

HINTS AND TIPS FOR EXHIBITORS

These hints are offered particularly to encourage new exhibitors. Don't say "I've nothing to show" have a look around your garden and perhaps start with a novice class.

There are three shows during the year – Spring, Summer and Autumn.

The first thing to do is to carefully read the schedule. The schedule lists the classes you can enter for each show and also the show rules and show timetable.

Once you have chosen the classes for the relevant show that you want to enter you need to submit your entries to the Show Secretary. The show timetable tells you how to do this.

On arriving at the hall on the Friday evening or Saturday morning of the show you will find your exhibitor entry cards on a table just inside the main hall. Your cards will have your name, the class number and a brief description of the class on them.

You can arrange your exhibits in the jubilee room where you will find the green vases and paper plates.

Flowers:

Unless otherwise stated in the schedule, flowers are arranged in green vases provided by the society. Make sure that they are firmly in the vase. You can use kitchen roll or newspaper to wedge the stems in the vases if you wish and remember to make sure that the container is well filled with water to prevent wilting during the show. If you know the variety of the flower please write this on a label alongside the exhibit.

Pot Plants Where a maximum size of pot is given this refers to the inside measurement of the pot. It is quite in order to use a smaller size pot than the maximum.

Vegetables:

Runner beans, French beans, Peas and Cucumbers: They should be of a similar size and shape and should all have a stalk attached.

Fruit:

Soft Fruit: Raspberries etc. should all have the calyx(stalk) attached

Currants: These are exhibited on a strig(bunch) and are best detached from the plant with scissors. Check the weight of your exhibit as the schedule states approx. 225g.

Cookery:

If a recipe is provided for a particular class, it must be followed.

All cookery exhibits are displayed on a plate or bowl provided by yourself. They must be covered in cling film or a domed cover.

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Jams, Marmalades etc: These must be in clean jars the size of which is stated in the schedule. The lids on the jars must be new.

Once you have your exhibit ready you need to place it in the correct class number in the main hall. Your entry card needs to be placed face down next to your exhibit.

Judging takes place at 10.30am on the day of the show so your exhibits need to be in place in the hall by 10.15am.

Some of these tips may look a bit daunting but remember that there are always more experienced members at the shows who are always willing to give advice. The Show Secretary has the most up-to-date edition of the RHS Horticultural Show Handbook available to all on show days for additional information regarding all aspects of showing

SHOW TIMETABLE

1. Entries are to be submitted in advance of the show. The preferred method, which helps keep the Show Secretary's administration to a minimum, is by delivery to:
 - a) by hand/mail to the Show Secretary, 36 Dukes Road, Lindfield
 - b) by telephone to Deborah Novotny, Show Secretary: 01444 483871 no later than 1.00pm on the Thursday before the show
 - c) by email to Deborah Novotny, Show Secretary: showsec@lindfieldhorts.org.uk no later than 1.00pm on the Thursday before the show.

Entry fees may be paid in advance or upon collection of the show cards at the hall prior to staging your exhibits.

A limited number of late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Show Superintendent up to 10.00am on the day of the show.

2. Exhibits may be staged on the day before the show (Friday) between 7.00pm and 9.00pm and on the day of the show (Saturday), between 8.00 am and 10.30 am. On the day of the show (Saturday) flower arrangers are asked to finish their staging by 10.15am.
3. Apart from those authorized by the show superintendent, all persons including exhibitors are requested to vacate the hall by 10.30am at the latest with all their belongings. Judging will then commence.
4. Exhibitors and the public will be admitted to the show at 2.00pm.
5. Prize money must be collected from the Hon. Treasurer between 3.30pm and 4.30pm after which time any money not collected will be forfeited.
6. Exhibitors may remove their exhibits at the conclusion of the presentations and raffle which will commence at 4.45 pm. Any exhibits remaining may be auctioned for the benefit of the Society.

SHOW RULES

1. All classes are open to any exhibitors unless otherwise stated.
2. The Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry and, in the event of such refusal, it is not required to give any reason or explanation.
3. No exhibitor may make more than one entry in any one class.
4. Where a number or quantity of plants, flowers, fruit or vegetables is specified in the schedule for a class, that exact quantity must be shown and an exhibit will be disqualified for any excess or deficiency. A judge must write on the entry card "Not according to schedule" (NAS) and add a factual note as to why it is marked so. Single exhibits in an NAS collection cannot then be considered for any other award (NAS).

If, before an exhibit is judged, any excess or deficiency is noticed the Show Superintendent, Show Secretary or Show Steward ONLY may either give the exhibitor (if at hand) an opportunity to correct the mistake or correct it himself/herself but the officials shall not be under any obligation to do so and any disqualification resulting from an excess or deficiency shall be the exhibitor's responsibility.

5. Prizes may be withheld. Prizes may not be awarded to exhibits considered to be below standard.
6. The decision of the judges shall be final on the relative merits of the exhibits, but the Committee reserves the right to refer any points in dispute to the Show Superintendent for a decision.
7. Any protest must be made in writing and delivered to the Show Secretary within one hour of the opening of the Show to the public.
8. After judging has taken place, no exhibit nor part of an exhibit may be altered or removed until the end of the show, except by special permission of the Show Superintendent.

