

General

1 Do I need to label my exhibits

Yes please if at all possible! This is really helpful for other exhibitors and show visitors. We will provide blank exhibit labels at the hall on Show Day

2 Who can enter an open class

Anyone can enter, it is completely open eg you do not need to live in Grayshott, and you do not need to be a member of the society, or a relative of society member

3 Where I enter with my own container, are there any rules about colour or decoration

There are no rules about colour or decoration of containers – it is the plants that are judged, so no extra marks are given for even the most beautiful pot!

4 Is the vase size for exhibits absolute

It really depends on the class – unless the class is marked with an *, the vase is provided and the size is absolute. If the class is displayed on a plate eg home produce, then the plate is provided, and we select the plate size to show the exhibit to best advantage.

For those classes where the exhibitor provides the vase etc, then the wording clarifies eg if the bowl is a maximum of 6” – it cannot be more; if the container has a minimum size of 10” – it cannot be less.

5 Is there a general guide to how the judging is carried out

Yes, the guidance for judging is published in the Horticultural Show Handbook, which is the official guide to organising, judging and competing in a show. Home Produce is judged according the rules of the National Federation of Women’s Institutes

6 What time can I bring my exhibits to the hall on Show Day

The hall is open for entrants from 8.40 to 10am. Please come to the small hall, where tables are set up for you to perfect your entries. Vases, plates and water are provided

If you are exhibiting in a large number of classes, it may be possible for you to come earlier than 8.40 am – you’ll be contacted on the Friday afternoon before the show if this is the case

Plants and Flowers

1 How do I buy my bulbs for entering the Spring Show

These are usually available at the September club night

2 How do I know which class to enter my daffodils in

There is a guide in the handbook and on our website. There is also a classified list on the internet. If in doubt, please ask a steward when you bring your exhibits on Show Day

Please note that daffodils of the same cultivar should be displayed, unless otherwise specified

3 How do I know which class to enter my tulips in

There is a guide on the website. If in doubt, please ask a steward when you bring your exhibits on show day

Please note that tulips of the same cultivar should be displayed, unless otherwise specified

4 How do I ensure my exhibit is pollen free, particularly my lilies?

It is best to clean off pollen using cotton buds, at the hall on Show Day.

Cotton buds will be provided for your use

Cut Exhibits

1 How do I know which class to enter my camellias in

There are several camellia classes. If your flower has one layer/row of up to 8 petals, then it is a single camellia. The double camellia classes are for any other flower type – there is a guide on the website. For double camellias, there are three classes for different colours

2 How do I tell the difference between an Azalea and a Rhododendron?

We have divided class 25 in the Spring Show with a) being a rhododendron stem and b) an azalea stem (both in own vase).

Both are in the genus Rhododendron, but azaleas can be distinguished by having five stamens per flower (one per lobe) whereas rhododendrons have 10 or more (two per lobe). Azaleas can be deciduous or evergreen, rhododendrons are all evergreen.

If in doubt, please ask a steward when you bring your exhibits on Show Day

3 What is a primula?

In the Spring Show, there are two classes for primulas – classes 30 and 37

Primulas include primroses, cowslips, oxslips and any polyanthus or auricula

4 Can I use seed heads in my cut mixed flowers?

The cut mixed flower classes (Spring 33 and Summer 22) cannot include seed heads.

5 Can I use wire in the container to support my blooms

Yes, please ensure that the wire is low enough in the container to not be visible.

6 Does a single stem include the leaves

Yes, if the leaves enhance the exhibit, and do not overshadow it. Please remove any damaged leave

Fruit and Vegetables

1 How do I get my potatoes for entering the Summer Show

These are usually available at the February club night

2 How is the potato competition judged

Judges look for clean, blemish free, medium sized uniform tubers, well-shaped with shallow eyes, ideally of the same size

3 Do my snap peas go into class 50 or 51 in the Summer Show

Class 51

4 What is a strig

According to the RHS, a strig is a term relating to currants or berries of a similar bearing habit. Strig indicates a bunch, or in botanical terms, a complete raceme or panicle of berries. It is best detached from the plant with scissors and should not include any of the woody section at the base

5 Can I display leaves with my currants

Yes, any leaves should be under the currants to ensure good visibility for the judging

6 Can Summer class 40 include strawberries/raspberries/black/red/white currants ie the same fruits as classes 35-39?

Yes

7 I grow both summer and autumn raspberries – are there classes for both?

There is only one class for raspberries, Summer 36, as they are deemed a single fruit. Please exhibit only one variety, not a mix of both ie not a mix of red and yellow fruits

Similarly, in Summer class 40 – A collection of fruits – please exhibit only one variety

8 I grow both red and green gooseberries – are there classes for both?

There is only one class for gooseberries, Summer 37, as they are deemed a single fruit. Please exhibit only one variety, not a mix of both ie not a mix of red and green fruits

Similarly, in Summer class 40 – A collection of fruits – please exhibit only one variety

9 What class can I enter round courgettes in?

Summer 63 – at least two of any other vegetable

Floral Arrangements

1 Has the RHS banned the use of standard oasis?

Only for their own shows, not for affiliated clubs and societies

2 What can I use instead of oasis in my flower arranging

Please use only bio degradable oasis. Alternatively, you can use pin holders, chicken wire, pebbles, sand, gravel, clay, marbles, compact moss, or a potato

Photography

1 What is the maximum size for my entry for the photo class

The maximum size is 21cm x 30.5cm – this includes any mount and/or frame