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Press release: 8th January 2010

Organic Herb Farmer Wins RHS Lawrence Medal - and organic herb sales are on the up!

Jekka McVicar's garden gnome obtained notoriety last year, as a gatecrasher at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. But this did not detract from organic herb farmer, Jekka's gold medal winning floral herb display; it was recently announced that this very display has achieved the coveted RHS Lawrence Medal, awarded annually by the RHS for the best exhibit shown to the society during the year. The award will be formally presented on the eve of the RHS London Plant and Design Show at the RHS Horticultural Halls on February 15th. "This is a first for an organic nursery, *and* for a herb nursery," says 14 times Chelsea gold medal winner, Jekka "proving unquestionably that organic herbs not only taste and smell amazing and are incredibly beneficial, they can actually look stunning in your garden too!" 2009 was Jekka's final floral exhibit at Chelsea, so she's delighted to have 'gone out' with aplomb "We are a tiny nursery occupying just 1 hectare, competing with large non-organic growers from all over the world, so the Lawrence Medal is a huge honour for us". That is not to say Jekka's herbs won't be at Chelsea in future, as the herb farm debuts their first ever Main Avenue trade stand at the show this year.

In spite of the recession, writer and broadcaster Jekka has had an excellent year: she appears in the latest edition of annual publication, *Who's Who*, and organic herb sales are on the up. Jekka's herb farm near Bristol, which grows over 600 herb varieties for mail order, is busier than ever and to meet with demand, is holding five Open Days this year:



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March 26th -28th; April 23rd – 25th; June 11th – 13th; July 23rd -25th;
September 3rd – 5th.

Jekka hosts (pre-bookable) herb workshops, and proudly takes visitors on a tour of the farm that she started over 25 years ago. For the first year ever, the farm Open Days have on-site catering so visitors can enjoy seasonally produced, locally sourced refreshments. "2010 promises to be the best year ever for organic herb farming" states Jekka "and I've achieved my goal: by banging the organic drum for so many years, the message has got through. What more could I wish for?" For further details, visit www.jekkasherbfarm.com.



Ends. Note for Editors

1. For hi-res images, or more information, please contact Vicki Young
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