



Dear Delegate,

As the abstract submission deadline is fast approaching, **21 May 2017**, we wanted to let you know about the latest developments regarding the organisation of The Fourth International *Horticulture Research Conference*.

1. General programme

- The conference is being held at The Orchards Conference Centre, East Malling, Kent, UK (<http://www.theorchardseastmalling.co.uk/>).
- The programme will begin on Monday 17 July with the session “Genome engineering in horticultural crops” and the day will continue with the sessions “Fruit development, functional food and quality” and “Flowering and environmental adaptation”. The sessions will be followed by a Welcome Reception and the first of two poster sessions at the conference venue.
- The second day, Tuesday 18 July, will see a continuation of the sessions, with the second poster session in the evening followed by the Conference Dinner at Bradbourne House.
- The conference will end on Wednesday 19 July with an opportunity to visit Fruit Focus, the largest technical event in the UK for the fruit industry, <http://www.fruitfocus.co.uk/>, which will include tours of the East Malling Vineyard, Strawberry Breeding Programme and other technical presentations. However, we do encourage you to stay an extra night to take part in the excursion (see below)!
- Refreshments and lunch for the three days are included in the registration fee.
- The draft scientific program can be found at our website (<http://hortres-conference.org/page.asp?id=51>).

2. News on excursions!!!

- In addition to the technical tours at Fruit Focus, the local scientific committee has organised a tour to discover the world-famous Kew Gardens and London.
- Kew Gardens are the home to the largest global collection of living plants. During your tour, an enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide will introduce you to the Gardens' history, give you behind-the-scenes access to the scientific work involved in the preservation of the 30,000 different plant species, and guide you around at least one of Kew's famous glasshouses.
- Before visiting the gardens, you will enjoy a whistle-stop tour of London's famous monuments and marvel at the history of London's modern masterpieces.
- If you have not registered for the excursion yet and would like to do so, please go to our optional extras page (<https://www.niab.com/shop/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=2668>) to book your participation in the post-conference tour.
- We also warmly welcome accompanying people to join us. If an accompanying person wishes to join the Conference events, you can now register them online (<https://www.niab.com/shop/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=2668>), the registration fee is £120 and includes admission to the Welcome Reception, Fruit Focus and Conference Dinner.

3. Abstract submission

- Important deadline: **Abstract submission 21 May 2017.**

- To submit your abstract if you haven't done so far, create an account at <http://www.hortres-conference.org/regsys/registration.asp?step=one>.
- A reminder that all posters are required to be **A0 portrait size** (841 x 1189 mm).

4. Recommended accommodation

a) **Village Hotel Maidstone**

Castle View,
Forstal Road,
Maidstone,
ME14 3AQ

To book: www.village-hotels.co.uk/hotels/maidstone/

(For a discounted rate at the Village Hotel – mention *Orchards Conference Centre*)

b) **Premier Inn Maidstone (Sandling)**

Forstal Road,
Lock Lane,
Sandling,
ME14 3AS

To book:

<http://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/kent/maidstone/maidstone-sandling.html>

- The registration fee includes travel between the conference venue and the two recommended hotels above, during the three days of the conference (schedule to be distributed at a later date).
- There are other hotels within the vicinity of The Orchards Conference Centre, the nearest and within walking distance is **Larkfield Priory Hotel** (<https://www.larkfieldpriory.co.uk/home.html>). The **Premier Inn Maidstone (Leybourne)** is within driving distance or short taxi drive away (<http://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/kent/maidstone/maidstone-leybourne.html>).

All this information, and much more is available at <http://hortres-conference.org/>. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to East Malling in July!

Kind Regards,

The Organising Team.