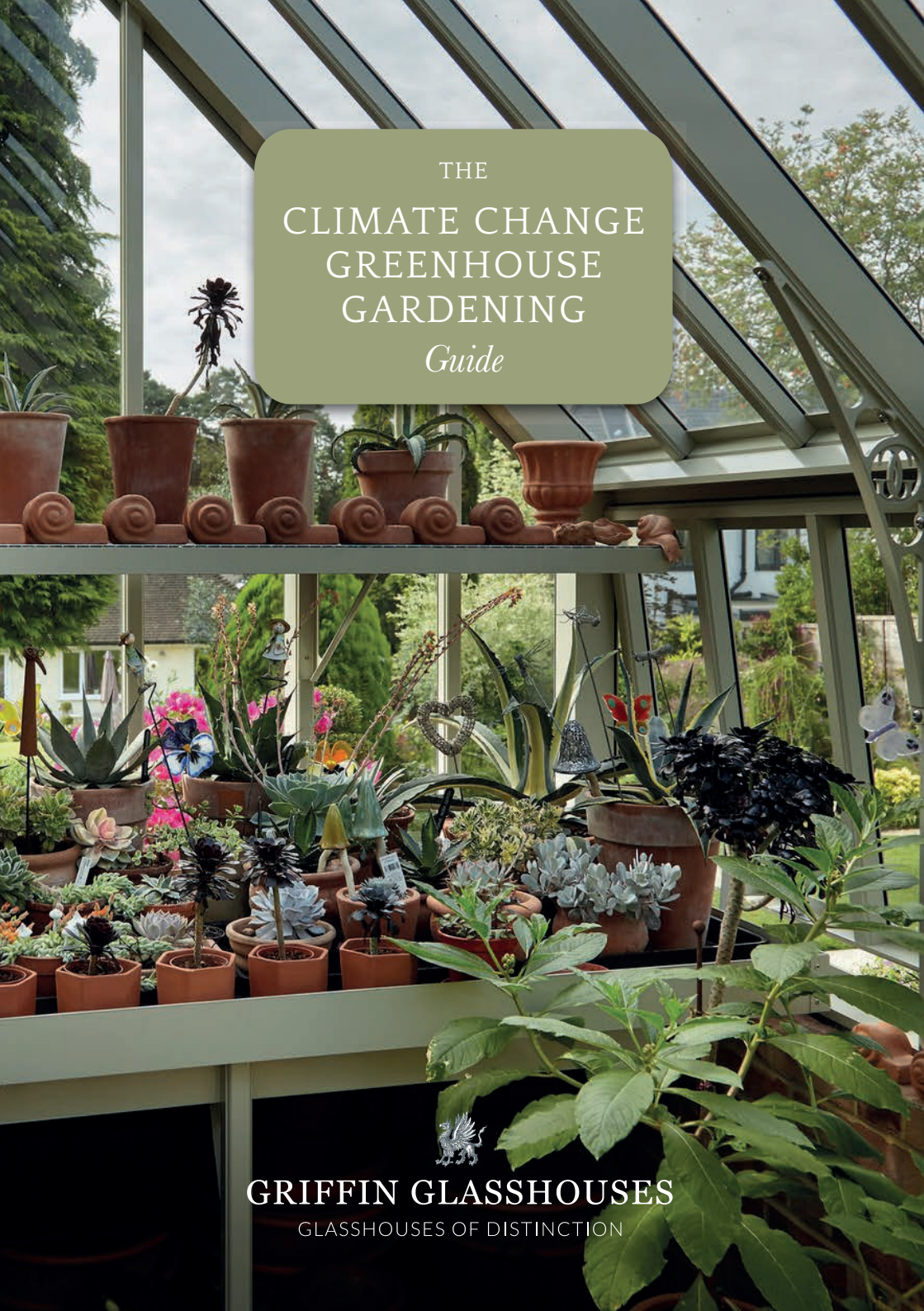


THE  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
GREENHOUSE  
GARDENING

*Guide*



**GRIFFIN GLASSHOUSES**

GLASSHOUSES OF DISTINCTION

We are witnessing unprecedented change in our climate. The ten hottest years recorded in the UK were between 2006 and 2023, with 2024 predicted as one of the warmest yet.



