

Hints for Preparing for and entering a Show

Buy a Show Schedule [£1] so that you can plan ahead if you wish to. The current one will last until 2027. You will find the schedules for the Summer and Autumn Shows in the one booklet. Make sure you are referring to the correct show when you list class numbers.

Read all the important information on pages 1, 2 and the back page.

Look through the classes to pick out those which you think you might enter. **Be brave, you never know what might happen. People have been surprised!**

When you have chosen a class, check the specification; size of pot, number of flowers, fruit or vegetables to be displayed, instructions about trimming them etc. If you use the internet you can look up whatever you are planning to enter on the RHS website for more detailed information. Alternatively, you can ask Alan or Shirley for advice.

Fill in an entry form, available at the meeting before the Show or on the website and send or deliver to me by 8pm on the Thursday before a Show. Alternatively you can phone or email me.

Remove any blemished leaves and fading blooms from plants.

Make sure that the pot your plant is in looks good. When Mike Ottaway spoke to us at a recent meeting he stressed this point, and suggested putting a pot inside a better looking one of the same size if necessary.

At the show:

- Preparing your exhibits takes place in the Olive Hasletine where other entrants will be happy to offer advice. There are vases of different sizes for displaying flowers available as well as watering cans and buckets. Bring your own newspaper, kitchen roll, moss etc to support the flowers, also your own scissors.
- Bring more than you need for each class you are entering. Select the best when you prepare your entry.
- You can put your entries in place from 9am onwards, and must have completed by 11.30. Collect your class slips from the Show Coordinator's table in the hall. Remember to stamp 'NOT FOR SALE' on those you wish to take away with you.

- Make sure you then put your entry into the correct class. If in doubt ask a steward.
- Paper plates are provided for displaying exhibits of vegetables or fruit. A nice leaf of the fruit type placed in the centre of the plate looks good. Look at what others have done. You can learn a lot that way.
- Cookery and Floral Art recipes and titles are to be found in the Supplementary Schedules available free of charge usually two months before the show.
- Paper plates are **not** now provided for cookery entries. Please bring entries ready plated. Make sure you follow the recipe precisely and note size required. Do not add additional decorations. Note the suggestion about cooking cakes in advance and freezing them.
- Floral Art. As with other classes make sure that your entry follows the specifications about size. It is very important that your entry is not too big, however slightly, but equally the judge will expect your entry to make good use of the space allowed.

Most important of all, please enter for shows, even if it's for only one class. We can't have a show without entries from our members. Invite people to come in the afternoon to enjoy looking at the displays.