9. All exhibits, personal property, etc. shall be at the risk of the exhibitors and the Society shall not be liable for compensation for loss or damage from any cause whatsoever. Should a show for any cause not be held, no exhibitor shall have any claim on the Society. Exhibitors will be wholly responsible for all claims made by their own employees under the Common Law or under any statute for compensation arising out of or in the course of such employment for injury or otherwise. The Society has no responsibility to any but its own employees.

10. Cups and trophies will be awarded at the end of each show. However, winners must leave the trophies for engraving. The exhibitor to whom a cup or other trophy is awarded must return it to the Show Secretary the following year prior to the appropriate show.

Winning exhibitors who are NOT society members will not be given temporary possession of cups or trophies.

11. Unless otherwise stated in the schedule, the prize money in all classes will be £1.00 for First, 60p for Second and 40p for Third.

The prize for the best exhibits in the Flower, Vegetable (excluding collections), Pot Plant, Fruit, Cookery and Handicraft classes is £1.00.

12. Where cups or trophies are awarded for most points, these will be awarded on the basis of: 1st:5 points, 2nd:3 points and 3rd:2 points. Collections, basket/trug and any special classes are excluded. A 'Best Exhibit' will be awarded a further 3 points. In the event of a tie for an award decided on points, the winner shall be the exhibitor gaining the highest total amount of prize money, including the best exhibit prize money, in the classes for which the equal number of points has been awarded.

13. Unless the schedule specifically states otherwise, any plant, flower, fruit or vegetable exhibited must be the property of the person in whose name it is entered, and must have been grown by the exhibitor or been in his/her possession or cared for by

him/her for at least two months prior to the date of the show. In the case of a professional gardener entering produce from the garden in which he/she is employed the exhibits must be entered in the name of the employer.

14. In order to be satisfied that the conditions governing exhibits are fulfilled, the Committee reserves the right for its official representative to visit by appointment, before or after a show, the gardens/allotments from which plants, flowers, fruit or vegetables have been entered for exhibition.
15. Unless otherwise stated in the schedule, two or more persons may not compete separately in the same class with produce from the same garden and/or allotment. They may however exhibit in joint names. An exception to this rule however applies in pot plant classes where two or more persons may exhibit separately in the same class a different kind of pot plant to those other members of the same household, provided that the exhibitor is mainly responsible for the maintenance of the plant.
16. All exhibits should be correctly named. Errors in naming will not disqualify the entry but the judges should regard correctness and clearness of naming as telling in favour of an exhibit in a close competition. If the exhibitor does not know the name of any cultivar, the label should bear the words "name unknown".
17. Plates will be provided by the Society where appropriate and must be used when shown in the schedule. The Society's vases must be used for all Flower classes except where otherwise shown in the schedule.
18. Unless otherwise stated, the horticultural classes of the schedule will be conducted in accordance with the rules and standards contained in the RHS's 'The Horticultural Show Handbook 2016 edition' except where, under the schedule, they obviously do not apply

19. When staging an exhibit in 'any other vegetable' or 'any other fruit' classes the exhibitor should refer to the 'collections' staging numbers (see index) to ascertain the entry required. However if the exhibit is not listed they should contact the Show Superintendent (or Show Secretary) to obtain a ruling on quantities required.

Applicable to Flower Arranging Section only

20. Flower arranging exhibits must be arranged at the hall with the exception of those under 25.5cm (10") and those where it specifically states in the schedule that they can be arranged at home. Flowers and foliage need not be grown by the exhibitor or unless otherwise stated in the schedule. With regard to the non-petite classes only, in addition to any prize money each entrant will be entitled to a payment of £2 per entry.

Applicable to Cookery Section only

21. All exhibits must be made, cooked or prepared by the exhibitor. For Jams, Marmalades and other Preserves the jar sizes are not to be less than 227g (1/2lb.) jars and lids must not bear commercial names. Jam and marmalade jars must be covered with a new twist top, or waxed disc and cellophane, labels must include the main fruit used and be dated. Pickles and chutney must have new plastic-lined metal lids.
22. For Cakes, Pastries, Sweets and Desserts etc. the entries should be covered with cling-film or similar protective cover. Where ingredients are optional and not part of a class recipe, exhibitors should indicate whether any nuts and/or cheese have been included.

Applicable to Handicraft Section only

26. All exhibits must have been made by the exhibitor.

Applicable to Handicraft, Photography and Junior Sections only

27. All exhibits must not have been entered at any previous shows held by the Society.

Applicable to Wine and Liqueur Section only

28. All exhibits must be made by the exhibitor.

Applicable to Photography Section only

29. All photographs must have been taken by the exhibitor.

Applicable to Junior Section only

30. With the exception of general advice, all exhibits must be the unaided work of the exhibit or; unless otherwise stated in the schedule.