## CLIMATE CHANGE ISN'T SIMPLY ABOUT RISING TEMPERATURES

Drought, torrential rainfall and unseasonable frosts are increasing. Storms can produce damaging winds, flooding and intense hail.

A modern greenhouse protects against these extremes, creating opportunities for growing traditional and new fruits and vegetables.

Griffin Glasshouses, a family owned and managed greenhouse designer and manufacturer for more than 50 years, has produced this guide to greenhouse gardening in a changing climate.

Linda Lane, Managing Director of the company and daughter of the founder, explains:

*“We can adapt existing greenhouse gardening methods in a sustainable way that helps reduce our personal carbon footprint. These are listed below and are open to all gardeners.”*

THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, WITH CONSTANT SWITCHES FROM DROUGHT TO FLOODS AND TORRENTIAL RAIN, INTERSPERSED WITH GALES, HAIL AND UNSEASONAL FROSTS, IMPACTS DIRECTLY ON GARDENERS.

It is making direct sowing of seeds into the garden almost impossible. This is why I am delighted to write this foreword to Griffin Glasshouses Climate Change Greenhouse Gardening Guide for fruit and vegetables.

The guide highlights both the changes greenhouse owners can make to adjust their gardening to meet the challenges of climate change and identifies opportunities to grow exciting new fruits and vegetables.

A well designed and correctly positioned greenhouse creates the ideal conditions to grow and protect plants and seedlings from the various ravages of climate change. It is also the most lovely place to garden, protected from the worst the weather can throw at us.

Growing and cultivating our own fruits and vegetables is a delight and a real benefit to health. We know the precise provenance of what we are harvesting and are eating seasonally, with no air miles.



I have enjoyed a greenhouse for the last 30 years of my gardening life and this guide will help you to successfully navigate all the challenges posed by climate change.

Happy gardening,



*Bunny Guinness*

**Bunny Guinness**

*Landscape Architect,  
Broadcaster, Writer & Columnist*

# Key changes for growing success

## KEEP COOL

It is essential to reduce the temperature inside a greenhouse on warm days, creating a great growing environment for plants and seedlings. Griffin specify the right number of ventilators for every greenhouse. The vents are large, open as wide as possible and can be automatic or manually operated. They are designed to withstand damaging winds.

## COLLECT RAINWATER

The need to collect and store rainwater is specified by the majority of Griffin customers. Rain water is kept in tanks underneath the greenhouse benching and is pumped out when needed. When watering, a saucer or drip tray under pots allows runoffs to be reabsorbed back into the compost. Don't let plants sit in water for too long.



## REDUCE WATER USAGE

Install irrigation systems into a new or existing greenhouse. They deliver water to plants when and where they need it. This reduces the overall amount required and therefore, any wastage. Irrigation can be retro fitted to all Griffin greenhouses.

## REUSE HEAT

Fitting air bricks into the greenhouse wall that directly link to an adjoining cold frame enables the warm air to be reused elsewhere. Just remember to close the air vent covers when the cold frames are empty.



## SUN & SHADE

Internal roller blinds can be included in the design, giving you flexibility to grow a wider range such as orchid and alpiners, or just help bring temperatures down on hot days.

## SAFETY

Concerns about strong winds and gales is that glass can be blown out of a greenhouse. This cannot happen to a Griffin greenhouse due to the patented glazing system.

## LIFE TIME GUARANTEE

All Griffin greenhouses carry a lifetime structural guarantee and are virtually maintenance free. This is achieved by using the finest available materials for construction.

# Top tips for successful fruit & vegetable greenhouse growing



## HOW TO WATER WELL

Plants need varying amounts of water, depending on the species, how vigorously they are growing and the weather conditions.

Check plants every few days. Keep the compost moist, but not soggy – insert your finger into the compost to check if you are not sure and water again when it feels only slightly damp.

Pot or seed tray weight is also a good indication of whether watering is required. Ideally water early in the morning or evening.

Direct water to the base of the plants, under the foliage.



## GET THE BEST FROM COMPOST

There are a wide variety of different compost options available. The top layer in a pot can appear dry while the underneath is actually wet, so check as described above for the best results.

Additionally, you'll need to feed crops – go for natural products, such as seaweed, and stick to the instructions on the pack for best results.



