

▼ New and exciting plants on show

❶ A new, un-named *Passiflora* for a frost-free glasshouse, from Tynings Climbers of Somerset (01275 852439). Available June 2012. ❷ Dazzling, new *Coreopsis* 'Cosmic Eye' (Big Bang Series), shown by Cath's Garden Plants of Cumbria (01539 561126); price £7.50. ❸ New *Salvia* 'Amistad', shown by Proctors Nursery of Staffordshire (07803 940759); price £8. ❹ New *Geum* 'Emory Quinn', bred by Roger Proud of ProudPlants, Cumbria (01768 896604); price: £5. ❺ *Brugmansia sanguinea* subsp. *vulcanicola* 'Mystic Ice', new from Naieus Exotics, Derbyshire (07871 315312) £22.95.



RHS Flower Show Tatton Park

A tradition for creativity, innovation and horticultural excellence has been established at the RHS Flower Show Tatton Park. This continued in 2011 with superb gardens, glorious floral displays, interesting plants and the crowning of the RHS National Young Designer of the Year

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▲ 'A Stitch in Time Saves Nine'

Aiming to be a 'respite for urban dwellers', this Competition Garden was inspired by the grid system of an orchard. An avenue of trees, including crab apple *Malus Perpetua* ('Evereste'), was underplanted by a wildflower meadow; rain gullies criss-cross the space, with oak 'bridges' allowing access throughout.

Concern for sustainability and the need for urban gardens to be attractive places were melded into the design, which was by Daniela Coray. Formerly a student at University College Falmouth, she won the title RHS National Young Designer of the Year, a competition sponsored by the Society.



◀ 'Dinosaurs at Large!'

This Back to Back Garden was created to represent the plants - ferns, mosses, conifers and cycads - that existed when dinosaurs roamed the earth during the Mesozoic era. By using plants such as *Cycas revoluta*, *Wollemia nobilis* (Wollemi pine) and *Equisetum hyemale* (rough horsetail), it created an evocative display for such a small garden (designers: Mark Hargreaves and Mark Sparrow; sponsor: Chester Zoo).



► RHS National Flower Bed Competition

Still one of the show's most popular attractions, the bedding displays continue to demonstrate diversity in artistic implementation and floral use. This design, 'A Novel Approach' by Bournemouth Borough Council, referenced the town's literature and architecture from its Victorian past.

Gold, Best Exhibit in the RHS National Flower Bed Competition



▼ 'Save a Life, Drop the Knife'

Created by staff and prisoners at HMP Everthorpe, near Hull, this Show Garden had a strong message. By representing the journey undertaken by a perpetrator of knife crime, it challenged visitors into understanding – and questioning – the choices people make. There were many different parts to the garden, including this area of bold planting (including white *Agapanthus*, purple *Verbena bonariensis* and grass *Stipa tenuissima*) backed by a vibrantly coloured wall (design: Glen Jackson and prisoners at HMP Everthorpe; sponsors: ISG, Arco, The Hull and East Riding Charitable Trust, Sir James Reckitt Trust).

Gold, Best Show Garden



▼ 'Rider on the Storm'

Another entrant to the RHS National Young Designer of the Year Competition (see p61), Alexandra Froggatt focused on the issue of flooding and extreme rainfall. Her design included flood-tolerant planting, 'living' walls and roofs that help rainwater absorption, and planters that capture excess runoff.

Silver-Gilt Flora



Gold

▼ 'Do Not Step Over the Fence'

The simple elements to this Visionary Garden included flowering lavender, standard bay trees (*Laurus nobilis*) and bright pink spheres. By using a reduced number of plants and materials, the designer was able to create a simple but bold display.

Visionary Gardens is a section of the show that aims to challenge traditional approaches to design, and raise awareness of topics that other show gardens may not. In this case, the design highlighted the fact that human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is now spreading among the mature generations (designer: Jon Tilley; contributor: Rolawn).

Gold



▲ Summer garden flowers

6 White-flowered *Agapanthus* 'Snow Shadows' with mauve-tinged buds, is a recent offering by Broadleigh Gardens of Somerset (01823 286231). Cost: £8.

7 *Agastache* 'Summer Sky' is a new cultivar, displayed by Cath's Garden Plants of Cumbria (01539 561126) Price: £7.50. 8 New *Abutilon* 'Yellow Trumpet' was shown by T3 Plants of Wall End Nursery, Herefordshire (01568 760152). Price £7.

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Four more plants from the show

▲ 'The Schedule'

Taking its cues from the long-standing tradition, especially in the north of England, of growing leeks for showing (known as the 'Show Schedule'), this Show Garden demonstrated vegetable growing at its best. Producing the biggest leeks was the main aim (the leeks, pictured, in the raised bed by the shed were 17cm/6¾in wide) but many other crops were grown, including carrots, onions and potatoes (designers: Gary Hillery and Ken Walton; sponsor: Finchale Training College).

More from the show online

For many more highlights from the RHS Flower Show Tatton Park, visit RHS Online at www.rhs.org.uk/tatton

Highlights include:

- ❖ Galleries and 360-degree views of all the Show Gardens, plus images from the Visionary, Front to Front and Back to Back gardens;
- ❖ Commentary from gardening experts and members of *The Garden* editorial team on the gardens and plants at the show;
- ❖ Details of all the medals awarded to gardens and exhibits in the RHS Floral Marquee.

