

# Orchids at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show

Orchids stole the show at this year's horticultural extravaganza, held at the Royal Hospital grounds from May 20–24. Ten stands boasted displays of orchid plants, four exclusively. All ten gained medals, and five individual specimen plants were awarded by the RHS Orchid Committee (see pp235–238).

Gold medals went to Burnham Nurseries, their 11th in the last 14 years (see p194), and to McBean's Orchids elaborate display. The Orchid Society of Great Britain was awarded a Silver-Gilt, as was the Nagoya International Orchid Show Organising Committee, who had travelled from Japan.

Of the stands that included orchids in their displays, the Alpine Garden Society was awarded a Gold medal, and the annual President's Award. Silver-Gilt medals went to Grenada, and the Barbados Horticultural Society. Silver medals were awarded to: the Jamaica Horticultural Society, who were joined for the first time by Claude Hamilton of Hamlyn Orchids; Liverpool City Council for their tribute to William Roscoe, the founder of Liverpool Botanic Garden; and to the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, Cayman Islands, in association with Newington Nurseries (see p185).

*Sarah Brooks*



RHS, Martin Mulhock



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**1** The Nagoya International Orchid Show Organising Committee staged a vibrant display, with a tiered framework of branches. Two plants gained individual awards, the pink and white *Dendrobium* Rainbow Dance 'Akazu Kinchan', and the pink and green *Lycaste* Astra 'Hatsune'.  
**2** *Cattleytonia* Starrlyn shone out on the Jamaica stand.  
**3** *Disa* Watsonii on the Orchid Society of Great Britain stand.  
**4** *Spathoglottis* species were featured on the Grenada stand.  
**5** Hardy *Spiranthes sinensis* looked at home, complete with ant, on the Alpine Garden Society stand. The AGS won the President's Award for the best exhibit in the Great Pavillion.

**6** The Jamaica stand had an array of native species, such as *Broughtonia sanguinea* and *B. lindenii*, and many hybrids including cattleytonias.  
**7** Part of the McBean's Orchids display, which featured towers and troughs planted with single species or hybrids, arranged in harmonising colour groups around several pure-white, rainbow-like arches.  
**8** *Doritaenopsis* Chain Xen Pearl 'Elegant Beauty' on the McBean's stand. Its pink blooms become paler yet more spotted as they age.  
**9** The Orchid Society of Great Britain had an impressive circular stand, arranged by Roy White and his display team. Highlights included a group of *Cypripedium* hybrids.

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