## HOW TO POSITION PLANTS

Most fruit and vegetables need full sun and no shade to produce their best crops, especially in winter. However, if you have shade under the leaves of tall growing plants such as cucumbers and tomatoes, grow salad crops and leafy herbs such as basil and coriander at the base to maximise space.

## SPOT GARDEN PESTS

Don't worry if you see a few greenfly or the odd grey leaves from powdery mildew, they are all part of the biodiversity in your garden.

If they start to cause damage, try simple controls such as squashing the insects or snipping off affected leaves. Be on guard for red spider mite, slugs and snails. Nematodes provide a safe and effective control in the greenhouse. Keep your greenhouse clean and tidy and do not use it as a store room – the perfect haven for unwanted pests.



## PROVIDE A WINTER WARMER

A greenhouse is a warmer environment in which you can grow your plants, but they are not frost free (+5°C) without heating. Electric, thermostatically controlled heating options are efficient and you can buy green-tariff energy to reduce your carbon footprint – aim to provide the minimum temperature needed to keep your plants alive.

Heated or unheated propagation units are ideal to germinate seeds without needing to heat the whole greenhouse. Horticultural fleece, even light corrugated cardboard, placed over plants at night, help reduce cold.



# Which fruit & vegetables can I grow?

Climate change presents greenhouse gardeners with opportunities to try growing a wider range of crops. Popular plants such as tomato, cucumber, peppers, chillies, aubergines and salad crops can still be grown, but it is time to experiment. Plants on this list are fairly easy to grow and, if you follow our tips, you should get a tasty meal by the end of summer. If it is too late to sow seeds, buy plants.



## YAM & COLOCASIA

These fleshy tubers are potted up and grow to make fantastic foliage plants. If they grow well, they'll produce more tubers to eat. They love humidity, so damp the floor in the morning to boost air moisture levels.

## SWEET POTATOES

Although these can be grown outside in the south of England, they crop much better in a greenhouse. Buy as young plants (slips) and pot up or plant in a grow bag. Keep compost moist but not soggy.

## LEMON GRASS & CURRY BUSH

Grow in pots for tasty lemon grass stems and curry leaves. These need warmer winter conditions, so you'll need to provide a minimum temperature of 5°C for lemon grass. Curry plant likes it warmer still, so bring into a sunny room in the house.



## LAB LAB BEANS & COW PEAS

These twining climbers will grow up trellis and net supports with ease. Cook the pods of lab lab and the beans of both for a delicious alternative to traditional beans you'd grow in the garden. They just need to be kept well-watered and fed.

## BITTER & SNAKE GOURDS

These climbing plants simply need strings or netting to grow up. They like the heat, plenty of water and humid conditions to thrive. Grow from seed as plants are harder to find.

## GINGER & TURMERIC

Grow the roots in large pots where their rhizomes (thickened roots) can spread. Plant the roots at or just below the soil surface. Fresh roots, grated or chopped, have a unique, zingy flavour.

# Climate change is a constantly changing picture

As all gardeners know, we have to adapt to the conditions we are experiencing to changing weather patterns.

A greenhouse is an excellent refuge for plants and gardeners alike: it is more enjoyable to be gardening under glass than in a rainstorm! We will keep our online information updated as conditions alter and as new ways of dealing with our climate emerge.

Our website [www.griffinglasshouses.com/climatechange](http://www.griffinglasshouses.com/climatechange) will give advice to enable you to download the most up to date version of this leaflet free of charge.

If you have devised any innovative ways of coping with our weather, we would love to hear from you. Please send your thoughts and ideas to [grahampaskett@paskett.co.uk](mailto:grahampaskett@paskett.co.uk)



*Happy greenhouse gardening!*



Linda Lane is Managing Director of the family owned and managed Griffin Glasshouses at Ropley in Hampshire.

## Griffin Glasshouses Ltd

Unit 3 Dean Farm Buildings, Bighton Hill,  
Ropley, Hampshire, SO24 9SQ, UK.

Email: [sales@griffinglasshouses.com](mailto:sales@griffinglasshouses.com)

Telephone: +44 (0)1962 772512

[www.griffinglasshouses.com](http://www.griffinglasshouses.com)



**GRIFFIN GLASSHOUSES**  
GLASSHOUSES OF DISTINCTION