



Royal
Horticultural
Society

Leaving a legacy to the RHS
Useful information



Pass on your **love** of gardening

Leaving a gift in your Will to the RHS is a wonderful way to pass on your love of gardening to future generations.

This booklet explains how you can leave a gift in your Will, your legacy, to the RHS.

Different types of **gifts**

There are four main ways of leaving a gift to the Royal Horticultural Society:

A residuary legacy

One of the easiest ways to leave money to a charity. This is the balance of your estate after all debts, taxes, expenses and other gifts have been paid.

You may leave the residue to one person or organisation, or you can divide it among any number of beneficiaries. The value of this type of gift will increase as the value of your estate increases.

A pecuniary legacy

A fixed amount of money. Over the course of time, this type of gift will lose value because of inflation and you may therefore wish to index link your cash gift.

A specific legacy

A gift of specific property such as antiques, shares or paintings. The Item(s) must be clearly described in your Will to avoid any possible confusion.

If the Will does not identify the property clearly, the gift may fail.

Remember also, that if you dispose of the property in your lifetime it will affect a gift of it in your Will.

A reversionary legacy

This is the means of leaving a gift to a chosen beneficiary such as the RHS, whilst meanwhile allowing another person to have the use of it during his or her lifetime.

For example, you may want someone to have the use of your home for the remainder of his or her life, or of the income from a fund. When s/he dies, the item will then pass to the RHS.

Suggested wording for leaving a legacy to the RHS

Here is some suggested wording to assist you when including a gift in your Will to the RHS. We recommend using a solicitor when making or updating your Will.

If you leave a gift in your Will to a charity, like the RHS, the gift is exempt from inheritance tax. Your solicitor will be able to offer you further advice and guidance on efficient tax planning.

1. Leaving the residue of your estate to the RHS:

This is when you leave the residue of your estate after all other gifts, costs and so on have been deducted. This type of gift will ensure that once these have been dealt with, the remainder of your estate (or a percentage of it) will be passed to the RHS.

We suggest the following wording:

I leave to the Royal Horticultural Society (registered charity number 222879/SCO38262) of 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE ("all" or state fraction) of the residue of my estate absolutely and direct that the receipt of an authorised officer of the said charity shall be good and sufficient discharge to my executors.

2. Pecuniary or fixed amount legacy:

When you want to leave a specific amount to the RHS:

I leave to the Royal Horticultural Society (registered charity number: 222879/SCO38262) of 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE absolutely the sum £... for its general purposes.



Or, if you wish to secure the value of your gift against the effects of inflation:

I leave to the Royal Horticultural Society (registered charity number: 222879/SCO38262) of 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE absolutely for its general purposes the sum of money produced by dividing the sum of £... by index figure in the Index of Retail Prices ('the index') for the month in which this will be executed and multiplying it by the index figure in the index month in which my death occurs. I declare that the receipt of an authorised officer shall be good and sufficient discharge to my executors.

3. Leaving a specific item

Your solicitors will be able to advise if you wish to leave a particular item to the RHS, preparing appropriate wording for your Will. Remember to give your solicitor a clear description of the possession.

4. If you want to change your existing Will

You can easily add a gift to the RHS to your existing Will using a short document called a Codicil. Your solicitor will advise you how to do this so that no legal or technical mistakes occur. No matter whether your gift is large or small, the RHS is extremely grateful for your support.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does the RHS need legacies?

Gifts in Wills provide vital income to the RHS. As a charity we receive no government support and much of our work can only continue through additional funding, including legacies. For every pound we raise from member subscriptions, we need to raise another pound to fund our charitable work.

Can I choose where you spend my legacy?

Yes, you can specify how your money is spent. However leaving a gift for us to use in the way that allows us the most flexibility and is of most benefit, means that we can use funds where they are most needed.

Can I be sure that you will spend my gift where I want it to be spent?

We will endeavour to spend your gift as you have requested. However in some circumstances where there are very specific terms attached to your legacy, we may not be able to spend or accept it if the terms do not fall under our remit of work. We do therefore ask if you intend to leave your gift for a very specific purposes, that you discuss it with us so that we can ensure we can carry out your wishes. We will very happily arrange meetings with our science and education departments, and gardens staff if you wish to discuss our work further.

What are the inheritance tax implications of leaving a legacy?

The RHS is a charity and money left to a charity is exempt from inheritance tax. Your solicitor will advise you if you could be liable to pay inheritance tax on your estate and



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can suggest ways of minimising your liability. For more information on inheritance tax and the latest inheritance tax threshold contact HM Revenue & Customs.

How do I make a Will?

A valid Will is the only guaranteed way for your wishes to be carried out and for your legacy to reach the RHS. Making a Will isn't complicated and shouldn't be costly. We strongly recommend that you use a solicitor to prepare your Will.

Can the RHS be one of my executors?

Unfortunately, the RHS is unable to act as an executor. We recommend that you choose two executors, who can be a professional advisor, family member or friend. Your solicitor will advise you as to the eligibility of a chosen executor.

Can I choose how much I want to leave and does it have to be for a lot of money?

You can specify exactly how much you would like to leave to the RHS and no, it doesn't have to be a lot of money; any contribution is much appreciated towards supporting our work.

Can I talk to someone about leaving a legacy to the RHS?

A member of the RHS Legacy Department would be happy to answer your queries. Please contact our legacy team on 020 7821 3125.



Contact us:

Legacies

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