

- Growers such as Earley Ornamentals installed biomass boilers.
- Mail order bedding retailer Canny Gardener went into liquidation.
- The Garden Centre Group installed WH Smith and Costa Coffee concessions and dropped concessions provider First Franchise.
- Boningale bought Worfield Gardens.
- Crest Garden and Smart Garden stepped up entry to the wholesale market.
- QD Stores buys Early Dawn Nurseries to make it 10 garden centres.

March

- Downward price pressure hit garden retailers.
- Garden King Bradley closed.
- March sales rocketed.
- Waitrose expanded its garden pods, seeking 10 per cent of the market.
- Garden Industry Marketing Board Love the Plot You've Got promoted.

April

- Next opened two further Home and Garden stores.
- B&Q launch coir 'teabag' bedding from Coletta & Tyson
- Hillview Group buys Little Heath GC.

May

- Garden Centre Group rebrands as Wyevale Garden Centres.
- Strong plant sales lead to unfounded shortages worries.
- Delamore and Volmary form partnership

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- GCA April sales up 16 per cent
- Javado wins Chelsea Flower Show plant of the year for Hydrangea 'Miss Saori'
- Solus heads towards administration

June

- GCA sales up 16 per cent by end of May
- Garden centre construction takes off
- Scotland independence vote worries sector
- Notcutts pulls out of Waitrose Bagshot store plan

July

- Defra launches ornamental round table
- UK-grown call from cut flower growers
- Scotts buys Solus out of administration
- Fulham Palace GC for sale
- Morden Hall GC taken over by National Trust

August

- Wyevale Garden Centres revise growth strategy
- HDC opens bedding centre at Baginton
- Dobbies opens at Bar Hill within a Tesco

September

- Christmas tree import prices dip
- Bedding growing projections for 2015 down
- Barton Grange to sell Garden Centre Plants as retailers divest growing arms
- Peter Beales begins again after bereavements
- Tim Clapp leaves Wyevale GCs to end mass shake-up of staff
- Nottingham Aquatic Centre and Tall Trees Garden Centre goes into administration
- Wyevale GCs buys Moreton Park GC

October

- Redfields phase two opens
- Garden centres rebrand as home and food retailers
- Sinclair unveils Ellesmere Port 'supersite'
- John Woods undergoes CVA
- Blue Diamond buys two Trelawney sites
- Wyevale GCs buys Trelawney Ashford
- Primrose increases turnover to £33m to become largest garden centre
- Homepage decides to shut 80 stores, with many going to B&M, The Range and others.

November

- Suttons Seeds undergoes management buy-out
- Glendale Horticulture buys Mahood Bros assets, with Mahood Brothers later going into administration.

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- Neame Lea wins Tesco bedding contract from Cresco, which closes
- NFU reveal retailers have not engaged with code of good buying practice
- Newey Group take over Roundstone Nurseries

December

- Wyevale Garden Centres buys Raglan and Podington and launches new catering concepts
- Homegrown poinsettias production up 15 per cent
- Will George retires from Prenplants
- Wyevale GCs buys four Golden Acres Nurseries centres.
- Garden centres see sales rise around eight per cent on 2014 on average as the year ends.

Link: <http://www.hortweek.com/garden-industry-look-back-2014s-biggest-developments/retail/article/1327130>