

Introduction

ACT Publishing Ltd is a small privately owned Trade & Technical horticultural publishing organisation founded in 1984.

Three monthly trade publications are produced primarily for the UK horticulture market, namely; "The Commercial Greenhouse Grower" established in 1995 with a circulation directed to protected growers of food crops and ornamental plants. "The Vegetable Farmer" est. 1990, directed to commercial growers of field vegetables, and "The Fruit Grower" est. 1984, directed to commercial growers of soft fruit, tree fruits and vines. All three titles are principally distributed to a UK readership on a paid subscription basis, although there is also a proportion of overseas circulation involved with all three titles.

Each title has an experienced manager who is responsible for commissioning editorial from journalists, generating appropriate advertising and overseeing production of each monthly issue. The responsible manager for The Fruit Grower is Chris Tanton (since 2001) The Vegetable Farmer, Joseph Champneys (since 1990) and Commercial Greenhouse Grower, John Downy (since 2013)

Total staff as at 2015 comprises three full time plus six part-time members.

Editorial

All editorial is provided by journalists who are specialists within their specific horticultural & agricultural fields. The majority are members of The Guild of Agricultural Journalists or NUJ and have particular academic qualifications or working knowledge that enables them to provide technical material that resonates with a knowledgeable readership.

Complaints regarding editorial issues are extremely rare and usually concern misspelling of names, dates, photograph captions and such like rather than objections to content. Should a reader have any issue with content we are happy to be informed by telephone, email or post. The matter is then referred to the journalist involved. In the event of the journalist informing our Publisher and title manager that an error has been agreed, ACT Publishing would under most circumstances publish an apology and correction in the next available issue.

We expect commissioned journalists to operate within the guidelines of the writer organisations that they may belong to, and we are happy to offer financial help for any training offered by those organisations.

Journalists are provided with ACT Publishing's 'Guidelines for Editorial Contributors' which reiterates the need for journalists to check with sources to eliminate factual errors and consider any legal implications that could be raised within the material to be published.

We understand also that IPSO offers pre-publication guidance. ACT Publishing has not yet sought pre-publication guidance from IPSO, however we would do so if we needed advice on interpreting the Editors' Code of Practice or the public interest exception.

The new version of the Editor's Code (issued 1st January 2016) has been circulated to all staff at ACT who have any dealings with editorial content – either in our magazines, yearbooks or on-line. We have also circulated it to our main editorial contributors.

Compliance

There have been no known instances of complaints against ACT Publishing Ltd which have been ruled on by IPSO's complaints committee.

The contact at ACT Publishing is Joseph Champneys.