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02/02/2007 - Horticulture Student wins Floranova Scholarship

The David Colegrave Foundation is pleased to announce the first award winner of the Floranova Ornamental Horticulture Research Scholarship. The Floranova Ornamental Horticulture Research Scholarship was launched in August 2006. Funded by Floranova, the U.K.-based flower seed breeder, it provides an award of £1,500 annually to a student with a particular interest in ornamental horticulture research and development.

The winner is Sophie Loftus, who is in her final year at Writtle College, studying for her BSc. in Horticulture. Reflecting the increasingly international profile of horticulture, Sophie was schooled in Germany and has worked and studied in various horticultural businesses in the U.K., France and Greece. She also spent several months at the Agricultural University of Poznan, Poland where she was involved in research at the university's department for Seed Science and Technology. She plans to use her research work on Verbena seed germination as the basis of her undergraduate dissertation.



Sophie is delighted with the award. In her application she stated: "I would love to work in the seed industry and a placement with Floranova would be like a dream come true. The scholarship would help me financially as currently my main source of funds is from my family."

Floranova, based in Norfolk, has made a minimum 5-year commitment to fund this award to help foster the development of important skills in R&D, including plant breeding, biotechnology and seed technology. The award will be given to a student who has proven merit and who would like to pursue a research career in the horticultural industry. It is expected that a work experience opportunity at Floranova will also be made available to the award winner.

Mike Summers, Managing Director of Floranova, said: "We are pleased to work with the David Colegrave Foundation to fund this new scholarship. We consider it vital to provide support to the reducing numbers of qualified R&D graduates that are coming through the system in the U.K."

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Notes to editors:

Floranova Ltd. is based in Foxley, Norfolk with subsidiaries in Costa Rica and the United States. It is a world-leading breeder of bedding and container plants, including Geraniums, Petunias, Salvia, Marigolds and a wide range of other crops. It is the only remaining British company dedicated to the breeding of seed-raised ornamentals.

www.floranova.co.uk

David Colegrave was one of Britain's leading seedsman, founding the U.K.'s largest ornamental seed company. The David Colegrave Foundation was established following his death in 1992 and seeks to provide scholarships for horticulture students. The David Colegrave Foundation is administered by The Horticultural Trades Association.

www.davidcolegravefoundation.org.uk