

Gerry Hayman



After graduating with a degree in Commercial Horticulture from the University of Nottingham, Gerry spent 22 years working for MAFF's advisory, research and development arm, ADAS, as a horticultural advisor and scientist. After training, he was posted to Cornwall and covered the west of the county before moving to the Tamar Valley with responsibility for east Cornwall but also running Ellbridge Experimental Horticulture Station, a substation of Rosewarne EHS.

He rose through the ADAS ranks with postings to the Lea Valley, the cradle of the British glasshouse industry, then to the sunny south coast at Chichester. After leaving ADAS when it was privatised, he grew tomatoes commercially for five years as a Director of a local company supplying Sainsburys.

For the rest of his career he was an independent agronomist and crop consultant, specialising in the production, marketing and economics of intensive horticultural crops both in the UK and overseas.

Gerry held many representational roles in the UK horticultural industry and in 1995 was voted Horticultural Adviser of the Year in the NFU Annual Awards and in 2010 received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the industry.

It was an inspirational biology teacher who sowed the seeds of his interest in the natural world and the miracle of seeing real seeds germinate, in his case peanuts in a jar behind blotting paper.